

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

May 29, 2016

Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins:

Sitting and being present with someone, and asking them important questions ...doesn't happen that often during the course of day to day life. And is one of the most profound and powerful ways we have to tell someone else how much we love them. Just asking them who they are and what they've learned in life. And how they want to be remembered.
(David Isay, creator of StoryCorps)

*(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

Sonatina, Op. 36, No. 6; Allegro con Spirito
(Muzio Clementi)

Welcome and Announcements

Patrick Hughes, Worship Leader

*Hymn

Morning Has Come

#1000

Chalice Candle Lighting

Jackie Dureault

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

Mothers by Patrick Hughes

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Karen G. Johnston

Offertory

Sonatina, Op. 36, No. 7; Andantino
(Muzio Clementi)

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

Listening as an Act of Love: The Stories that Heal,
Transform and Bring Us Home Rev. Elea Kemler

*Hymn

Blue Boat Home

#1064, turquoise

*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

Sonata, Op. 36, No. 7; Presto
(Muzio Clementi)

(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!

Continued on Back Cover

Flowers today are donated by Bernadette and Jackie Dureault in memory of their dad.

Greeters: Molly Foster & Sadie, Carol Swift and Tom Roney
Ushers: Beverly Smith and Loretto Roney
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.

"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



America artwork by Hatzy Hornblower

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.