

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

March 26, 2017

Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

Thoughts as the Service Begins:

You are loved beyond belief. You are enough, you are precious, your work and your life matter, and you are not alone. You are part of a "we," a great cloud of witnesses living and dead who have insisted that this beautiful, broken world of ours is a blessing worthy of both deep gratitude and fierce protection...our ancestors and our descendants are beckoning us, compelling us onward toward greater connection, greater compassion, greater commitment to one another and to the earth. Together, we are resilient and resourceful enough to say "yes" to that call, to make it our life's work in a thousand different ways, knowing that we can do no other than bind ourselves more tightly together, and throw ourselves into the holy work of showing up, again and again, to be part of building that world of which we dream, but which we have not yet seen. (Rev. Ashley Horan)

*(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

God Bless the Child (Holiday, Herzog)
Sung by Andrew Watson

Call to Worship

Down to the River to Pray
(traditional, arr. McCann) Adult Choir

Welcome and Announcements

Sal Lombardi, Worship Leader

*Hymn

Come and Go With Me #1018

Chalice Lighting

Steve Boczenowski

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

Gathering of Commitments

People Get Ready (Curtis Mayfield) insert

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

Reflections on First Parish

Bob Burkhardt

Anthem

Sunshine In My Soul (Sweney, Hewitt)

Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation

Offertory

Flower to the Sun (Clif Hardin)

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

Building That World of Which We Dream

Rev. Elea Kemler

*Hymn

Answering the Call of Love

#1014, blue

*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

Sometimes I Feel A Motherless Child
(traditional) sung by Andrew Watson

(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: Suzanne Nelson, Tom Nalesnik and Owen Shuman
Ushers: Kathy and Greg Reiff
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. **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



“Poppies” Artwork by Carol Sarasin

"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.