

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

December 10, 2017

Ringing of the Bell Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins:

When you experience mercy, you learn things that are hard to learn otherwise. You see things you can't otherwise see; you hear things you can't otherwise hear. You begin to recognize the humanity that resides in each of us. (Bryan Stevenson)

(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 Chant du Berger (Gustav Adolf Merkel)

Call to Worship Love, Be Our Way (Carolyn McDade)
Adult Choir

Welcome and Announcements: Ed McNierney, Worship Leader

***Hymn** Life Calls Us On (insert)

Chalice Lighting Steve Boczenowski

Advent Wreath Lighting Sarah Stram

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 Rev. Karen G. Johnston

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.)

Candles of Celebration and Concern

You are invited to come forward, introduce yourself, briefly share a 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.

Anthem Bridge Over Troubled Water (Paul Simon; arranged
by Shawn McCann) Adult Choir

Reading God Gave Me a Word by Amy Petrie Shaw (in two voices)

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory Pastorale (Philip Hayes)

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 Four Essential Things Rev. Karen G. Johnston

***Hymn** Let the Life I Lead Speak For Me

1. Let the life I lead speak for me
Let the life I lead speak for me
When I've come to the end of the road
And I've lay down my heavy load
Let the life I lead speak for me
2. Let the friends I have...3. Let the work I do...
3. Let the love I share... 4. Let the songs I sing

***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 Noel en grand Choeur et en Duo (Jean-Jacques Charpentier)

(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!

The flowers in church this morning are given in celebration of Chanukah in the upcoming week and all the cheer of the holiday season lights by the Scolnick-Guilmette family.

Ushers: Peg Lorenz, Trish Garrigan
Coffee Hour Hosts: Dmitri Foster, Jacob Tessier, Kiernan DeMeis-Dullea

This morning we welcome Rev. Karen G. Johnston back to First Parish! Reverend Karen G. Johnston is the settled minister at The Unitarian Society in East Brunswick, New Jersey. She completed her ministerial internship here at First Parish and is tickled to return. Since she left First Parish in June, 2016, and settled into her new life in suburban Central Jersey, she and her husband, Tony, have been blessed with the company of a new cat, Riley, and new puppy-like dog named Vera, and a new grandbaby in Chicago last March. She serves on the board of the FaithAction New Jersey, which fulfills a similar advocacy role as UU MassAction fulfills here. She will be sticking around to join in the conversation about social justice called Brave Questions with the Trustees at 11:45 am in the East Wing.

FIRST PARISH CHURCH
Groton, Massachusetts



Artwork by Michael Brunelle, 3rd grade

“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 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.