

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

April 9, 2017

Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

Thought as the Service Begins:

For even as we draw lines of wire and blood
across the face of the earth; as we write treaties,
each more comprehensive than the last;
while trumpets and drums excite the worst in us;
and while we argue with each other
in the foreign tongues of belligerence, ownership and power –
the universe itself speaks with the vocabulary of shalom.

The wind blows across every border. The sun warms every face,
The stars beguile every opened eye.
The earth opens its arms to all of its children,
Providing a feeding place, A growing place, A loving place,
And, at last, a resting place.

O Thou ancient Holy One:
In your wisdom, the universe unfolds
in the direction of wholeness and truth and beauty.
Make this fragile planet and us, thy wayward children,
a part of that journey, we pray. (Christa Swenson)

*(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 Sonatina, Op. 36, No. 6; Allegro con Spirito
(Muzio Clementi)

Call to Worship Open My Heart (Henry S. Flurry) -Open Choir

Welcome and Announcements Donna Stram, Worship Leader

***Hymn** Down to the River to Pray (insert)

Chalice Lighting Caleb Stanley-Kemler

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 Jeffrey Ryan Emmons and Jordan Nicholas
Emmons**, children of Matthew and Stephanie Emmons

Anthem There Is a Balm in Gilead
(African-American spiritual, arr. Nolan Williams) –Open 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

Reflections on First Parish Rev. Clio Fisher

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.

Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory Sonatina, Op. 36, No. 7; Andantino (Muzio Clementi)

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 The Universe Speaks With the Vocabulary of Peace
Rev. Elea Kemler

***Hymn** Life Call Us On (insert)

***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 Sonatina, Op. 36, No. 7; Presto (Muzio Clementi)

(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 this week are given by Deb and Steve Boczenowski with gratitude to the congregation for warmly welcoming Jeffrey and Jordan into our faith community.

Greeters: Judy Nauman
Ushers: Charles Faucher, Pamela Worden and Suzanne Nelson
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.*

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



"Maple Season" Artwork by Carol Sarasin

Spirit of Life and Love,
moving in every living thing, and in us,
astonish us this morning.
Startle us. Stun us...
Shake us from our sleeping.
For we are winter-weary and disbelieving
and our eyes have forgotten what surprises look like,
and we are ready, we are more than ready,
to open them and be amazed. (Victoria Safford)

"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.