

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

February 1, 2009

A Thought as the Service Begins

The only way
to survive
is to keep dreaming,
boldly, turning darkness
into light,
despair into hope,
locked doors
into sign-posts,
with perseverance...
one simple, steady day
at the time. (Simona Vuletic)

(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 Prelude from Suite No. 5 (Henry Purcell)

Call to Worship Now Let Us Sing (traditional) Adult Choir

Welcome and Announcements Deborah Johnson

***Hymn** Morning Has Broken #38

Chalice Lighting Paul Funch

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 Lila and the Secret of Rain
by David Conway and Jude Daly

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 Morning Has Broken (words: Eleanor Farjeon;
music: Bob Chilcott) - solo, Barbara Murray
Adult Choir

Reading First Parish Church of Groton, Unitarian Universalist
written and read by Melinda Green

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory La Bandoline (Francois Couperin)
*Today's offering is for outreach and will be given to Veteran's
Homestead, whose mission is to provide medical, psychological and
spiritual care to veterans who are diagnosed with a terminal illness,
are elderly and/or disabled, homeless or otherwise in need. Please
give as generously as you are able.*

***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 To Save What Matters Most Rev. Elea Kemler

***Hymn** We Would Be One #318

***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.

(Service continues on back cover)

Postlude Fantasia (Telemann)

(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 David Gordon
in loving memory of Susan Skinner Gordon

Greeters: Paul Kurmas, Colleen Kurmas

Ushers: Barbara Rich, Andrea Mason

Fellowship Hour Hosts: Jacquie Rogers, Eleanor Bond

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 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."