

**FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON**

April 8, 2018

**Ringing of the Bell**

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

**A Thought as the Service Begins:**

*So the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading bowls wrapped in their cloaks upon their shoulders. (Exodus 12:34)*

You'll need to travel light.

Take what you can carry: a book, a poem,  
a battered tin cup, your child strapped  
to your chest, clutching your necklace  
in one hot possessive fist.

So the dough isn't ready. So your heart  
isn't ready. You haven't said goodbye  
to the places where you hid as a child,  
to the friends who aren't interested in the journey,  
to the graves you've tended.

But if you wait until you feel fully ready  
you may never take the leap at all  
and Infinity is calling you forth  
out of this birth canal  
and into the future's wide expanse...  
Trust that what you carry will sustain you  
and take the first step out the door. (Rabbi Rachel Barenblat, Ready)

*(We ask that you turn off the ringers on your cell phones, beepers  
and electronic devices, and the flashes on your cameras.  
Please join us in a time of quiet during the prelude.)*

**Prelude** How Can I Keep From Singing (traditional, arr. Clif Hardin)

**Welcome and Announcements** Sal Lombardi, Worship Leader

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

**Chalice Lighting** Cyndy Premru

**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.  
Arrágame, 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

**The Welcome and Celebration of New Members** Steve Boczenowski,  
Board of Trustees and the Welcoming All Group

**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

**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** There Is A Balm in Gilead (African American spiritual,  
arr. Clif Hardin)

**Offertory Response** *(Words: Barbara Rich and 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.

**Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation**

**Sermon** Infinity Calling Us Forth Rev. Elea Kemler  
**\*Hymn** Wade in the Water #210

**\*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** Raghupati (trad. Hindu devotional song. Arr. Clif Hardin)

*(You are invited to come light a candle silently for your own joys, sorrows and prayers during the Postlude. 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**

---

The flowers are given today by John Appleton in memory of his brother, Andrew Hooper Appleton, who would have been 51 years old this past week.

---

*Large Print Hymnals, Sunday Bulletins and Assisted Listening Devices are available at the sanctuary doors. Join us downstairs for good food and conversation immediately following the service!*

.....

Greeters: Ellen Allen, John Appleton  
Ushers: Suzanne Nelson, Diane Lombardi  
Coffee Hour Host: Dmitri Foster, Jacob Tessier, Kiernan DeMeis-Dullea, Isabel Connors

**About today's music:** *Clif Hardin (b. 1955) is a composer of choral and piano solo works and is currently working full-time as Music Director at River Road Unitarian Church in Bethesda, Maryland. Clif has been involved in many Washington area theater productions. He holds degrees from Oberlin Conservatory of Music, the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, and has recently completed his doctorate in choral studies at the University of Maryland.*

**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.

## FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



Artwork by Olivia Logan

*"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.

## **New Member Sunday: Welcome!**

**Lyda Budrys** lives in Groton with her husband and beloved hound Ona. The youngest of her two daughters is graduating college this May. Formerly a community pharmacist, she currently works part time in a related field. A native Chicagoan, Lyda is grateful for the beautiful nature and abundant outdoor activities of New England. Trekking thru Groton Town Forest with her dog is her daily passion. She also enjoys golf, skiing, and is enthusiastically working on summiting all 48 White Mountain four thousand foot peaks. Favorite quote: "In every walk with Nature one receives more than he seeks" - John Muir

**Deb Busser** lives in Groton with her husband Rob. Deb went to high school in Groton for two years, and moving back in 2016 felt like 'returning home'. Previously, she and Rob lived in Dunstable where they were raised by their two young adult daughters. Deb runs an executive coaching practice and partners with senior business leaders in the Boston area and abroad. She has a ball teaching the expressive dance class, 'Shake Your Soul', at the Prescott School Community Center. Deb loves traveling and going to concerts at the Bull Run.

**Rob Busser** lives in Groton with his wife Deb in their renovated older home. Rob grew up in Tewksbury, attended UMass Lowell, and is an electrical engineer working in Nashua. He likes to be outside as much as he can.

**Susan Cusson** lives in Groton with her husband Charlie, daughter Cheryl, two grandchildren (Colton and Lila), and their rescue dog Samson. Her family and full time job as a nurse practitioner at Carleton-Willard Village in Bedford MA keep her pretty busy. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, bicycling, yoga, and knitting.

**Lauren Tellier** lives in Groton with her family, and has been an active part of our church community for over 10 years. She is grateful for all the support and opportunities extended to her and her family over the years. Her daughter Hannah, an EMT, and her son Sam, a junior in college, have participated in many wonderful youth and adult programs. Lauren is excited to make the formal commitment of membership and to contributing more to the important work of our church. Lauren works at Hewlett-Packard Enterprise in Andover, sings in our choir, plays guitar, and loves music, the ocean, mountains, swimming, hiking, reading and travel.