

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

February 22, 2009

A Thought as the Service Begins:

Above the mountains
the geese turn into
the light again
Painting their
black silhouettes
on an open sky.
Sometimes everything
has to be
inscribed across
the heavens
so you can find
the one line
already written
inside you.
Sometimes it takes
a great sky
to find that
small, bright
and indescribable
wedge of freedom
in your own heart.
Sometimes with
the bones of the black
sticks left when the fire
has gone out
someone has written
something new
in the ashes of your life.
*You are not leaving
you are arriving.*

(David Whyte)

(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 Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum
(from Children's Corner) (Claude Debussy)

Call to Worship Rise Up, O Flame Children's Choir
(words: Anonymous; music: Christoph Praetorius)

Welcome and Announcements Paul Harter

***Hymn** My Life Flows On in Endless Song #108

Chalice Lighting Georgess McHargue

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.

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 We Are (Isaye Barnwell) 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)

Hymn Winds Be Still #83

Reading Above all, trust in the slow work of God
Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory Snowflakes Are Dancing (from Children's Corner)
(Claude Debussy)

***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.

(Service continues on back cover)

