

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

March 19, 2017

Ringing of the Bell Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins:

Blessed are we who gather with open hearts...

Blessed are we: the chalice-lighters of resistance, justice, love, and faith.

Blessed are we: the heretics, the outcasts, the walkers of our own way.

Blessed are we: the border-crossers, the refugees, the immigrants, the poor, the wanderers who are not lost...

Blessed are we: the friend, the stranger, the lonely, the hidden, the visible, the authentic.

Blessed are we who rise in solidarity, blessed are we who cannot...

Blessed are we for this is our Beloved Community,
and this is who we are. (Andrea Hawkins-Kamper)

*(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 Allegro Assai from Sonata in D minor (C.P.E. Bach)

Call to Worship Where Do We Come From
(Paul Gagan, Brian Tate) Children's Choir

Welcome and Announcements Loretto Roney, Worship Leader

***Hymn** May Nothing Evil Cross This Door #1

Chalice Lighting Sarah Iacobucci

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

Anthem Why Ask Why? (Ken Langer) Children's Choir

The Welcome and Celebration of New Members

Steve Boczenowski, Trustee and the Welcoming All Group

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

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.*

Reflections on First Parish

Alyssa Dallas

Offertory Prelude from Suite No. 5 (Henry Purcell)

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 Blessed Are We Rev. Elea Kemler

***Hymn** We Would Be One #318

***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 Sonata K.312 (W.A. Mozart)

(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: Alison Chase, Rev. Marta Valentin and Jaiya

Ushers: Kathy and Greg Reiff

Coffee Hour Host: Kiernan DeMeis-Dullea

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



"Garden" Artwork by Hatzzy Hornblower

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.