

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

May 15, 2016

Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins:

*And when you have been away long enough, far enough,
Done what you'd set off to do
Been there so long
That place too, starts to feel like home
Come back*

*Come back to the one, universal
Everywhere and every when and everyone inclusive home,
This beloved community of all creation
That you can never really leave.
(Rick Hoyt)*

*(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 Hello, Goodbye (John Lennon, Paul McCartney)
– Adult Choir; Andrew Watson, guitar and lead vocal

Welcome and Announcements Gregg Baker, Worship Leader

***Hymn** -Give Light (Artzner, Leonino)

1. Give light, and people will find the way (x3)
People will find the way I do believe
2. Teach peace...
3. Stand together...
4. Reach out...
5. Give love...
6. Sing out...
7. Give light...

Chalice Candle Lighting Rev. Elea Kemler

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.

Bringing Sabbatical to Close Sabbatical Committee

One: In hearing and responding to the call, we learned

ALL: LOVE IS EVERYTHING

One: By making our way by walking and packing light, we learned

ALL: LOVE IS EVERYTHING

One: By crossing thresholds and embracing the unknown, we learned

ALL: LOVE IS EVERYTHING

One: Through the Practice of Being Uncomfortable, we learned

ALL: LOVE IS EVERYTHING

One: On this day, we begin again and know that

ALL: LOVE IS EVERYTHING

ALL: WELCOME HOME

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

Anthem Take Me To The Water (arr. Rollo Dillworth)
-Adult Choir

Appreciation of Religious Education Volunteers

Offertory Presto e leggiero from Sonata #3 (Norman Dello Joio)

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 You Say Hello...
Almost-nearly-but-not-quite-yet-Rev. Karen G. Johnston

***Hymn** Let the Life I Lead

1. Let the life I lead speak for me
Let the life I lead speak for me
When I'm lying in my grave
And there's nothing more to say
Let the life I lead speak for me

(Continued on Back Cover)

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts

- 2. Let the friends I have...
- 3. Let the work I do...
- 4. Let the love I share...
- 5. Let the songs I sing

***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 Theme and variations from Sonata #3 (Norman Dello Joio)

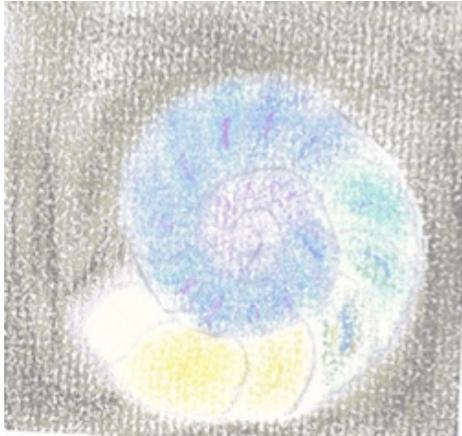
(Please remain seated during the Postlude. You are also invited to come to the front of the church and light a candle silently during this time. Please place your candle toward the back of the candle table. We ask the congregation to remain seated in quiet until the last candle is lit.)

***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!



artwork by Hannah Podsiadlo

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.

These blooms are from the home gardens of Pat Hartvigsen, Diane Hewitt, Susan Hughes and Owen Shuman to welcome Elea home!

Greeters: Colleen Tessier and Trent, Tom Roney
 Ushers: Beverly Smith & Jen Hapgood-White
 Coffee Hour Host: Austin Edwards

“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.