

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

Sunday, October 21, 2007

## A Thought before the Service Begins:

*The hand you hold speaks not of age nor race gender or affections  
it speaks only of the soft warmth of our humanity and the  
possibility of human hope, love, compassion and peace in our world.*

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

**Ringing of the Bell** Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

**Prelude** Cornet Voluntary (anonymous, 18th century)

**Welcome and Announcements** Gregg Baker

**\*Hymn** We're Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table #407

**Chalice Lighting** June Johnson

**Response Hymn** *(please remain seated)*

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

### Singing the Children and Teachers to Church School

Go now in peace. Go now in peace.  
May the love of God surround you  
Everywhere, everywhere you may go. (repeat)

### 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** La Cathedrale Engloutie (Claude Debussy)

**Reading** Love Makes Room by Ellen Goodman

## Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

**Offertory** Little Prelude in c minor (Cesar Franck)

### \*Offertory Response (Melinda Green/Shawn McCann)

We thank each other for these gifts  
Which makes our giving bless-ed.  
We bless the works our gifts sustain  
And pray they ripple outward.  
With grace and generosity  
We show our faith enacted.

**Sermon** Open the Door a Little Wider: Reflections on Six  
Years as a Welcoming Congregation Betty Keddy  
Karen Johnson

**Hymn** One More Step #168

**\*Sung Benediction** Carry the Flame  
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 in D (William Croft)

*(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. We ask  
the congregation to remain seated in quiet until the last candle is lit.)*

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

*Large Print Hymnals 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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The flowers in church this morning are given by the Santos family

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Greeters: Karen Ancas Santos and Lea Santos

Ushers: Sue Gleason; Florence Funch

Fellowship Hour Hosts: John Jackson and FPCOG Committees