

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

April 25, 2010

Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

Thoughts as the Service Begins

We have lived our lives by the assumption that what was good for us would be good for the world. We have been wrong. We must change our lives so that it will be possible to live by the contrary assumption, that what is good for the world will be good for us. And that requires that we make the effort to know the world and learn what is good for it. (Wendell Berry)

Instructions for living a life:

Pay attention.

Be astonished.

Tell about it.

(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 Voluntary XIII (Maurice Greene)

Call to Worship You That Have Faith Adult Choir
(Mark Gresham; words adapted from Owen Seaman)

Welcome and Announcements Jim Moisson, Worship Leader

***Hymn** Garden Song (Dave Mallett)

Chorus:

Inch by inch, row by row, gonna make this garden grow
All it takes is a rake and a hoe and a piece of fertile ground
Inch by inch, row by row, Someone bless these seeds I sow
Someone warm them from below
Til the rain comes tumbling down

Pullin' weeds and pickin' stones,
we are made of dreams and bones

I feel the need to grow my own cause the time is close at hand
Grain for grain, sun and rain I'll find my way in nature's chain
Tune my body and my brain to the music of the land

Chorus

Plant your rows straight and long,
Temper them with prayer and song
Mother earth will keep you strong if you give her love and care
An old crow watchin' hungrily from his perch in yonder tree
In my garden I'm as free
as that feathered thief up there
Chorus

Chalice Lighting Kira, Lara and Meredith Hill

Response Hymn *(please remain seated)* #123

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

***Hymn** This Pretty Planet (Tom Chapin)

This pretty planet spinning through space,
You're a garden, you're a harbor, you're a holy place,
Golden sun going down,
Gentle blue giant spin us around,
All through the night, safe 'til the morning light.

Candles of Celebration and Concern

You are invited to come forward, light a candle and briefly share a joy or sorrow that has touched your life.

Anthem: Sanctus (Gounod)
Adult Choir with Kathryn Ellis-Moore, soprano solo

Spoken Prayer, including Prayers for the Earth

Offertory Gavotte (Matthew Camidge)

***Offertory Response** *(Words: Barbara Rich; Music: 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.

Reflections for Earth Day

Rev. Elea Kemler

*Hymn Mother Earth (Natural Anthem)

Neil Young

Oh, Mother Earth,
With your fields of green
Once more laid down
by the hungry hand
How long can you
give and not receive
And feed this world
ruled by greed

Oh, ball of fire
In the summer sky
Your healing light,
your parade of days
Are they betrayed
by the men of power
Who hold this world
in their changing hands

Oh, freedom land
Will you let this go
Down to the streets
where the numbers grow
Respect Mother Earth
and her healing ways
Don't trade away
our children's days

Respect Mother Earth
and her healing ways
Don't trade away
our children's days

*Sung Benediction

Carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.
Oh, carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.

Postlude Voluntary V

(John Alcock)

(Please remain seated during the Postlude. You are also invited to come to the front of the church and light a candle silently during this time. Please place your candle toward the back of the candle table. We ask the congregation to remain seated in quiet until the last candle is lit.)

***Please stand as you are able.**

Large Print Hymnals, Sunday Bulletins and Assisted Listening Devices are available at the sanctuary doors. If you don't wish to keep your Sunday Bulletin, please place it one of the recycle baskets at the sanctuary exits.

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*Join us downstairs for good food and conversation
immediately following the service!*

The flowers in church this morning are given by Owen Shuman
in memory of all we love who have died in the spring,
may new growth and beauty help ease our sorrow.

Greeters: Eleanor Bond, Jacquie Rogers
Ushers: Paul Donovan, Suzanne Nelson



WELCOME TO VISITORS: Visitors are encouraged to sign the Visitor's Book downstairs. Please stop by the Newcomer's Table on the stage in the Vestry. It has information on the First Parish Church and Unitarian Universalism. Join us for our fellowship hour in the Vestry following the service. Nametags help us to identify one another. You can order one at the Visitors' Table. Our minister, staff and identified leaders are available to meet with you to answer questions about our community.

THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON was gathered as the town church in 1664. The congregation worships in its fourth Meeting House which was completed in 1755. A town clock and Revere-cast bell rings out our call to service every Sunday. The congregation is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association, a liberal faith that affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth; a free and responsible search for truth and meaning; the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large; the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; and respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Membership is open to all age 13 and older. If you are interested in membership, please speak to the minister or any member of the Membership Committee.

"First Parish is a Unitarian Universalist Association Welcoming Congregation. We warmly welcome members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community."

First Parish Staff:

Minister	Rev. Elea Kemler minister@uugroton.org	(978) 448-5106
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Officers of the First Parish:

Chair, Board of Trustees	Karen Johnson	(978) 448-9158
Senior Deacon	Becky Pine	(978) 448-2710
Treasurer	Roger Allen	(978) 448-6089
Clerk	Barbara Murray	(978) 448-3706

Our Web Page: www.uugroton.org **Email:** office@uugroton.org

Office Hours are Tuesday–Friday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The office telephone number is 978-448-6307.

Our newsletter is published monthly from September through June. The deadline for submitting articles is the 15th of the previous month.



FIRST PARISH CHURCH
Groton, Massachusetts

"We are a community seeking to deepen spiritually, to take care of one another, and to be a blessing to the world."

A Warm Welcome to All!

There is childcare for infants and toddlers through age 4 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, red pouches in each pew. The service is also broadcast downstairs in the large room beneath us if children become restless.