

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

October 9, 2016

Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

Thought as the Service Begins:

What happens when we recycle bottles and cans? They are transformed; they are made into something else. Though it may seem a homely analogy for something as lofty as our souls, that's exactly what we're after. In our inconsistent and often clumsy ways, we're aiming for transformation. Each time we take ourselves in hand and change our direction, ask forgiveness and start anew, we reaffirm our belief that we are redeemable. We don't want to stay exactly as we are... We want to loosen the pinching in our hearts and live with more wonder, serenity, kindness, and wisdom. We want to live so there's a little shimmer of grace left behind when we're gone.

(Kathleen McTigue, from the essay *Backside Redemption*)

(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

Toccata in e minor (Johann Pachelbel)

Call to Worship A New Day (Agnes V. Paulsen) Children's Choir

Welcome and Announcements Irv Rockwood, Worship Leader

***Hymn** Enter, Rejoice and Come In #361, silver

Chalice Lighting Jackie Meyer

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

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.)

Anthem Soon the Day Will Arrive (Ehud Manor, Nurit Hirsch)
Children's Choir

Singing the Children and Teachers to Religious Education

Time To Rise And Go Out (*Lucy Holstedt*)

Time to rise and go out. Time to rise and go out.

Go in wonder, Go to discover. Time to rise and go out.

Time to rise and go out. You are the treasure, you are the future.

Time to rise and go out. Where you go, our love goes with you.

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.

Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation Rev. Elea Kemler

Response: We forgive ourselves and each other.

We begin again in love.

Offertory

Fugue in f minor (Charles Burney)

Steve Lieman will announce today's offering.

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 Clumsy Transformations Rev. Elea Kemler

***Hymn** We'll Build a Land #121, silver

***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

Trumpet Voluntary (John Bennett)

(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.

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

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



Flower and Butterfly by Krista Ingram

Today's flowers are donated by Paula Bogdanoff on behalf of the Caring Committee. The First Parish Caring Committee provides support in the form of meals, cards and rides to medical appointments. They also provide gas and grocery cards to those in need. The minister has cards in her pocket. Please ask!

Greeters: Margaret & Nancy Burdine and Laura Williams
Ushers: Betty Keddy and Pat Fairchild
Coffee Hour Host: Dmitri Foster

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!

Active Hope—The Journey Toward Justice

“Once you have glimpsed the world as it might be, as it ought to be, as it’s going to be (however that vision appears to you), it is impossible to live compliant and complacent anymore in the world as it is...and so you come out and walk out and march, the way a flower comes out and blooms, because it has no other calling. It has no other work.”

(Victoria Safford, White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church, MN)

“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.