

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

April 3, 2016

Ring of the Bell Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as We Begin *Spoken Words*

Excerpt from “The Welcoming” by Michael Stillwater

Welcome and Announcements Amy Grosso, Worship Leader

Chalice Lighting Pamela Worden and Jessica Liliedahl

Spirit of Life

Movement – Young Girls Mantra to Joy –
Amy, Shawn, Hill Ladies

Offering Special Collection: Gregg Baker, Offertory Boxes
available throughout the service by the Chalice

Exploration of Pilgrimage Tricia Kibbe

About the Labyrinth – A labyrinth is a geometric pattern that has only one well-defined pathway, a meandering one, but one that continually turns in and around in a circular pattern until it reaches the center, then the same path can be followed back out again. But unlike a maze, it has no dead-ends, no wrong turns, no tricks. It is not designed for you to lose your way, but to find your way.

How to walk the Labyrinth - Step onto the labyrinth, put one foot in front of the other and if you truly trust the path, it will lead you where you are intended to go. Let go, release your burdens, and walk this path of prayer and let it guide you. Follow this meandering path until it leads you to your center. Stay there, take the time to listen for the lesson this path has for you, receive this divine wisdom whatever way it is offered to you, and when you are ready, walk back out, take all that you have learned along the way with you as you step off the labyrinth and back onto the pathways of your own life’s journey.

East Wing: Experience of Walking the Labyrinth

- ◆ Walk the large labyrinth
- ◆ Includes small labyrinths for younger folk.

Vestry (near kitchen): Mandala’s

- ◆ Create beautiful Mandala’s to take home/good spiritual and meditative practice

Vestry (near stage): Welcome Back Flags

- ◆ Create a welcome home flag for Elea’s return service – write messages of joy for our returning minister

Vestry (near windows): Poetree

- ◆ Using a visual labyrinth write words describing your pilgrimage journey during this sabbatical time

Vestry (near windows): Visual Prayer Card Creation Station

- ◆ Pick word(s) that represent your pilgrimage journey then create a visual card illustrating your word(s).

Circle Round for Closing Ritual

Song *On Feet That Do Not Stumble*

May you walk securely
Into the future with joy and speed
Along the path of wisdom

A Closing Prayer

~Anonymous

God of new beginnings: Help us to see that in every moment, You invite us to breathe in your goodness; in every hour, we have an opportunity to share Your love; in every day, we have occasions to rest in the comfort of your heart. In every challenge we face, may we find the strength to persevere; in every person we meet, may we find the blessing you have sent; in every need we encounter, may we find the help you offer to us. Show us what we can become, O God, and help us to unveil your presence that we may see your face in the face of each human being, in the glory of your creation, in the midst of our journey, in the love of you, O God. All this we pray in your holy name. Amen.

(Continued on Back Cover)

* * * *

Join us for good food and conversation immediately following our gathering!

Flowers for today's service are dedicated by the Ingram & Hill family to their beloved mother and grandmama: Nancy Jones.

Greeters: Steve Lieman, Charlie Peterson, Nick Kelly
& Mike Roberts

Coffee Hour Hosts: Austin Edwards

Tricia Kibbe has been facilitating sacred experiences domestically and internationally since 1999. Interweaving spirituality and the magic of exploration, and with participant comfort foremost, her tours create pilgrimages to remember. Her intimate knowledge of the labyrinth has drawn many to visit Chartres and Glastonbury with her, and many other sacred sites await.

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

"We are a community seeking to deepen spiritually, to take care of one another, and to be a blessing to the world."

Pilgrimage Journey



Walking the Pilgrims Path

