

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

February 15, 2009

## A Thought as the Service Begins:

This world is in deep trouble, from top to bottom,  
But it can be swiftly healed by the balm of love. (Rumi)

*(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** Molto Allegro 3 con brio, from Sonata Op. 7  
(Beethoven)

**Call to Worship** Call to Worship (Wyllder) Adult Choir

**Welcome and Announcements** Paul Harter

**\*Hymn** Open My Heart #1013  
Open my heart to all that I seek;  
Let me be part of the Love You give.

**Chalice Lighting** Annie Rayhill

**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.

**The Dedication of Edward Jacob Rayhill and Elizabeth Grace Rayhill, children of Annie and Bob Rayhill**

**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** Good News, The Chariot's Comin' (arr. Moses Hogan)  
Adult Choir

**Reading** The Shape of Love by Adyashanti

**Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation**

**Offertory** Bagatelle (Beethoven)

**\*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** Common Love Rev. Elea Kemler

**\*Hymn** What Wondrous Love #18

**\*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, from Sonata Op. 7 (Beethoven)

*(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.*

\* \* \* \*

*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.*

---

The flowers in church this morning are given by  
Kathy and Greg Reiff in memory of Kathy's father on his birthday.

---

**Greeters:** Julie Bissell, Henry Bachteler

**Ushers:** Jenny Deenik, Janet Armstrong