

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

October 15, 2017

## Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

## A Thought as the Service Begins:

You will know this blessing  
by how it opens its heart to you.  
You will know this blessing  
by how it turns its face toward you.  
You will know this blessing  
by how it approaches you  
arm in arm with faith and hope.

You will know this blessing  
not by the ease it offers you  
but by what it asks of you:  
patience and kindness  
forbearance and belief  
hope and endurance,  
not because this is what you owe  
but because this is what  
this blessing stirs in you,  
what it provides for you,  
what it pours into your hands  
that you suddenly find open

like your heart  
that unfolds itself in welcome,  
finally knowing  
and fully known. (Jan Richardson)

My religion is very simple. My religion is kindness. (Dalai Lama XIV)

*(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** Come Sunday (Duke Ellington)

**Welcome and Announcements:** Ed McNierney, Worship Leader

**\*Hymn** Here We Have Gathered #360

**Chalice Lighting** Barbara Rich

**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

### 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 have a brief joy or sorrow, celebration or concern you wish to have shared out loud in today's prayer, 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.)*

## Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

**Offertory** Hallelujah (Leonard Cohen)

**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** Kind World

Rev. Elea Kemler

