

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

Sunday, December 16, 2007

## A Thought before the Service Begins:

Suddenly you remember  
that there will be a Spring  
and that if you stay alert to its arrival;  
if you keep your hands open  
in a grateful readiness to receive,  
then the sun will pour out of your heart  
and you shall suddenly bloom  
just as you do now. (Eric Ashford)

*(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** Gavotte (Mathew Camidge)

**Call to Worship** Here We Have Gathered (Alicia Carpenter)  
Adult Choir

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

**\*Hymn** People, Look East #226

**Lighting of the Chalice and the Advent Wreath** Sue Lotz

**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 2x)

## Candles of Celebration and Concern

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

**Anthem** Autumn Hymn (Barbara Owen, Walter Royal Jones)  
Adult Choir

**Reading** When I am Among the Trees by Mary Oliver

## Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

**Offertory** Largo (John Keeble)

**\*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** You Have Come into the World to do This Rev. Kemler

**Hymn** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #225

**\*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.

**Benediction Response** Go Your Way In Peace (Jim Scott)  
Adult Choir

**Postlude** Trumpet Voluntary (John Bennett)

*(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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Greeters: Paula Bogdanoff, MaryDenise NiConnor

Ushers: Allen and Doris King

Fellowship Hour Host: Karen Johnson