

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

January 29, 2017

## Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

## A Thought as the Service Begins:

Do not stray into the neighborhood of despair.  
For there are hopes: they are real, they exist -  
Do not go in the direction of darkness -  
I tell you: suns exist. (Rumi)

Love is hard. Love for people, especially those who are different from you. Love that says I see you as a person. Love that says "let your unique light shine in the world!" because each of our souls touches the divine mystery. Love that says we're on a journey together, and my fate is tied up with yours. Love that grabs you and won't let go until your whole life is dedicated to standing on the side of love. Love that changes the world. Love is hard. Do it anyway. (UUA)

*(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** Presto e Leggiero (Norman Dello Joio)

**Call to Worship** Love One Another (Jason Shelton) Youth Choir

**Welcome and Announcements** Michelle Stiller, Worship Leader

**\*Hymn** Morning Has Come #1000, turquoise

**Chalice Lighting** Owen Shuman

**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

**The Dedication of Camila Matheson Vander Linden**, child of Carolyn Matheson and Ted Vander Linden and grandchild of Pat Hartvigsen and Chuck Vander Linden

**Anthem** This Is The New Year (Ian Axel and Chad Vaccarino)  
Youth Choir

## 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

## Sung Prayer Walking With You (Burns Stansfield)

Walking, walking with you, walking with you is my prayer.  
Singing, singing with you, singing with you is my prayer.  
Laughing, laughing with you, laughing with you is my prayer.  
Crying, crying with you, crying with you is my prayer.  
Walking, walking with you, walking with you is my prayer.

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

**Offertory** Soft and Languid (from Four Piano Blues)  
(Aaron Copland)

**Offertory Response** *(Words: Barbara Rich and Joshua Rich)*

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** We Can Do Hard Things Rev. Elea Kemler

**\*Hymn** Standing on the Side of Love #1014, turquoise

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

**Postlude** Clair de Lune (Claude Debussy)

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

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Flowers for this Sunday's service are donated by the Hartvigsen Vander Linden family in celebration of grandchildren.

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Greeters: Deb and Steve Boczenowski, and Laura Williams  
Ushers: Michael Foster and Loretto Roney  
Coffee Hour Host: Sam Mayer Svarczkopf

**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 Hatzy Hornblower*

## January: A Wider Sense of Self

A Wider Sense of Self means expanding our understanding of who matters, who is in our family. It means learning to see ourselves as parts of an inter-connected whole, so that when others suffer, we suffer too. It means including more people in who we mean when we say the word "we."

*"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.