

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

February 7, 2016

Ringing of the Bell Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

Thoughts as the Service Begins:

The more spiritual one becomes, the more joy one finds in the sheer wildness of being alive. There is something intrinsically funny about life; and the way we go about living can be downright absurd. Laughter is a natural response to seeing the irony of life and absurdity of our lives. ~ Rabbi Rami Shapiro

(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: Prelude I (George Gershwin)

Our Worship Story: Outlawing Jellybeans and Other Injustices (Introduction)

Welcome & Greeting Steve Boczenowski, Worship leader

Hymn Enter, Rejoice, and Come In #361

Chalice & Sabbatical Lighting Laura Williams

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.

The Worship Story: Outlawing Jellybeans and Other Injustices (Part I)

Hymn From You I Receive #409

Collection of foods for Loaves & Fishes. Children are invited to bring donated food and place it into large bags at the front of the sanctuary.

The Worship Story: Outlawing Jellybeans and Other Injustices (Part II)

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.

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Hymn Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire #34

The Worship Story: Outlawing Jellybeans and Other Injustices (Part III)

Hymn This Is My Song #159

The Worship Story: Outlawing Jellybeans and Other Injustices (Part IV)

Offertory: New World A-Coming (Duke Ellington)

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.

The Worship Story: Outlawing Jellybeans and Other Injustices (Part Conclusion)

***Hymn** One More Step #168

***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: The Biggest and Busiest Intersection (Duke Ellington)

(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.**

(Continued on Back Cover)

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!

The flowers in church this morning are given by Monica Smyth in memory of Sofie.

Greeters: Liz Podsiadlo, Hanna & Jacob, and Tom & Loretto Roney
Ushers: Kathy and Greg Reiff
Coffee Hour Host: Austin Edwards & friends

Thank you to the many folks in worship and behind the scenes who made this playful worship possible: Haley Watson, Austin Edwards, Sam Mayer Svarczkopf, Nick Maciel, Kira Hill, Sarah Branch, Maddy Premru, Lara Hill, Kathy Parliament-Benson, Pat Hartvigsen, Gregg Baker, Pamela Worden, Amy Grosso, Susan Hughes, Kurt Staven, Tom Nalesnik, June Johnson, Andy Peterson, Steve Lieman, Liz Davis-Chaffin, Shawn McCann, and Rev. Erika Hewitt; who adapted this story for worship. And the volunteers, who relieved Austin of his coffee hour duties.

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.

"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



FEBRUARY - EMBRACING THE UNKNOWN

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

Leave the familiar for a while....change rooms in your mind for a day. (Hafiz)

"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.