

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

March 12, 2017

Ringing of the Bell Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

Thought as the Service Begins:

...today I say the polls are not just open (one) Tuesday. I say they are open every day. Every hour. Even here. Even now. Right now I am going to vote for the robin's egg sky, the vanilla clouds, the purple shadow spreading under the ginkgo tree, I am going to vote for tulips and redbuds. I am going to vote for love. (Mark Belletini)

*(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 Sarabande (Clif Hardin)

Call to Worship Peace, Salaam, Shalom (Humphries, Opatow)
Youth Choir

Welcome and Announcements Sue Lotz, Worship Leader

***Hymn** We Are Building A New Way #1017

Chalice Lighting Melinda Stewart

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

Anthem One Small World (Lucy Holstedt) 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

Catching Up With Rev. Aaron Stockwell

Reflections on First Parish Church Shawn McCann

Sung Prayer There Is A Love (Parker, Norton)
There is a love holding me / us.
There is a love holding all that I / we love.
There is a love holding all.
I / We rest in that love.

Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation

Offertory Amazing Grace (traditional)

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.

Message Every Hour. Even Here. Even Now. Rev. Elea Kemler

***Hymn** For All That is Our Life #128

***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 Gaudeamus (for Kelly) (Jason Shelton)

(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 today's service are given by Deb and Steve Boczenowski in honor of their children, Stephanie and Jeffrey's March birthdays.

Greeters: Joan Wheeler, Suzanne Nelson and Laura Williams

Ushers: Kathy and Greg Reiff

Coffee Hour Host: Dmitri Foster

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 have happy 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 Rachel Benson

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.