

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

September 18, 2016

Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

Thoughts as the Service Begins:

This is all that restoration requires most of the time, that one person not give up. (Anne Lamott)

It's my practice to welcome new people to the church by making sure they know that (we) will, at some point, let them down. That I will say or do something stupid and disappoint them. And then I encourage them to decide before that happens if they will stick around after it happens. If they leave, I tell them, they will miss the way that God's grace comes in and fills in the cracks left behind by our brokenness. And that's too beautiful to miss. (Nadia Bolz-Weber, Pastor, House for All Sinners and Saints)

(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

Grave and Vivace from Trio Sonata in C Major
(G.P. Telemann)

Welcome and Announcements

Steve Boczenowski, Worship Leader

*Hymn

This Little Light of Mine #118

Special thanks to Sadie Foster and Sophie Clark for leading us!

Chalice Lighting

Jim Moisson

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

The Dedication of Noah Frederick Saafi, child of Lori and Jamel and baby brother of Parker and Eli Saafi

Singing the Children and Teachers to Religious Education

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

Religious Education begins today. Welcome! Children will gather downstairs in the Vestry – the big room below us – to meet their teachers and join in a circle of friends. Then each age group will go with their teachers to their meeting space.

Candles of Celebration and Concern

(You are invited to come forward, introduce yourself, briefly share a personal and heartfelt joy or sorrow, light your candle from the chalice and place it on the candle table. Before you speak, please take a moment to gather your thoughts into one or two sentences.)

Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation

Rev. Elea Kemler

Offertory

Andante and Presto from Trio Sonata in C Major
(G. P. Telemann)

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.

Sermon

More Beautiful for Having Been Broken Rev. Elea Kemler

*Hymn

There is More Love Somewhere #95

*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

Largo, Allegretto and Vivace from Trio Sonata in C Major
(G. P. Telemann)

(Continued on back cover)

(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.

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

Today's flowers are donated from the gardens of some of the members of our community in celebration of the end of summer and our re-gathering as a congregation for the new church year.

Greeters: Susan Randazzo, Stuart Schulman and Laura Williams
Ushers: Suzanne Nelson and Claudette Williams
Coffee Hour Host: Sam Mayer Svarczkopf

Very Special Thanks to "The Ladies of Summer": Nancy Burdine, Sue Gleason, Betsy Ginsberg and Loretto Roney for providing music today.

WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS. We are so glad you are here. Join us for coffee, tea and conversation after the service in the Vestry, the large room beneath us, where you can meet our minister Rev. Elea Kemler and visit the 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 and send you the monthly print newsletter and weekly emails about life at First Parish.

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 is a Welcoming Congregation. We joyfully welcome all!

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



Sailing by Hatzy Hornblower

"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 three 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.