

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

February 14, 2016

Ringing of the Bell Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins:

Here is a story to break your heart. Are you willing?
This winter the loons came to our harbor and died, one by one,
of nothing we could see.

A friend told me of one on the shore
that lifted its head and opened the elegant beak and cried out
in the long sweet savoring of its life which, if you have heard it,
you know is a sacred thing,

and for which, if you have not heard it,
you had better hurry to where they still sing.

And, believe me, tell no one just where that is.
The next morning this loon, speckled and iridescent
and with a plan to fly home to some hidden lake,
was dead on the shore.

I tell you this to break your heart, by which I mean only
that it break open and never close again
to the rest of the world.

Mary Oliver

*(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 Golliwog's Cake-Walk (Claude Debussy)

Call to Worship He Who Hath Joy In Music (Erasmus Widmann)
-Adult Choir

Welcome and Announcements Ed McNierney, Worship Leader

***Hymn** Come, Come Whoever You Are #188

Chalice & Sabbatical Candle Lighting Kara Kramer

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

A Story from Hosea Ballou

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

Anthem Go Not Far From Me, O God (Nicola Zingarelli)
-Adult Choir

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

Renewal of Giving Testimony Lisa Girolamo

Offertory The Little Shepherd (Claude Debussy)

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.

Reading "The Bud" by Galway Kinnell
Response to "The Bud" –anonymous

Musical Interlude Each Night a Child Is Born

Sermon Redemption Song
Jeanne Nieuwejaar, guest minister

***Hymn** We'll Build A Land #121

(continued on back cover)

***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 Snow Is Dancing (Claude Debussy)

(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!

Flowers today are given by Ann Bohan in loving memory of
Maryellen Blaisdell Bohan Shierling.

Greeters: Krista Ingram, Kira Hill and Tom Roney
Ushers: Kathy and Greg Reiff
Coffee Hour Host: Austin Edwards

Rev. Jeanne Nieuwejaar retired several years ago after a long career in religious education, parish ministry, and as Unitarian Universalist District Executive in New Hampshire and Vermont. Her longest service was as co-minister with her husband Olav at the UU congregation in Milford, NH where they still live. Jeanne now lives out her ministry as a volunteer at the Women's Prison in Goffstown, NH.

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



Artwork by Kathryn Ellis Moore

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.