

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

January 25, 2009

A Thought as the Service Begins:

*May we be reminded here of our highest aspirations,
and inspired to bring our gifts of love and service to the altar
of humanity.*

*May we know once again that we are not isolated beings
but connected, in mystery and miracle, to the universe,
to this community and to each other.*

(Anonymous, from Singing the Living Tradition)

*(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 Variations on Ah! Vous Dirai-Je, Maman (K.265)
(W.A. Mozart)

Welcome and Announcements Andrea Mason

***Hymn** There's a River Flowin' in my Soul #1007 and insert

Chalice Lighting Steve Lieman

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

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.

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)

***Hymn** Come and Go With Me #1018 and insert

Reading Praise Song for the Day Elizabeth Alexander

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory Gigue from Suite 4 (Handel)

***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 Walking Forward in that Light Rev. Elea Kemler

***Hymn** As We Sing of Hope and Joy #1060 and insert
*(The words and music were written by inaugural poet,
Elizabeth Alexander)*

***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 Allegro Assai from Sonata in d minor (C.P.E. Bach)

*(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 Tucker Smith
in memory of her mother, Beverly Livingston Tucker,
April 10, 1919 - January 8, 2009.

Greeters: Dale Martin, Shirley Man
Ushers: Nancy Peters, Eleanor Bond
Fellowship Hour Hosts: Deborah and Ibar Kelly