

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

December 14, 2008

A Thought as the Service Begins:

To live is so startling it leaves little time for anything else.
(Emily Dickinson)

(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 The Day of Gladness Now Appears (J.C.F. Fischer)

Call to Worship May This Light Shine (Agnes V. Paulsen)
Children's Choir

Welcome and Announcements Terri Ragot

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

The Lighting of the Chalice Barbara Rich

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath Terri Ragot

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 The Nativity Melinda Green

Anthem Moonlight Whispers (Wendy Bartel) Children's Choir

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.

Reading Revelers by Lynn Unger

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory Fughette (Andreas Armsdorf)

***Offertory Response** *(Words: Melinda Green; Music: Shawn McCann)*

We thank each other for these gifts
which makes our giving blessed;
We bless the works our gifts sustain
and pray they ripple outward.
With grace and generosity
we show our faith enacted.

Sermon Sing Sturdy Songs Rev. Elea Kemler

***Hymn** Come Sing a Song With Me #346

***Sung Benediction**

As we leave this friendly place,
Love give light to every face.
May the kindness which we learn,
Light our hearts til we return.

Postlude Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich (Johann Pachelbel)

(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 and Assisted Listening Devices are available at the sanctuary doors. If you don't wish to keep your order of service, 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! All are welcome to join the Small Group Conversation, a quieter alternative to Fellowship Hour, in the first floor library at 11:30 AM.

The flowers in church this morning are given by Karen Ancas Santos in remembrance of John & Camella Ancas and Lenny & Josephine Santos

Greeters: Karen Santos, Eva Santos and Lea Santos
Ushers: Brenna Mayer, MaryDenise NiConnor, Julie Bissell, Henry Bachteler
Fellowship Hour Hosts: Deborah and Ibar Kelly