

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

April 22, 2018

Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins:

If you would enter into the wilderness,
do not begin without a blessing.

Do not leave without hearing who you are:

Beloved, named by the One who has traveled this path before you.

Do not go without letting it echo in your ears,
and if you find it is hard to let it into your heart, do not despair.
That is what this journey is for.

I cannot promise this blessing will free you
from danger, from fear, from hunger or thirst,
from the scorching of sun or the fall of the night.
But I can tell you that on this path there will be help.

I can tell you that on this way there will be rest.
I can tell you that you will know the strange graces
that come to our aid only on a road such as this,
that fly to meet us bearing comfort and strength,
that come alongside us for no other cause
than to lean themselves toward our ear
and with their curious insistence whisper our name:

Beloved. Beloved. Beloved. (Jan Richardson)

*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

Shower the People (James Taylor)

Welcome and Announcements

Gregg Baker and Jacob Podsiadlo,
Worship Leaders and COA Mentor and Youth Pair

***Hymn**

Down to the River to Pray (traditional)

insert

Chalice Lighting

Marisa Benson

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

A Time for All Generations

Love by Matt De La Pena, illustrated
by Loren Long

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

Coming of Age Reflections

Jacob Podsiadlo, Luke Benedict,
Trent Tessier

Anthem

Father and Son (Cat Stevens) Jon Frey

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

The Wind (Cat Stevens)

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 Rev. Elea Kemler

Coming of Age Reflections Cameron Hadland, Ivan Sturm

Anthem Good Riddance/Time of Your Life (Armstrong, Dirnt, Cool)
Jon Frey

Coming of Age Reflections Jacob Tessier, Izzy Conners

***Hymn** Life Calls Us On (Gibbons, Shelton) insert

***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 You've Got A Friend (Carole King)

(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**

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!

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Ushers: Sarah Iacobucci and Julia Hudson
Greeters: Marge Kimpton, Jim Moisson, Greg Premru
Coffee Hour Host: Dmitri Foster, Jacob Tessier, Kiernan DeMeis-Dullea, Isabel Conners

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



Artwork by Isabel Stanley-Kemler

What We Love About First Parish

“A place for me to take off my armor, or at least try, and where I can contribute my whole self, rather than the limited ways in the rest of my life.” -Quote from returned Pledge Form 2018.

If you have not yet returned a Pledge Form for the coming year, they are on the tables at the sanctuary doors. Please fill one out and put it in the offering box!

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.