

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

May 21, 2017

Ringing of the Bell Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins:

Blessed is the path on which you travel.
Blessed is the body that carries you upon it.
Blessed is your mind that discerns the way.
Blessed is the gift you will receive by going.
Blessed is the gift you will become on the journey.

(Eric Williams, adapted)

*(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 Voluntary V (G.F. Handel)

Call to Worship Call to Worship (Betty Wylder) -Adult Choir

Welcome and Announcements Pamela Worden, Worship Leader

***Hymn** Circle Game (Joni Mitchell) insert

Chalice Lighting Kaitlin Kramer

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.

Bridging Ceremony for Jon Frey, Kira Hill, Eleanor Keydel, Ian Peterson, Will Premru

***Hymn** Bridge Over Troubled Waters (Paul Simon)
Verses 1 and 2 (see insert)

*Blessing

May the nourishment of the earth be yours,
giving you strength.
May the clarity of the morning and evening light be yours,
giving you vision.
May the protection of the ancestors be yours,
giving you comfort and peace.
Wrap these words of love around you like an invisible cloak,
to warm and shelter your life.
Go forth with joy.
Come home to us often.
And may your days be good and long upon the earth!
(John O'Donohue, adapted)

***Hymn** Bridge Over Troubled Waters (Paul Simon)
Verse 3 (see 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

Anthem The Road Not Taken (Frost, Thompson) Adult Choir

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory Fugue (G.F. Handel)

Offertory Response *Words: Barbara Rich; Music: 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 Gift You Will Receive, The Gift You Will Become
Rev. Elea Kemler

***Hymn** Life Call us On (Gibbons, Shelton) 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

Voluntary VI (G.F. Handel)

(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!

Flowers today are donated by Greg and Kathy Reiff, in joyful anticipation of the arrival of their first grandchild (any day now.)

Greeters: Steve and Deb Boczenowski

Ushers: June Johnson and Pat Fairchild

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 is a Welcoming Congregation. We joyfully welcome all!

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

Groton, Massachusetts



Artwork by David Eliades

“stay strong through your pain
grow flowers from it...
bloom beautifully
dangerously
loudly
bloom softly
however you need
just bloom”

(Rupi Kaur)

“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.