

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

September 25, 2016

Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

Thoughts as the Service Begins:

Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.

(The Talmud)

And this is it. This is the life we get here on earth. We get to give away what we receive. We get to believe in each other. We get to forgive and be forgiven. We get to love imperfectly. And we never know what effect it will have for years to come. And all of it...all of it is completely worth it. (Nadia Bolz-Weber)

(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

What a Wonderful World (Thiele/Weiss)

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Aaron Stockwell,
Worship Leader

*Hymn

Come and Go With Me

#1018 Turquoise

Chalice Lighting

Steve Lieman

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 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

Children will gather downstairs in the Vestry – the big room below us – to join in a circle of friends. Then each age group will go with their teachers to their meeting space.

Reading

The Repair of the World: A Creation Story

by Naomi Newman

Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation

Rev. Elea Kemler

Offertory

What can a Miracle Do (Grolnick)

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

Our Project

Rev. Aaron Stockwell

Gather the Sparks

Rev. Elea Kemler

*Hymn

We Are Building a New Way

#1017 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

Sonata for Cello and Continuo (Corelli)

(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.

(Continued on Back Cover)

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

Greeters: Bernadette Dureault and Laura Williams
Ushers: Suzanne Nelson and Claudette Williams
Coffee Hour Host: Sam Mayer Svarczkopf

Very Special Thanks to Stuart Schulman and Susan Randazzo for today's music.

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



Apples by Don Torgerson

"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.