

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

March 1, 2009

## A Thought as the Service Begins:

This is our hope:

That the children born today may still have, twenty years hence,  
a bit of green grass under their bare feet,  
a breath of clean air to breathe,  
a patch of blue water to sail upon,  
and a whale on the horizon to set them dreaming.  
(by Jacques Cousteau)

*(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** Ach Gott und Herr (J.G. Walther)

**Call to Worship** The Lone Wild Bird (arr. Alf Houkum)  
Adult Choir

**Welcome and Announcements** Kathy Reiff

**\*Hymn** Morning Has Broken #38

**Chalice Lighting** Barbara Rich

**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 Charlie Barker**, son of Will and Alison Barker,  
and baby brother of William

**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** Invocation (Sarton, McLaren) Adult Choir

**Reading** From "A Guest of the World: Meditations"  
by Jeffrey Lockwood

**Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation**

**Offertory** Nocturne in e minor Op. 72, No. 1 (Chopin)

**\*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** Spirituality, Simplicity, Sustainability  
Rev. Elea Kemler

**\*Hymn** For the Earth Forever Turning #163

**\*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** Chaconne (Henry Purcell)

*(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!*

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The flowers in church this morning are given by the Kelly family in celebration of spring coming soon!

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Greeters: Dina Samfield, Gaye Kulvete

Ushers: Paul Kurmas, Suzanne Nelson, Paula Bogdanoff, Diane Swift

Fellowship Hour Hosts: The Membership Committee