

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

June 5, 2016

Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins:

In hearing and responding to the call, we learn

Love is everything

By making our way by walking and packing light, we learn

Love is everything

By crossing thresholds and embracing the unknown, we learn

Love is everything

Through the practice of being uncomfortable, we learn

Love is everything

On this day, we begin again and know that

Love is everything. (First Parish Sabbatical Committee)

I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve the world
and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day.
(E. B. White)

*(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 Italian Concerto, 1st movement (J.S. Bach)

Call to Worship May This Light Shine (Agnes V. Paulsen)
Children's Choir

Welcome and Announcements Loretto Roney, Worship Leader

***Hymn** Gather the Spirit #347

Chalice Lighting June Johnson

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.

Blessing the Ordination Stole

(for the "abouttobeasof4pmtoday" Rev. Karen G. Johnston)

A Time for All Generations led by Sherry Spaulding and the Spirit
Explorers, Owen Benedict, Meredith Hill, Amelia Luening

Honoring the Spirit Explorers

Anthem

When The Spirit Says Do
(traditional African American spiritual, arr. Mark Freundt)
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.

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory

Italian Concerto, 2nd movement (J.S. Bach)

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

If You Want God to Laugh, Make Plans
Rev. Elea Kemler

*Hymn

For All That Is Our Life

#128

*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

Italian Concerto, 3rd movement (J.S. Bach)

*(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*

Continued on Back Cover

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!

Flowers today are donated by Greg and Kathy Reiff, given in gratitude for our many blessings.

Greeters: Beverly Smith and Laura Williams
Ushers: Jackie Frey and Betty Keddy
Coffee Hour Host: Austin Edwards

WELCOME ALL VISITORS. We are glad you are here. Join us for coffee and conversation after the service in the Vestry, the large room beneath us, where you can meet our ministers Rev. Elea Kemler and Karen G. Johnston. 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



Pansy artwork by Carol Sarasin

*There are only two ways to live your life.
One is as though nothing is a miracle.
The other is as though everything is a miracle.
- Albert Einstein*

*What we think, we become.
All that we are arises with our thoughts.
With our thoughts, we make the world.
- The Buddha*

"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.