

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

March 18, 2018

**Ringing of the Bell** Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

## Thoughts as the Service Begins:

All I know is that, at every turn, I hear the word *love* surfacing as a longing for our common life, quietly but persistently and in unexpected places. (Krista Tippett)

*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, 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 upfront and you can put your card there any time before the prayer.*

**Prelude** Pineapple Rag (Scott Joplin)

**Call to Worship** Down to the River to Pray (traditional, arr. McCann)  
Adult Choir

**Welcome and Announcements** Amy Grosso, Worship Leader

**\*Hymn** Get on Board Little Children (**traditional**)

Chorus: Get on board, little children  
Get on board, little children  
Get on board, little children  
There's room for many-a-more.

I hear the train a comin'  
I hear her close at hand  
I hear those car wheels rumblin'  
And rollin' through the land.  
Chorus

The fare is cheap and all can go.  
The rich and poor are there  
No second class upon this train  
No difference in the fare.  
Chorus

**Chalice Lighting**

Gregg Baker

**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

**Gathering of Commitments** People Get Ready (Curtis Mayfield)

**Singing the Children, Youth 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

**Anthem** We Will Walk Together (Clif Hardin) Adult Choir

**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** Solace (Scott Joplin)

**Offertory Response** (Barbara Rich, Joshua Rich)

Today we give our time  
Our compassion, wit and song  
Every day 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.

**Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation**

**Sermon** This Can Happen Anywhere: What Love Can Do  
Rev. Elea Kemler

**\*Hymn** Answering the Call of Love #1014, 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** The Entertainer (Scott Joplin)

*(You are invited to come light a candle silently during the Postlude.  
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.*

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*Today's flowers are given in anonymously in celebration of the  
goodness of this community and all the quiet, kind things people do.*

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Greeters: Emma Rose Marella, Amy Strong, Colleen Tessier  
Ushers: Bernadette Dureault and Claudette Williams  
Coffee Hour Hosts: Dmitri Foster, Jacob Tessier, Kiernan DeMeis-  
Dullea

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



*"Poppies" Artwork by Carol Sarasin*

"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 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.