

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

April 23, 2017

## Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

## A Thought as the Service Begins:

Will the hungry ox stand in the field and not eat  
of the sweet grass?

Will the owl bite off its own wings?

Will the lark forget to lift its body in the air or  
forget to sing?

Will the rivers run upstream?

Behold, I say - behold

the reliability and the finery and the teachings  
of this gritty earth gift. (Mary Oliver)

*(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

For the Beauty of the Earth  
(Conrad Kocher; arr. Diane Bish)

## Welcome and Announcements

Loretto Roney, Worship Leader

## \*Hymn

For the Earth Forever Turning

#163

## Chalice Lighting

Kathy Reiff

## 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

## 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 just one or two sentences.*

## 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

## Sung Prayer

The Lone, Wild Bird

#15

The lone, wild bird in lofty flight is still with thee,  
nor leaves they sight.

And I am thine! I rest in thee.

Great spirit come and rest in me.

The ends of earth are in thy hand,  
the sea's dark deep and far-off land.

And I am thine! I rest in thee.

Great spirit come and rest in me.

## Spoken Prayer, then Silent Meditation

## Offertory

River Flows In You (Yiruma)

## 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

Jewels of Gratitude

Rev. Elea Kemler

## \*Hymn

Blue Boat Home

#1064

**\*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**

Medley: Let There Be Peace On Earth  
(Sy Miller, Jill Jackson)

Give Me Love, Give Me Peace On Earth (George Harrison)

*(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.*

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*Join us downstairs for good food and conversation immediately following the service!*

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Please consider donating flowers or decorating the altar for a Sunday Service.

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Greeters: Bob & Nancy Fleisher and Judy Nauman  
Ushers: Suzanne Nelson and Betty Keddy  
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.**

*First Parish Church is a Welcoming Congregation. We joyfully welcome all!*

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



*Artwork by Shirley Man*

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](http://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.