

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

May 8, 2016

## Ringing of the Bell

### A Thought as the Service Begins:

*“Faith is not the clinging to a shrine but an endless pilgrimage of the heart.”*

— Abraham Joshua Heschel

*“Spirituality is not a ‘thing’ that we can have, get, or attain. Spirituality is the true expression of who we are. Let go of trying to get there; instead know you have arrived. Greet your Self with reverence.”*

—Ellen Grace O'Brian,

Founder and Director of Center for Spiritual Enlightenment.  
San Jose, Ca.

**Prelude** Prelude I “Allegro Ben Ritmato e Deciso”  
(George Gershwin)

**Call to Worship** Open My Heart (Henry S. Flurry)  
-Children’s Choir

**Welcome and Announcements** Loretto Roney, Worship Leader

**\*Hymn** Return Again #1011

**Chalice & Sabbatical Candle Lighting** Greg Reiff

**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.

Fuente de Amor, ven hacia mí.  
Y al corazón, cántale tu compasión.  
Sopla al volar, sube en la mar,  
Hasta moldear la justicia de la vida.  
Arráigame, libérame  
Fuente de Amor, ven a mí, ven a mí.

**A Time for All Generations** Rev. Lilia Cuervo with Loretto Roney

**Anthem** Open the Window (Elise Witt) –Children’s Choir

## 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** “*That Which Holds All*” by Nancy Shaffer  
Read by Loretto Roney

## Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

**Offertory** Prelude II “Andante Con Moto e poco Rubato”  
(George Gershwin)

**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** Litany of Endearments Rev. Lilia Cuervo

**\*Hymn** Bring Many Names # 23

**\*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.

**Postlude** Prelude III “Agitato” (George Gershwin)

*(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!*

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Flowers are given in honor of Mother's Day.  
Please sign up to donate flowers.

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Greeters: Carol Bousquet, Anne Bohan & Amelia, and Tom Roney  
Ushers: Beverly Smith and Pat Fairchild  
Coffee Hour Host: Austin Edwards

**About Today's Music:** About George Gershwin's *Preludes for Piano*:

1) Allegro ben ritmato e deciso

The first prelude, in B-flat major, begins with a five-note blues motif; virtually all the melodic material in the piece is based on this theme. Syncopated rhythms based on the Brazilian baião and chords containing flattened sevenths occur throughout; these give the piece a strong jazz feel. Although these sounds are far from adventurous by modern standards, to the audiences of the late 1920s they were almost unheard of. Structurally, the piece is in ternary form; however, the impression on the listener is that of a fantasia. This effect is achieved by using snippets of various virtuoso techniques, such as repeated notes, octaves, scales, and crossed hands, each of which is used for only a moment before the piece catches a flicker of some new idea.

2) Andante con moto

The second Prelude, in C-sharp minor, also has the distinct flavor of jazz. The piece begins with a subdued melody winding its way above a smooth, steady bass line. The harmonies and melodies of this piece are built on thirds, emphasizing both the interval of the seventh and the major/minor duality of the blues scale. In the second section, the key, tempo, and thematic material all change; only the similarity of style binds the two sections together. The opening melody and bass return in the final section, more succinct but otherwise unchanged, and the piece ends with a slow ascent of the keyboard. Gershwin himself referred to the piece as "a sort of blues lullaby."

3) Agitato

Gershwin himself called this prelude in E-flat minor "Spanish", but modern ears may find the description puzzling. After a brief and dramatic introduction, the main theme is revealed: two melodies that together form a question-and-answer pair. This theme is used throughout to provide harmonic structure. The "question" is harmonized using E-flat minor chords, the "answer" by E-flat major chords. After a brief, highly syncopated middle section, the melodic pair returns assertively in octaves, causing a battle between major and minor. "Major" wins, and the piece concludes with a flourish.

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



"Wisdom & Beauty" - artwork by Will Premru

## MAY-

We arrive at the ground at our feet and learn to be home.

(Wendell Berry)

'How will I know when I have reached the destination?' ...Perhaps the truth is that we never arrive, not because the journey is too long and too difficult but because we have been there all along...It is a paradox, I know, but perhaps we are traveling most faithfully when we know ourselves to be most at home. (Judith E. Smith)

*"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.