

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

March 6, 2016

Ringing of the Bell Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins:

May we have the courage to take the step
Into the unknown that beckons us;
Trust that a richer life awaits us there,
That we will lose nothing
But what has already died;
Feel the deeper knowing in us sure
Of all that is about to be born beyond
The pale frames where we stayed confined,
Not realizing how such vacant endurance
Was bleaching our soul's desire.
-John O'Donohue

*(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 Invention #4 in d minor (J.S. Bach)

Call to Worship Love, Be Our Way (Carolyn McDade)
- Adult Choir

Welcome and Announcements Donna Stram, Worship Leader

***Hymn** Building a New Way (verses 1-3) #1017

Chalice & Sabbatical Candle Lighting Michelle Stiller

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 (Five Smooth Stones Plus One)

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 Carolyn Francisco

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 Ave Verum Corpus (W.A. Mozart)
- Adult Choir

Reading Found While Lost by Erik W. Martinez Resly

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory Sonata #13, 2nd movement "Adagio Cantabile"
(Beethoven)

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 *The Work (in Progress)*

Written by Rev. Peter Boullata and originally delivered at the
ordination of Rev. Aaron Stockwell. Delivered today by
Gregg Baker, Chair of Joint Board.

***Hymn** Turn the World Around #1074

(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 Four Piano Blues (Aaron Copland)

(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 Deb and Steve Boczenowski in recognition of Jeffrey's and Stephanie's March birthdays.

Greeters: Kim & Jen Hapgood-White and Suzanne Nelson
Ushers: Alice Van Ormer and Pat Fairchild
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.

Today's sermon comes to us from Reverend Peter Boullata, who delivered it at the ordination of Reverend Aaron Stockwell in June 2015, here at First Parish. Rev. Boullata has given us permission to share this sermon again. Rev. Boullata is an ordained minister currently doing doctoral studies in psychotherapy and spiritual care. He has avid interests in post-colonialism, liberation movements, and the spirituality of cultural resistance with particular interests in the intersections of religious naturalism, process theology, queer liberation, contemplative and other spiritual practice, social justice activism, and the arts. He blogs at <http://peterboullata.com>

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



Artwork by Carol Sarasin

MARCH – The Practice of Being Uncomfortable

*It may be that when we no longer know what to do,
we have come to our real work
and when we no longer know which way to go,
we have begun our real journey.*

*The mind that is not baffled is not employed.
The impeded stream is the one that sings. (Wendell Berry)*

“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.