

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

January 28, 2018

Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins:

Let us covenant with one another
to keep faith with the source of life...
to keep faith with the community of resistance
never to forget that life can be saved from that which threatens it
by even small bands of people
choosing to put into practice
an alternative way of life.

And, let us covenant with one another
to seek for an ever deeper awareness
of that which springs up inwardly in us.
Even when our hearts are broken
by our own failure or the failure of others
Even when we have done all we can and life is still broken
there is a Universal Love
that has never broken faith with us and never will.
This is the ground of our hope. (Rebecca Parker)

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.

If you would like to have your joy or sorrow included in today's prayer rather than lighting a spoken candle, please write it on a candle card and put the card in the offertory box during the offering. There is also a basket on the candle table at the front of the sanctuary and you can put your card there any time before the prayer.

Prelude

Fantasia (Telemann)

Call to Worship

Peace, Salaam, Shalom (Pat Humphries and Sandy Opatow) Youth Choir

Welcome and Announcements

Amy Grosso, Worship Leader

*Hymn

Come, Come, Whoever You Are #188

Chalice Lighting

Irv Rockwood

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

Hallelujah (Leonard Cohen) Youth 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

Spoken Candles of Celebration and Concern

You are invited to come forward, introduce yourself, 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.

Offertory Soft and Languid (from Four Piano Blues)

(Aaron Copland)

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.

Sung Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation (Parker, Norton)

There is a love holding me.
There is a love holding all that I love.
There is a love holding all.
I rest in this love.

There is a love holding us.
There is a love holding all that we love.
There is a love holding all.
We rest in this love.

Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation

Sermon The Ground of Our Hope Rev. Elea Kemler

***Hymn** The Fire of Commitment #1028, turquoise

***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 Clair de Lune (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!

Today's flowers are given by Carol Swift who says, "Where flowers bloom so does hope". -Lady Bird Johnson

Greeters: Colleen Tessier, Trent Tessier, Sarah Iacobucci
Ushers: Kathy and Greg Reiff
Coffee Hour Hosts: Dmitri Foster, Jacob Tessier, Kiernan DeMeis-Dullea

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



Photo by Joe Spenser

“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.