

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

January 11, 2009

A Thought as the Service Begins:

We stand at a threshold, the new year something truly new, still unformed, leaving a stunning power in our hands.

What shall we do with this great gift of Time, this year?

Let us begin by remembering that whatever justice, whatever peace and wholeness might bloom in our world this year, we are the hearts and minds, the hands and feet, the embodiment of all the best visions of our people.

The new year can be new ground for the seeds of our dreams.

Let us take the step forward together, onto new ground,

Planting our dreams well, faithfully, and in joy.

(Kathleen McTigue)

(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.)

Ring of the Bell Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

Prelude Sonata L. 104 (Domenico Scarlatti)

Call to Worship Chalice Lighting (Finner, Landau)
Children's Choir

Welcome and Announcements Barbara Rich

***Hymn** Gather the Spirit #347

An Introduction to Our Whole Lives Andrea Mason

Chalice Lighting Paul Donovan

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

Anthem Peace Is Flowing Like A River (traditional)
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 I Will Not Die an Unlived Life by Dawna Markova

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory Pas de deux (Samuel Barber)
(You are welcome to return your Guest at Your Table box during the offering collection. If you would like to make a special gift to the UU Service Committee, please use the red envelope in your pew.)

***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.

Sermon The Great Gift of Time: Stories That Transform
Our Lives Rev. Elea Kemler

***Hymn** Blue Boat Home (insert)

***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 Postludium (Ernst von Dohnanyi)

(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.)

(Service continues on back cover)

***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.

Greeters: Jane and Ted Roselund

Ushers: Jenny Deenik and Jim Oehler

Fellowship Hour Hosts: Jane and Ted Roselund

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."

Our Web Page: www.uugroton.org

Email: office@uugroton.org

Office Hours are Tuesday–Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The 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. Articles can be submitted through the church e-mail address, on disk, or placed on the administrator's desk.



FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts

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.

"We are a supportive and welcoming liberal religious community. We live and share our beliefs by: exploring and nurturing our spirits; being inspired by the examples and teachings of diverse religious and moral leaders; fostering faith, justice and stewardship among ourselves and within the larger community; valuing our children and youth; celebrating our individual diversity and common unity."