

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

February 21, 2016

**Ringing of the Bell** Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

## A Thought as the Service Begins:

Social activist Dorothy Day points out that good deeds are like a pebble cast into a pond: they create ripples that spread in all directions. Our acts of service in our homes and communities become part of an ever-widening circle of compassion that eventually encompasses the entire creation. –Frederic & Mary Ann Brussat

“God’s dream is to be not alone but to have humanity as a partner in the drama of continuous creation. Life is a great adventure, we are all partners with the Godhead, and though our role may be small, the honor is still ours.”  
- Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

*(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** Selections from Winnie the Pooh  
by Sherman and Sherman

**Call to Worship** Let the Praise Go Round by William Boyce  
arranged by Hal Hopson

**Welcome and Announcements** Donna Nowak, Worship Leader

**\*Hymn** We Celebrate the Web of Life #175

**Chalice & Sabbatical Candle Lighting** Andrea Mason

**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

## 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

**Renewal of Giving Testimonial** Jamel Saafi

## 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.

**Anthem** Love the Life You Live by Kurt Staven

**Reading** There Is a Season by Joan Chittister  
Rev. Tom Nalesnik

## Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

**Offertory** Green (Bein’ Green) by Joe Raposo

**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** Always Creating, Always Building  
Rev. Tom Nalesnik

**\*Hymn** Building A New Way #1017

**\*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** Ashokan Farewell by Jay Ungar

*(Continued on Back Cover)*

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



Artwork by Hatzy Hornblower

*(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!*

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Flowers this Sunday are given by Margaret Burdine in honor of her father, Bill Burdine, much missed and always remembered. His birthday was February 20, 1927.

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Greeters: Monica & Martina Smyth, Loretto Roney  
and Kim & Jen Hapgood-White

Ushers: Kathy and Greg Reiff  
Coffee Hour Host: Austin Edwards

**Thank you** to Kurt Staven for stepping in as our day's music director. **Our guest preacher today may be familiar to you: the Rev. Tom Nalesnik.** Tom, who has been attending First Parish Church for over a year now, just celebrated his 15th year as a minister in the United Church of Christ. His own pilgrimage has been a zig-zag from TV, communications, and advertising to the ministry, and back to communications again. He currently works for Wide Horizons For Children, a non-profit in Waltham, MA.

**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.*

## 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.