

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

February 28, 2016

Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins:

What is Ubuntu? “It is the essence of being human. It speaks of the fact that my humanity is caught up and is inextricably bound up in yours. I am human because I belong. It speaks about wholeness, it speaks about compassion... [people with Ubuntu] know that they are diminished when others are humiliated, diminished when others are oppressed, diminished when others are treated as if they were less than who they are. The quality of Ubuntu gives people resilience, enabling them to survive and emerge still human despite all efforts to dehumanize them.” Desmond Tutu

(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

He's Got the Whole World In His Hands
(anonymous, arr. Moses Hogan)

Call to Worship

Hello, Hello (Eva Kendrick) - Youth Choir

Welcome and Announcements

Steve Boczenowski
Worship Leader

Chalice & Sabbatical Candle Lighting

Sarah Branch

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.

*Hymn

taught by Eva Kendrick Magic Penny

A Time for All Generations

Doing Good in the World: Our Reverse Offering

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.

Anthem

I Am Willing (Holly Near) - Youth Choir

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory

Breaking the 4th Wall (Eva Kendrick)

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

“Getting Free Together” written by Chris Crass
Read by Kevin Pammet

Sermon

Illuminating the Ministry of Joshua Young
Karen G. Johnston, Sabbatical Minister

*Hymn

I Wish I Knew How #151

*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

Medley of traditional spirituals

(Continued on Back Cover)

(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!

Please consider donating flowers for Sunday Services.

Greeters: Donna Stram, Sarah Branch, Tom & Loretto Roney
Ushers: Kathy and Greg Reiff
Coffee Hour Host: Austin Edwards

Please welcome Eva Kendrick, Music Director at First Parish Unitarian-Universalist, Medfield, MA. Eva is currently on sabbatical and working with our own music director towards her certification as a Unitarian Universalist Music Leader.

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



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.