

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

September 11, 2016

Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins:

We gather, from the ebb and flow of our lives
Thirsty for connection to ourselves
Thirsty for connection to others
Thirsty for connection to the larger life.

May all who gather here
on this new morning, at the start of this new year,
be filled:
Filled with hope
Filled with compassion
Filled with gratitude for all that is good
Filled with yearning to share that goodness with all.
Here, at this deep well, may we be filled.
So that we will pour ourselves out
into the world. (Gregory Pelley, adapted by Elea Kemler)

*(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 Wake Now, My Senses (traditional, arr. Clif Hardin)

Call to Worship Welcome, Welcome! (Clif Hardin) –Adult Choir

Welcome and Announcements Donna Nowak, Worship Leader

***Hymn** There's a River Flowin' in My Soul, #1007 turquoise

*(All children and youth are asked to help return the chalice to our
Sanctuary! Please gather in the center aisle at the beginning of the
hymn if you would like to help pass the chalice forward.)*

Words for Chalice Lighting

Adults: *We learn from the sea how to hold this light.*

Children and Youth: Gently, lightly, we hold this light.

Adults: *This light says, "Love exists in as many ways
as there are angles of the sun on the ocean."*

Children and Youth: Gently, lightly, we hold this light.

Adults: *This light says, "Love exists in as many ways
as there are beating hearts in this room."*

Children and Youth: Gently, lightly, we hold this light.

Adults: *This room is filled with light.*

Children and Youth: Gently, lightly, we hold this light.

Adults: *Our chalice holds our light. It is warmth and
brightness.*

Children and Youth: Gently, lightly, we hold this light.

ALL: *May the light of love shine strongly here. May
we bring this love into the world.*

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.

Anthem The Farthest Field (David Dodson; arr. M.D. Buckles)
- Adult Choir; soloists: Bill Wilcox, Michelle Stiller,
Jay Lawrence, Carolyn Francisco

A Time for All Generations Mabouya, Chief of the Well

Offertory Sonata #13, 2nd movement Adagio Cantabile (Beethoven)

Offertory Response *(Words: Melinda Green; Music: Shawn McCann)*

We thank each other for these gifts
Which makes our giving bless-ed.
We bless the works our gifts sustain
And pray they ripple outward.
With grace and generosity
We show our faith enacted.

Gathering the Water

*(All are invited to come forward and pour water into the common
bowl. You may wish to speak a word, about your water or your spirit,
as you pour. Ushers can also bring your water up front for you.)*

Music: Holy Waters (Jason Shelton, Mary Katherine Morn)

Holy waters make us new
Holy waters make us whole
Holy waters make us free
Holy waters make us one

Blessing the Water

*Hymn Blue Boat Home #1064, turquoise

*Sung Benediction #414

As we leave this friendly place,
love give light to every face.
May the kindness which we've learned,
light our hearts 'til we return.

Postlude Morning Praises (Jason Shelton)

(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. 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.

* * * *

Join us downstairs for good food and conversation immediately following the service!

The flowers in church this morning are given by Carol Swift:
"Sharing the Joy of Creating in the Garden..."

Greeters: Steve Lieman and Mary Jennings
Ushers: Claudette Williams and Suzanne Nelson
Coffee Hour Host: Sam Mayer Svarczkopf

Large Print Hymnals, Sunday Bulletins and Assisted Listening Devices are available at the sanctuary doors.

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 minister Rev. Elea Kemler and visit our Welcome Table to learn more about us. 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.

WE NOW HAVE AN OFFICIAL HASHTAG: #UUGROTON. Please consider using this when posting about our church and its works on all social media.

FIRST PARISH CHURCH Groton, Massachusetts



Water artwork by Liz Davis-Chaffin

"We are a community seeking to deepen spiritually, to take care of one another, and to be a blessing to the world."

For more information Please visit our website: www.uugroton.org and our Facebook page at First Parish Church of Groton, MA.

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 and picture books in each pew. The service is also broadcast downstairs in the large room beneath us if anyone needs to take a break during the service.