

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

January 14, 2018

## Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

## Thoughts as the Service Begins:

We must discover the power of love, the redemptive power of love. And when we discover that we will be able to make of this old world a new world.... Love is the only way. (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

I believe that the world was created and approved by love, that it subsists, coheres, and endures by love, and that, insofar as it is redeemable, it can be redeemed only by love. (Wendell Berry)

*(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** Improvisations on African American Spirituals

**Call to Worship** Morning has Come (Moore) - Children's Choir

**Welcome and Announcements** June Johnson, Worship Leader

**\*Hymn** Come and Go With Me #1018, turquoise

**Chalice Lighting** Patrick Hughes

**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** DeColores (trad. Spanish, 16<sup>th</sup> century) 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

*(We do not have spoken candles of joy and sorrow today. If you would like to have a joy or sorrow included in today's prayer, please write it on one of the index 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** From Dr. King's sermon, "Loving Your Enemies" preached at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, November 17, 1957

**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** Improvisations on African American Spirituals

**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** The Redemptive Power of Love (Not an Easy Assignment) Rev. Elea Kemler

**\*Hymn** There is More Love Somewhere #95

**\*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** Improvisations on African American Spirituals  
*(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.*

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

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Please consider donating flowers or artwork for Sunday service.

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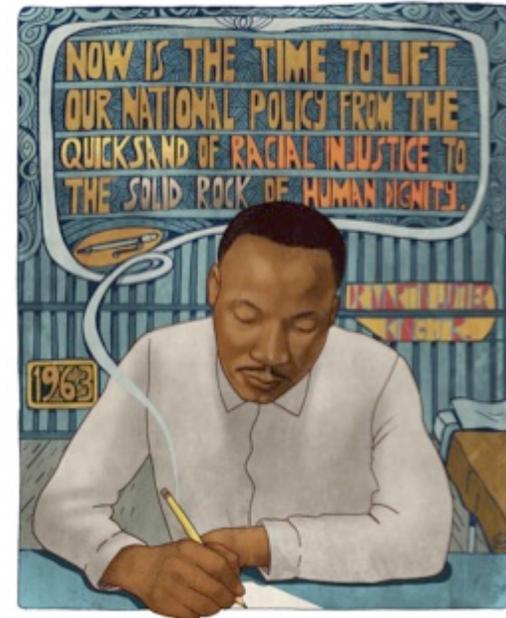
Greeters: Owen Shuman, John Appleton, and Alan Hurvitz  
Ushers: Kathy and Greg Reiff  
Coffee Hour Hosts: Dmitri Foster, Jacob Tessier, Kiernan DeMeis-Dullea

**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. Everyone here is happy to speak with you and answer any questions you may have. Please sign one of the Guest Books on the tables near the front and back entrances so we can send you the monthly print newsletter and weekly emails about life at First Parish.

*First Parish Church is a Welcoming Congregation. We joyfully welcome all!*

# 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 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.