

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

May 6, 2018

Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins:

Blessed is the path on which you travel.
Blessed is the body that carries you upon it.
Blessed is your mind that discerns the way.
Blessed is the gift you will receive by going.
Blessed is the gift you will become on the journey.
(Eric Williams, adapted)

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.

We do not have spoken Candles of Celebration and Concern in today’s service. If you have a joy, sorrow, celebration or concern you would like the minister to include in today’s prayer, 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 upfront and you can put your card there any time before the prayer.

Prelude Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum (Claude Debussy)

Call to Worship Call to Worship (Betty Wylder) Open Choir

Welcome and Announcements Gregg Baker, Worship Leader

***Hymn** Circle Game (Joni Mitchell) insert

Chalice Lighting Rev. Elea Kemler

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

Bridging Ceremony for Lara Hill, Nick Maciel, Haley Watson, Sara Woods

***Hymn** Bridge Over Troubled Waters (Paul Simon)
Verses 1 and 2 (see insert)

***Blessing**
May the nourishment of the earth be yours,
giving you strength.
May the clarity of the morning and evening light be yours,
giving you vision.
May the protection of the ancestors be yours,
giving you comfort and peace.
Wrap these words of love around you like an invisible cloak,
to warm and shelter your life.
Go forth with joy.
Come home to us often.
And may your days be good and long upon the earth!
(John O’Donohue, adapted)

***Hymn** Bridge Over Troubled Waters (Paul Simon)
Verse 3 (see insert)

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

Border Song (Elton John, Bernie Taupin; arr. Shawn McCann)
Open Choir

Offertory The Little Shepherd (Claude Debussy)

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

Senior Sermon Nick Maciel
***Hymn** Life Call 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 Golliwog's Cake-Walk (Claude Debussy)

(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**

Today's flowers are given in loving memory of
Elizabeth Ann Bray Benedict.

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: Kathy & Greg Reiff, Deb & Rob Busser
Ushers: Pat Fairchild, Diane Lombardi
Coffee Hour Host: Dmitri Foster, Jacob Tessier, Kiernan DeMeis-Dullea, Isabel Connors

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.

FIRST PARISH CHURCH
Groton, Massachusetts



Artwork by David Eliades

What We Love About First Parish

I love the super-friendliness and acceptance here, and also the heart that everyone seems to have of compassion for anyone in need of any sort.”-Quote from returned Pledge Form 2018

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.