

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

April 24, 2016

Ringing of the Bell Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins:

You can't cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water."
Rabindranath Tagore, Hindu poet and winner of Nobel Prize for
Literature, 1913

"Your reluctance to go 'among strangers' cannot too soon be
overcome; & the way to overcome it, is not to remain at home, but to
go among them and resolve to deserve & obtain the love & esteem of
those, who have never before known you. With them you have a fair
opportunity to begin the world anew..." 19th century Groton resident,
Margaret Fuller, to her father

*(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 Pine Apple Rag (Scott Joplin)

Call to Worship Karen G. Johnston

Welcome and Announcements Steve Boczenowski
Worship Leader

Chalice & Sabbatical Candle Lighting Irv Rockwood

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

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.

Reading read by Donna Nowak

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

***Hymn** We're Walking in the Wilderness (insert)

Offertory Solace (Scott Joplin)

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 Holy Envy Karen G. Johnston, Sabbatical Minister

***Hymn** This is My Song #159

***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 The Entertainer (Scott Joplin)

*(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.*

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

Please consider donating flowers for services.

Greeters: Lara Hill and Pat Lawrence
Ushers: Suzanne Nelson 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 Kaitlin Kramer

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.