

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

November 13, 2016

## Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

## Thoughts as the Service Begins:

We stand together. We stick up for the vulnerable. We challenge the bigotry. We don't let hate speech become normalized. We hold the line. (JK Rowling)

We're all just walking each other home. (Ram Dass)

*(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

Let It Be (Lennon, McCartney)

## Call to Worship

We Give Thanks (Wendy Luella Perkins)  
–Children's Choir

## Welcome and Announcements

Kathy Reiff, Worship Leader

## \*Hymn I Am Willing (Holly Near)

Chorus: I am open and I am willing  
To be hopeless would seem so strange  
It dishonors those who go before us  
So lift me up to the light of change

There is hurting in my family  
There is sorrow in my town  
There is panic in the nation  
There is wailing the whole world round (Chorus)

May the children see more clearly  
May the elders be more wise  
May the winds of change caress us  
Even though it burns our eyes (Chorus)

Give me a mighty oak to hold my confusion  
Give me a desert to hold my fears  
Give me a sunset to hold my wonder  
Give me an ocean to hold my tears (Chorus)

## Chalice Lighting

Nancy Fleischer

## 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

**Anthem** What Can We Do / Que Haremos - Children's Choir  
(Joyce Poley; Spanish translation by Arturo Gonzalez & Leon Berke)

## 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

*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 group will go with their teachers to their meeting space.*

## Reflections

Jessica Liliedahl, Laura Mangones

## Sung Prayer (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

On Your Shore (Enya)

*During the music you are invited to post your joys and sorrows on the wall near your pew. If mobility is difficult, please ask a neighbor.*

## 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.

## Reflections

Tim Svarczkopf

**A Very Short Sermon** We're All Just Walking Each Other Home  
Rev. Elea Kemler

## \*Hymn Give Light (Artzner, Leonino)

1. Give light, and people will find the way (x3)  
People will find the way I do believe
2. Teach peace...
3. Stand together...
4. Reach out...
5. Give love...
6. Sing out...
7. Give light...

## \*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

The Old Castle (Mussorgsky)

*(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.*

*The Ushers will be offering safety pins as you leave the Sanctuary today. Wear one as a symbol of your commitment to be safe harbor for those who are vulnerable. You are welcome to take several pins and pass them on.*

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

Greeters: John Appleton, Laura Williams and Suzanne Nelson

Ushers: Alice Van Ormer and Claudette Williams

Coffee Hour Host: Sam Mayer Svarczkopf

*First Parish Church is a Welcoming Congregation. We joyfully welcome all!*

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



*Artwork by Kaitlin Kramer*

Coming from Gratitude

“Many times a day I realize how much my own life is built on the labors of my fellowmen, and how earnestly I must exert myself in order to give in return as much as I have received.” --Albert Einstein  
“Thankfulness is the beginning of gratitude. Gratitude is the completion of thankfulness. Thankfulness may consist merely of words. Gratitude is shown in acts.”--Henri Frederic Amiel

*“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.