

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

June 12, 2016

## Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

## A Thought as the Service Begins:

Our purpose here is to build a bridge.  
The purpose of the bridge is to span the distance  
between our present situation  
and our vision of a better world.

The beauty of a bridge is that  
once it is in place anyone can walk on it.  
A few people can build a bridge that can be walked on by many...  
to choose to build a bridge is the essential act of love. (Paul Williams)

*(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** Farthest Field (David Dodson; arr. Mark David Buckles)  
– Adult Choir

**Welcome and Announcements** Donna Stram, Worship Leader

**\*Hymn** Circle Game (Joni Mitchell) insert

**Chalice Lighting** Gregg Baker

**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.

## Bridging Ceremony for Austin Edwards

**\*Hymn** Bridge Over Troubled Waters (Paul Simon)  
Verses 1 and 2 (see insert)

### \*Blessing

May the nourishment of the earth be yours,  
giving you strength.  
May the clarity of the morning and evening light be yours,  
giving you vision.  
May the protection of the ancestors be yours,  
giving you comfort and peace.

Wrap these words of love around you like an invisible cloak,  
to warm and shelter your life.  
Go forth with joy.  
Come home to us often.  
And may your days be good and long upon the earth!  
(John O'Donohue, adapted)

**\*Hymn** Bridge Over Troubled Waters (Paul Simon)  
Verse 3 (see insert)

## A Time for All Generations

**Anthem** Compassion (Todd Rundgren; arr. Steve Burne)  
– Adult Choir; Andrew Watson, vocal; Steve Burne, bass guitar

## Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Rev. Karen G. Johnston

**Offertory** One Voice (Ruth Moody) Kira, Lara and Meredith Hill

**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.

## The Turning of the Wheel of the Year

**\*Hymn** Life Call us On (Gibbons, Shelton) insert

**\*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** All You Need Is Love (Lennon, McCartney)  
-Andrew Watson, vocal/guitar; Steve Burne, bass guitar

*(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 today are donated by Edythe Salzman.

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Greeters: Sarah Stram and John Appleton  
Ushers: Jackie Frey and Pamela Worden  
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 Rev. 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



*Acadia artwork by Sue Beers*

*If you cry because the sun has gone out of your life, your tears will prevent you from seeing the stars.*

*- Rabindranath Tagore*

*Life is a song - sing it.*

*Life is a game - play it.*

*Life is a challenge - meet it.*

*Life is a dream - realize it.*

*Life is a sacrifice - offer it.*

*Life is love - enjoy it.*

*- Sai Baba*

*"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.