

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

April 17, 2016

Ringing of the Bell

A Thought as the Service Begins:

“Wisdom tells me I am nothing. Love tells me I am everything.
Between the two my life flows.” Nisargadatta Maharaj

“For small creatures such as we the vastness is bearable only through
love.” Carl Sagan

*(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 For the Beauty of the Earth (traditional, arr. Diane Bish)

Call to Worship Now Let Us Sing (anonymous) – Adult Choir

Welcome and Announcements Sue Lotz, Worship Leader

Chalice & Sabbatical Candle Lighting Barbara Rich

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.

Well of Gratitude, Well of Tears

*(We are doing things a bit differently today. You are invited to come
forward, to offer into one container a bright bead of glass to
represent your gratitude for this earth and/or into the other container
a silent stone of pain/grief, representing something you despair or
grieve based on the challenges facing our planet.)*

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

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 Agnus Dei, from ‘Missa Gaia’ (Paul Winter) – Adult Choir

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

***Hymn** Life Calls Us On (see insert)

Welcoming New Members Welcoming All Team,
Owen Shuman (Deacon)

Reading I’m too alone in the world... by Rainer Maria Rilke

Offertory Flower to the Sun (Clif Hardin)

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 Small Karen G. Johnston, Sabbatical Minister

***Hymn** Blue Boat Home #1064

***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 Selections from ‘Miniatures for Organ’, Op. 55
(Flor Peeters)

*(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.)*

(Continued on Back Cover)

***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 Dale Martin, Scott Martin and Jenifer Martin Berndt, in fond remembrance of Albert David Martin, whose spirit still touches us today.

Greeters: Deb Boczenowski, Catherine Donahue, Gregg Baker and Dimitri Foster

Ushers: Suzanne Nelson, Pat Fairchild

Coffee Hour Host: Austin Edwards

Thank you to the Welcoming All Committee for their steadfast work to help folks, new to First Parish, find where and how they belong and to welcome them as members. The Welcoming All Committee is Sarah Iacobucci, Tom Roney, Susan Epting, Deb Boczenowski, Pat Lawrence, and Judy Nauman.

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.

About Today's Cover Art

The month of April is Parkinson's Awareness Month and yellow tulips are the insignia of the Parkinson's Disease Foundation. When we saw this lovely watercolor among those Shirley Man donated earlier this year as a fundraiser for the church, it was calling our name! Thank you, Shirley, for creating this beautiful painting that has so much meaning for us.
Steve and Gail Burne

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



*Artwork by Shirley Man
submitted by Steve and Gail Burne*

APRIL –

Now it is time to sit quiet

Alone with You

And to sing

A re-dedication of my life

In this Silent

And overflowing joy (Rabindranath Tagore)

I live my life in growing orbits which move out over this wondrous world. (Rainer Maria Rilke)

"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.