

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

March 20, 2016  
Commitment Sunday

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

## A Thought as the Service Begins:

Why worry about the loaves and fishes?  
If you say the right words, the wine expands.  
If you say them with love  
and the felt ferocity of that love  
and the felt necessity of that love,  
the fish explode into many.  
Imagine him, speaking,  
and don't worry about what is reality,  
or what is plain, or what is mysterious.  
If you were there, it was all those things.  
If you can imagine it, it is all those things.  
Eat, drink, be happy.  
Accept the miracle.  
Accept, too, each spoken word  
spoken with love.

(Logos by 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** Peace Train (Cat Stevens), Instrumental with  
Andrew Watson, Steve Burne & Shawn McCann

## Call to Worship

**Welcome and Announcements** Karen Goudey, Worship Leader

**Chalice & Sabbatical Candle Lighting** Donna Stram

**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** Doing Good & Magnifying It

**Introduction to Gathering of Commitments** Jay Lawrence

**Gathering of Commitments** People Get Ready (Curtis Mayfield)  
-Youth Choir, accompanied by Steve Burne & Andrew Watson

## 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

*Children will gather downstairs in the Vestry – the big room below us  
– to meet their teachers and join in a circle of friends. Then each age  
group will go with their teachers to their classrooms.*

**\*Hymn** Gather the Spirit #347

**Reading** Welcome Morning by Anne Sexton  
read by Jen Hapgood-White

**Offertory** In My Life (Lennon, McCartney)

**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.

**Reflections** Stories of Doing Good & Blessing the World  
Karen G. Johnston, Sabbatical Minister

**\*Hymn** For the Beauty of the Earth #21

**\*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.

*(Continued on Back Cover)*

## Postlude

Take the "A" Train (Ellington, Strayhorn)

*(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.*

\* \* \* \*

*Join us downstairs for good food and conversation immediately following the service!*

---

---

Palms today are given by Hatzy Hornblower

---

---

Greeters: Andrea Mason, Carol Bousquet and Suzanne Nelson

Ushers: Alice Van Ormer and Pat Fairchild

Coffee Hour Host: Austin Edwards

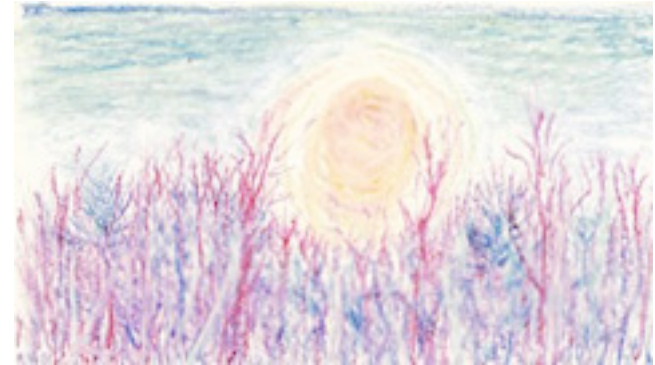
**Special "Thank you"** today to Andrew Watson (guitar) and Steve Burne (bass) for playing at this service. Without their assistance and talent we would be less.

*"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 Hatzy Hornblower*

## MARCH – The Practice of Being Uncomfortable

*Journeys are movements from one place to another, often to a place that is unfamiliar, foreign and strange. In fact the Latin root of the word pilgrimage, peregrine, means strange or stranger. The journey to become a pilgrim means becoming a stranger in the service of transformation. (Christine Valters Painter)*

*"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.