

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

March 5, 2017

Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

Thoughts as the Service Begins:

It seems the purpose of suffering is to exhaust us of our differences, and the purpose of love is to awaken us to how we are, at heart, the same. And every life, every generation, every age, takes its turn at pushing each other away, only to be loved and worn back to the one tribe we all belong to. (Mark Nepo)

Out
of a great need
we are all holding hands
and climbing.
Not loving is a letting go.
Listen,
The terrain around here
is
far too
dangerous
for
that. (Hafiz, translated by Daniel Landisky)

*(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

Lean on Me (Bill Withers)

Andrew Watson and Kurt Staven

Welcome and Announcements

Amy Grosso, Worship Leader

*Hymn

For the Earth Forever Turning

#163

Chalice Lighting

Kurt Staven

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

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 One Voice (Ruth Moody)

Kira, Lara and Meredith Hill
with Maddy Premru on guitar

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

Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation

Offertory

Hallelujah by Leonard Cohen
Andrew Watson and Kurt Staven

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

Out of a Great Need

Rev. Elea Kemler

*Hymn

One More Step

#168

***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 Faron Woods (Koji Kondo) Maddy Premru

(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!

Please consider donating flowers or decorating for Sunday services.

Greeters: Carol Sarasin and Kathy Parliament Benson
Ushers: Kathy and Greg Reiff
Coffee Hour Host: Jacob Podsiadlo

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. *Look for anyone holding a blue mug at coffee hour. They will be glad to answer any questions you have or speak with you about our community.*

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 Laura Williams and Morningstar Medayear

If we are looking for insurance against want and oppression, we will find it only in our neighbors' prosperity and goodwill and, beyond that, in the good health of our worldly places, our homelands. If we were sincerely looking for a place of safety, for real security and success, then we would begin to turn to our communities - and not simply our human neighbors but also the water, earth, and air, the plants and animals, all the creatures with whom our local life is shared. (Wendell Berry)

"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.