

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

January 18, 2009

A Thought as the Service Begins:

Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step. (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

(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 Solace (Scott Joplin)

Call to Worship I Want to Be Ready (arr. William Farley Smith)
Adult Choir

Welcome and Announcements Kathy Reiff

***Hymn** I've Got a New Name #141

Chalice Lighting Brenna Mayer

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)

Reading from "Don't Sleep Through the Revolution" by Dr.
Martin Luther King, Jr. Kathy Reiff, Donna Nowak

Anthem Spiritual Songs from Cold Mountain (arr. Tom Fettke)
(see Anthem program notes on back cover) Adult Choir

Reading from "Don't Sleep Through the Revolution" by Dr.
Martin Luther King, Jr. Joe Tansey, David Gordon

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory Selections from Duke Ellington's Sacred Concerts

***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.

Reading from "Don't Sleep Through the Revolution" by
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Melinda Green,
Patrick Hughes

Reflections Arthur Blackman

Reflections Rev. Elea Kemler

***Hymn** Glory, Glory, Hallelujah! #201

***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 Do Lord, Remember Me Adult Choir
(arr. William Farley Smith)

Postlude Pineapple Rag (Scott Joplin)

(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.

(Service continued on back cover)

Greeters: Jenny Clark, Abby Clark, Caleb Clark
Ushers: Marge and David Kimpton
Fellowship Hour Hosts: Katharyn and Keith Dawson

Anthem Program Notes:

The collection of songs the choir is singing for this morning's anthem are from the Sacred Harp tradition, so named for a hymnbook published in Georgia in 1844. It came to this country from Britain where "West Gallery Music," Sacred Harp's parent, began showing up in rural villages in the 1600's. Most rural churches were poor and had no organ or other instruments to support singing. Traveling groups of "musicians," many of whom were swindlers and con artists, descended upon the hapless villages, found local church leaders and offered to set up "singings" or provide music for a Sunday service. While the townspeople were at church, several of the "musicians" would visit area homes and help themselves to money, food, etc.

Most locals could not read written language, and fewer could read music, so in order for the gathering to be successful the itinerant musicians needed an easily learned method for teaching new music. They used shapes instead of notes. From the shorthand scribbles of the 17th and 18th centuries evolved the geometric noteheads we call "shaped notes," consisting of right triangles, circles, blocks, and diamonds.

The singers sit in a square, with sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses facing one another from the four sides of the square. A combination of men and women of all ages fill each section except for the bass. The harmonies produced by this juxtaposition of voices have a raw, haunting quality not typically heard in church music. A song is "pitched" by a leader, who then conducts with an up/down hand motion. The group first sings the entire song using the shaped note names (fa, sol, la, me), then again with the words. Singers in the front rows of their sections keep time with their hands and occasionally will slap their thighs or stomp their feet to stress the beat. In general, Sacred Harp and Southern Harmony singing use one dynamic level: loud.

(extracted from liner notes written by Sheldon Curry)



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."