

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

October 8, 2017

## Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

## A Thought as the Service Begins:

When the world falls apart, look for love among the edges of our shared chaos. It's there, waiting in the frayed spaces where fear loosens its armor, waiting for us to knit our tired hands together and say yes. (Miranda Hersey)

*(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

Fugue in f minor (Charles Burney)

**Call to Worship:** I Will Care For You (K. Kutz) Children's Choir

**Welcome and Announcements:** Terri Ragot, Worship Leader

## \*Hymn

I Am Willing (Holly Near)

Chorus: I am open and I am willing  
To be hopeless would seem so strange  
It dishonors those who go before us  
So lift me up to the light of change

There is hurting in my family  
There is sorrow in my town  
There is panic in the nation  
There is wailing the whole world round (Chorus)

May the children see more clearly  
May the elders be more wise  
May the winds of change caress us  
Even though it burns our eyes (Chorus)

Give me a mighty oak to hold my confusion  
Give me a desert to hold my fears  
Give me a sunset to hold my wonder  
Give me an ocean to hold my tears (Chorus)

## Chalice Lighting

Melinda Stewart

## 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.

## 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. Please take a moment to gather your thoughts into one or two sentences.*

## Anthem

Singing For Our Lives (Holly Near) 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

*(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.)*

## Reading

A Benediction for the Heavy Hearted by Mason Bolton

## Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

## Offertory

Trio (Jacques Boyvin)

## 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

