

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

January 4, 2009

A Thought as the Service Begins:

*We have waited all night for you, and the dawn is come.
From distant places we came – there can be no returning
home.* (Francis Brabazon)

*Hope is like a road in the country; there was never a road,
but when many people walk on it, the road comes into
existence.* (Lin Yutang)

*(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 We Three Kings of Orient
The Babe of Bethlehem

Welcome and Announcements Ed McNierney

***Hymn** Morning Has Broken #38

Chalice Lighting Rocky Sandy

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 Everything Seed: A Story of
Beginnings by Carole Martignacco, illus. by Joy Troyer

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 Noel Nouvelet

Reading The Three Kings by Muriel Spark

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory March of the Kings

***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 Can You Imagine It: Reflections for the New Year

***Hymn** Wake, Now, My Senses #298

***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 Hatikvah
Lord of the Dance

*(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.*

Thanks to Second Wind for providing the music this morning.
Pat Bernard, Rocky Sandy, Alice Van Ormer, Shirley Mann,
Sue Gleason

Greeters: Kathy and Greg Reiff

Ushers: Paul Kurmas, Colleen Kurmas