

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

January 31, 2016

Ringing of the Bell Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins:

All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveler is unaware.
Martin Buber

Not till we are lost, in other words not till we have lost the world, do we begin to find ourselves. Henry David Thoreau

(We ask that you turn off the ringers on your cell phones, beepers and electronic devices, and the flashes on your cameras. Please join us in a time of quiet during the prelude.)

Prelude Sonata Op. 120, 1st mvmt-Allegro Moderato
(Franz Schubert)

Call to Worship Gathered Here (Phillip A. Porter) –Youth Choir

Welcome and Announcements Loretto Rooney, Worship Leader

***Hymn** Woyaya #1020

Chalice & Sabbatical Candle Lighting Gregg Baker

Response Hymn *(please remain seated)* #123

Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
Move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of life, come to me, come to me.

A Time for All Generations

Anthem Draw the Circle Wide (Gordon Light, Mark Miller)
-Youth Choir

Singing the Children and Teachers to Church School

Children's Blessing *(First UU Nashville Youth Choir)*
May your mind be open to new learning
May your lips bring truth into the world
May your heart know love, and your hands do the work of justice
As you go your way in peace
As you go your way in peace

Candles of Celebration and Concern

You are invited to come forward, light a candle and in a sentence share a joy or sorrow that has touched your life.

Reading *Lost* by David Waggoner
Read by Barbara Rich

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory Pas de Deux (Samuel Barber)

Offertory Response *Words: Barbara Rich; Music: Joshua Rich*

Today we give our time
Our compassion, wit and song
Everyday we can choose,
To begin again in love.

We give what we can,
Generous as we can
Opening the doors
To begin again in love.

Sermon Practicing the Art of Losing
Karen G. Johnston, Sabbatical Minister

***Hymn** Where Do We Come From #1003

***Sung Benediction** Carry the Flame
Carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.
Oh, carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.

Postlude What Wondrous Love (arr. Clif Hardin)

(Please remain seated during the Postlude. You are also invited to come to the front of the church and light a candle silently during this time. Please place your candle toward the back of the candle table. We ask the congregation to remain seated in quiet until the last candle is lit.)

***Please stand as you are able.**

Large Print Hymnals, Sunday Bulletins and Assisted Listening Devices are available at the sanctuary doors. If you don't wish to keep your Sunday Bulletin, please place it one of the recycle baskets at the sanctuary exits.

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Join us downstairs for good food and conversation immediately following the service!

(continued on back cover)

Please consider donating flowers for Sunday Services.

Greeters: Deb & Steve Boczenowski, and Laura Williams
Ushers: The Grosso-Sturm Family; Amy, Jason, Ivan & Avery
Coffee Hour Host: Austin Edwards

WELCOME ALL VISITORS. We are glad you are here. Join us for coffee and conversation after the service where you can meet our sabbatical minister, Karen. Everyone here is happy to speak with you and answer any questions you may have. Please sign one of the Guest Books on the tables near the front and back entrances so we can know who you are. Be sure to indicate if you want to get emails or newsletters about events in and related to First Parish. In addition to lighting our chalice as a symbol of our Unitarian Universalist faith, during our the sabbatical of our settled minister, Elea Kemler, we will be lighting a sabbatical candle and speaking words of blessing on her sabbatical journey, as well as ours, until she returns on May 15.

THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON was gathered as the town church in 1664. The congregation worships in its fourth Meeting House which was completed in 1755. A town clock and Revere-cast bell rings out our call to service every Sunday. The congregation is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association, a liberal faith that affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth; a free and responsible search for truth and meaning; the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large; the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; and respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Membership is open to all age 13 and older. If you are interested in membership, please speak to the minister or any member of the Membership Committee.

"First Parish is a Unitarian Universalist Association Welcoming Congregation. We warmly welcome members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community."

WE NOW HAVE AN OFFICIAL HASHTAG: #UUGROTON. Please consider using this when posting about our church and its good works on all social media.

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



Artwork by Hatzy Hornblower

JANUARY - CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

A voice comes to your soul saying,
Lift your foot. Cross over.
Move into emptiness
Of question, and answer and question. (Rumi)

When we embark on an intentional journey like a pilgrimage, we are making a commitment to live in the space of threshold. Threshold is the liminal place, the place of not knowing how things will turn out. I believe it is the place of possibility. (Christine Valter Paintner)

"We are a community seeking to deepen spiritually, to take care of one another, and to be a blessing to the world."

A Warm Welcome to All!

There is childcare for infants and toddlers through age 4 years beginning at 9:50 AM on the second floor of the East Wing and you are welcome to take children there at any time during the service. There are quiet toys in the soft, multicolored fabric pouches in each pew. The service is also broadcast downstairs in the large room beneath us if children become restless.