

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

September 17, 2017

Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins:

Every piece of ourselves,
every part of this earth, this life, this new day
reminds us
how we are all still learning
still studying
with more or less seriousness
the beauty and hope of this life
still refusing to concede the right
to practice joy in the face of loss
laughter in the midst of grief
surrender even while we are afraid.

It is a tender teaching we are after -
an opening of the human heart
that we might love more of this world,
and then still more. (Gretchen Haley, adapted)

(We ask that you put your electronic devices in “worship mode” by turning off all ringers. Please also turn off the flash on your camera. Join us in a time of quiet during the prelude.)

Prelude

Voluntary I (John Alcock)

Call to Worship Love Is All Around (R. Pelham) – Children’s Choir

Welcome and Announcements Mary Jennings, Worship Leader

*Hymn We Are Building a New Way #1017

Chalice Lighting written by Rev. George Downey

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

Anthem Open The Door (Joyce Poley) Children’s 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

Candles of Celebration and Concern

You are invited to come forward, introduce yourself, briefly share a personal and heartfelt joy or sorrow in a sentence or two, 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.

Sung Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

There Is A Love (Parker, Norton)

There is a love holding me.
There is a love holding all that I love.
There is a love holding all.
I rest in that love.

There is a love holding us.
There is a love holding all that we love.
There is a love holding all.
We rest in that love.

Offertory Air (Samuel Wesley)

Offertory Response *(Words: Melinda Green; Music: Shawn McCann)*

We thank each other for these gifts
Which makes our giving bless-ed.
We bless the works our gifts sustain

