

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

March 13, 2016

Ringling of the Bell Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins:

"All that we have ever loved and all that we have ever been stands with us on the brink of all that we aspire to create."
-Rev. Leslie Takahashi

(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 Percussion Improvisation, Matt Meyer

Call to Worship Sing a New Song to the Eternal

Welcome and Announcements Steve Boczenowski
Worship Leader

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

Chalice & Sabbatical Candle Lighting Nicolas Maciel

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 Miriam and the Tambourine
- Matt Meyer

Renewal of Giving Testimonial Kurt Staven

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 Open the Door (Joyce Poley) – Children's Choir

Reading Saints and Revelations
by Rebecca Parker & Stephen Shick, read by
Matt Meyer, Shawn McCann and Liz Davis-Chaffin

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory Percussion Improvisation, Matt Meyer

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.

Singing Together Let The Life I Lead (adapted from The Consolers)

Sermon A Great Cloud of Witnesses, Matt Meyer

***Hymn** There's a River Flowing in my Soul
(Words and music by Rose Sanders, Words adapted by Dave Ruffin)

There's a river flowin' in my soul. (2x)
And it's telling me that I'm somebody
There's a river flowin' in my soul.

...It's a stream of love that can set me free.

...where our rivers meet there's a mighty sea

...And I feel its power in our harmony

***Sung Benediction** Carry the Flame (Patricia Pavey)
Carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.
Oh, carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.

Postlude Percussion Improvisation, Matt Meyer

(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!

Flowers today are dedicated by Hatzy Hornblower in honor of the UUA community.

Greeters: Peg Lorenz, Trish Garrigan and Suzanne Nelson
Ushers: Loretto Roney 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.

"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

MARCH – The Practice of Being Uncomfortable

Restlessness is discontent, and discontent is the first necessity of progress. (Thomas A. Edison)

People wish to be settled; only as far as they are unsettled is there any hope for them. (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

"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.