

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

March 27, 2016

Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

Thoughts as the Service Begins

I find you there in all these things
I care for like a [beloved].
A seed, you nestle in the smallest of them,
and in the huge ones spread yourself hugely.

Such is the amazing play of the powers:
they give themselves so willingly,
swelling in the roots, thinning as the trunks rise,
and in the high leaves, resurrection.

(Rainer Maria Rilke)

*(We ask that you turn off the ringers on your cell phones
and electronic devices. Please join us in a time
of quiet during the prelude.)*

Prelude When In Our Music (Green, Sandford; arr. Zeigenhals)
– Adult Choir & Congregation (*see insert*); Kurt Staven, trumpet

Call to Worship “Lift Thine Eyes” from Elijah (Mendelssohn)
–Adult Choir (sopranos and altos)

Welcome and Announcements Gina Perini-Benedict
Worship Leader

***Hymn** Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee #29

Chalice & Sabbatical Candle Lighting The Marshall family
Meghann, Eric, William, Jane and Tommy

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

Offertory Quittez, Pasteurs (Now Quit Your Care)
– (Alfred Fedak)

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 How the Rainbow Works by Al Young
Read by Chris Ferguson

Anthem He Shall Feed His Flock (John Ness Beck)
–Adult Choir

Easter Message The Limits of Our Senses
Karen G. Johnston, Sabbatical Minister

***Hymn** The Blue Green Hills of Earth (Kim Oler) (*see insert*)

***Sung Benediction** (*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 The Strife is O'er (Alfred Fedak)

*(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.**

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

(Continued on Back Cover)

*Large Print Hymnals, Large Print Easter Bulletins and Assisted
Listening Devices are available at the sanctuary doors.*

The flowers in church this morning are given by Karen Goudey
and Kurt Staven in loving memory of Joyce Waddell Staven
Manget, Miriam Koski Goudey and Pelton Goudey.

Greeters: Jack Wool, Donna Nowak and Barbara Rich
Ushers: Suzanne Nelson, Alice Van Ormer, Jen Hapgood-White
and Beverly Smith
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 Hatzy Hornblower

MARCH – The Practice of Being Uncomfortable

*Easter is meant to be a symbol of hope, renewal, and new life.
(Janine di Giovanni)*

*"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.