

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

January 7, 2018

Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

Thoughts as the Service Begins:

There is a quiet courage
in the choice to be present
in this new day
to live for this hour, this moment
and to believe in its possibility -
to release the regrets,
to stop the spinning stories of what was
and is no longer,
to accept this gift
to believe that we are worthy
still of happiness
of ease, of delight, and hope
and to receive this wholeness
with ready hearts and open hands,
saying only thank you.

Come, let us practice this surrender together
gathering up all the brave boldness
we know can be found in our bones and blood
if we will breathe together
knowing ourselves a part of this one life
filled with mystery, creativity and power,
Changing us, growing us, and
calling us into partnership
with all that is. (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 Fantasia (Telemann)

Call to Worship We Will Walk Together (Clif Hardin) Open Choir

Welcome and Announcements Gregg Baker, Worship Leader

***Hymn** Gather the Spirit #347

Chalice Lighting Eric Elbot

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 Let This Be A House of Peace (Jim Scott) Open 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.)

Candles of Celebration and Concern

You are invited to come forward, introduce yourself, briefly share a personal, heartfelt joy or sorrow, light your candle from the chalice and place it in the candle table. Before you speak, take a moment to gather your thoughts into one or two sentences.

Sung Prayer Meditation on Breathing (Sarah Dan Jones)

*When I breathe in, I'll breathe in hope.
When I breathe out, I'll breathe out love.*

Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation

Rev. Elea Kemler

Offertory Pas de deux from Souvenirs (Samuel Barber)

Offertory Response (Barbara Rich, Joshua Rich)

Today we give our time
Our compassion, wit and song
Everyday we can choose,
To begin again in love.

We give what we can,
Generous as we can
Opening the doors
To begin again in love.

Sermon Choose a Strong Word Rev. Elea Kemler

***Hymn** Come, Sing a Song With Me #346

***Sung Benediction** Carry the Flame (Patricia Pavey)
Carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.
Oh, carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.

Postlude La Cathedrale engloutie (Claude Debussy)
(Please remain seated during the Postlude. You are also invited to come light a candle silently during this time. We ask the congregation to remain seated in quiet until the last candle. 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, please place it one of the recycle baskets at the sanctuary exits.

Join us downstairs for good food and conversation immediately following the service!

The flowers in church this morning are given by an anonymous donor.

Greeters: Greg and Kathy Reiff
Ushers: Gregg, Cyndy and Maddy Premru
Coffee Hour Hosts: Dmitri Foster, Jacob Tessier, Kiernan DeMeis-Dullea

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



Studio Art by Lindy Hanninen, Kathryn Ellis Moore and Shirley Man

“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 three 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 soft, multicolored 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.