

**\*Sung Benediction** Carry the Flame  
Carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.  
Oh, carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.

**Postlude** Prelude and Fugue (J.F.N. Seger)

*(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!*

---

Flowers for this Sunday's Service are donated by Carol Sarasin in loving memory of Jerry P. Sarasin.

---

Greeters: Owen Shuman, Joan Wheeler and Pat Hartvigsen  
Ushers: Gina Perini Benedict and Peter Benedict  
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



*Artwork by Liz Davis-Chaffin*

*"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.

## **FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON**

January 8, 2017

**Ringling of the Bell**

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

## **A Thought as the Service Begins:**

I tell you, this blazing in you -  
It comes from the helpless place in you  
that, despite all, cannot help but hope,  
that part of you that does not know  
how not to keep turning toward this world,  
to keep turning your face toward this sky,  
to keep turning your heart toward this unendurable earth  
knowing your heart will break  
but turning it still.

I tell you, this is how the stars get in your bones.  
This is how brightness makes a home in you

as you open to the hope that burnishes  
every fractured thing it finds and sets it shimmering,  
a generous light that will not cease,  
no matter how deep the darkness grows,  
no matter how long the night becomes. (Jan Richardson)

*(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** Trumpet Voluntary (Simon Stuble)

**Call to Worship** One Small World (Lucy Holstedt) – Adult Choir

**Welcome and Announcements** Donna Nowak, Worship Leader

**\*Hymn** Come and Go With Me #1018, turquoise

**Chalice Lighting** Lindy Hanninen

**Response Hymn** *(please remain seated)* #123  
Spanish trans. Rev. Lilia Cuervo and Ervin Barrios

Fuente de Amor, ven hacia mí.  
Y al corazón, cántale tu compasión.  
Sopla al volar, sube en la mar;  
Hasta moldear la justicia de la vida.  
Arráigame, libérame,  
Fuente de Amor, ven a mí, ven a mí.

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**

Blessing Liz on her sabbatical and Welcoming Krista as our  
Sunday Morning Program Coordinator while Liz is away.

*Sister, Brother, take your time go slowly. Time to gather,  
circle round. Simple things are holy.*

## **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.*

**Anthem** We Laugh, We Cry (Shelley Jackson Denham) – Adult Choir

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

**Offertory** Short Voluntary in G (John Worgan)

**Offertory Response** (*Words: Barbara Rich; Music: Shawn McCann*)

Today we give our time  
Our compassion, wit and song  
Everyday we can choose,  
To begin again in love.

We give what we can,  
Generous as we can  
Opening the doors  
To begin again in love.

**Sermon** How Brightness Makes a Home in You Rev. Elea Kemler

**\*Hymn** Building A New Way #1017, turquoise

**\*Sung Benediction** Carry the Flame  
Carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.  
Oh, carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.

**Postlude** Prelude and Fugue (J.F.N. Seger)

*(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!*

---

---

Flowers for this Sunday's Service are donated by Carol Sarasin in loving memory of Jerry P. Sarasin.

---

---

Greeters: Owen Shuman, Joan Wheeler and Pat Hartvigsen  
Ushers: Gina Perini Benedict and Peter Benedict  
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!*