

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

October 16, 2016

**Ringing of the Bell** Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

## Thought as the Service Begins:

And God says: Make your sukkah enclosed enough to feel cozy, but keep one side open, so that all who pass by know that they are welcome. Even the roof must be thin enough to invite the evening sky to dine with you, the openings in the branches that cover you wide enough for the stars to fall through.

There are too many among us who are made unwelcome – not just in the inhospitable corners of the world, but in our own towns, our own neighborhoods, on our own blocks. You may even know their names. Invite them in.

*(Dane Kuttler, The Social Justice Warrior's Guide to the High Holy Days)*

(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** Voluntary V (John Alcock)

**Call to Worship** Building Bridges (round) – Youth Choir

**Welcome and Announcements** Steve Boczenowski, Worship Leader

**\*Hymn** Gather the Spirit #347

**Chalice Lighting** Kira Hill and Nick Maciel

**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 Camila Matheson Vander Linden,**  
child of Carolyn Matheson and Ted Vander Linden

**Anthem** Hand In Hand (Melissa Monforti) – Youth 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.*

**Sung Prayer** Meditation on Breathing (Sarah Dan Jones)

When I breathe in, I'll breathe in peace.

When I breathe out, I'll breathe out love.

**Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation** Rev. Elea Kemler

**Offertory** Fuguetta (G.F. Handel)

*Today's offering is an outreach offering for the UU Service Committee's emergency Haiti relief fund, paying particular attention to the needs of the thousands of Haitians who are already internally displaced, living in camps and temporary shelters, since the 2010 earthquake. Thank you for your generosity.*

**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** Open to the Stars and Weather Rev. Elea Kemler

**\*Hymn** Wake Now, My Senses #298

**\*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** Variations from organ concerto Set 1, Op. 4, No. 1 (Handel)

*(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.*

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*Join us outside and in the sukkah today for good food and conversation immediately following the service!*

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Today's flowers are donated by Donna Stram.

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Greeters: Deb Boczenowski, Sarah & Donna Stram  
Ushers: Bernadette Dureault and Pat Fairchild  
Coffee Hour Host: Jacob Tessier

**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



*Flower Pot by Shirley Man*

## 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](http://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.