

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

April 29, 2018

**Ringing of the Bell**

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

**A Thought as the Service Begins:**

Blessed are we who gather with open hearts.

Blessed are we: the chalice-lighters of resistance, justice, love, and faith.

Blessed are we: the heretics, the outcasts, the walkers of our own way.

Blessed are we: the border-crossers, the refugees, the immigrants, the poor, the wanders who are not lost.

Blessed are we: the transgressors, the trespassers, the passers-by, the cause-takers, the defiant, the compliant...

Blessed are we: the friend, the stranger, the lonely, the hidden, the visible, the authentic.

Blessed are we who rise in solidarity, blessed are we who cannot rise, blessed are we who rise in spirit.

Blessed are we who celebrate and grieve, who despair and hope, who believe in love and in what love can do.

Blessed are we: this is our Beloved Community, and this is who we are. (Andrea Hawkins-Kamper, edited, EJK)

*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** Teach Your Children (Graham Nash)

**Welcome and Announcements** Steve Boczenowski, Worship Leader

**\*Hymn** Lean on Me #1021 turquoise

**Chalice Lighting** Pamela Worden

**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** The Word Collector by Peter H. Reynolds

**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**

Julia Hudson, Olivia Logan,

Isabel Stanley-Kemler

**Anthem** Thanksgiving Song (Louise Freyman)

Lauren Tellier

**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**

In My Life (Lennon, McCartney)

**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** Sarah Hudson, Sarah Stram

**Anthem** 93 Million Miles (Jason Mraz) Lauren Tellier

**Coming of Age Reflections** Trudy Burnham, Jai Santoro

**\*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** What A Wonderful World (Thiele, Weiss)

*(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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Today's flowers are given by the Andriole Sturm Family in memory of Christina's father who died on April 26, 2015

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Greeters: Dawn Sajdyk, Carol Sarasin, John Appleton  
Ushers: Suzanne Nelson, Claudette Williams  
Coffee Hour Hosts: Dmitri Foster, Jacob Tessier, Kiernan DeMeis-Dullea, Isabel Connors

**FIRST PARISH CHURCH**  
Groton, Massachusetts



*Artwork by Isabel Stanley-Kemler*

**What We Love About First Parish**

***I like how much everyone cares about one another – It really IS a faith community. (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](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.