

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

October 1, 2017

## Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

## A Thought as the Service Begins:

Every little thing that breaks your heart is welcome here  
We'll make a space for it  
Give it its due time and praise for the wanting it represents  
The longing for something more,  
Some healing hope that remains  
Not yet  
We promise no magic, no making it all better  
But offer only this circle of trust  
This human community that remembers, though imperfectly  
That sings and prays, though sometimes awkwardly  
This gathering that loves, though not yet enough  
We're still practicing after all...  
Still becoming able  
To receive all this beauty and all these gifts  
We each bring. (Gretchen Haley)

*(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

Avinu Malkeinu (trad., arr. Clif Hardin)

**Call to Worship:** Spirit of Truth, of Life of Power Adult Choir

**Welcome and Announcements:** Carol Swift, Worship Leader

**\*Hymn** Morning Has Come #1000, turquoise

**Chalice Lighting** Laura Scolnick-Guilmette and Natalie Guilmette

**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 Jackson Carter Desmond,** Child of Catherine Doucet and Kevin Desmond

## 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

*(If you prefer to write down your joy or sorrow for inclusion in today's prayer, rather than light a spoken candle, fill out one of the cards in your pew. The ushers will collect cards as children and youth are sung from the sanctuary. There is also a basket on the candle table and you can put your card in it any time before the prayer.)*

**Anthem** I Will Sing With The Spirit (J. Rutter) Adult Choir

## 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.*

## Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Congregation: We forgive ourselves and each other.  
We begin again in love.

**Offertory** Fughetta in C (Buxtehude)

**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  
And pray they ripple outward.  
With grace and generosity  
We show our faith enacted.

Sermon Still Becoming Able Reverend Elea Kemler

\*Hymn What Wondrous Love #18

\*Sung Benediction #414

As we leave this friendly place,  
love give light to every face.  
May the kindness which we've learned,  
light our hearts 'til we return.

Postlude: Allegro (Thomas Arne)

*(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. Come up one of the side aisles, light your candle and return to your seat by the center aisle. Or if mobility is difficult, just go the shortest route! We ask the congregation to remain seated in quiet until the last candle is lit. If you are not able to stay, please leave quietly.)*

**\*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, 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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The flowers in church this morning are  
given by Laura Scolnick-Guilmette in honor of Yom Kippur

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Greeters: Sue Gleason, Shirley Mann, John Appleton

Ushers: Laura Williams, June Johnson

Coffee Hour Host: Sam Mayer Svarczkopf

**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. **Look for anyone holding a blue mug at coffee hour. They will be happy to answer any questions you have or speak with you about our community.**

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



*"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 4 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 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 during the service.