

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

March 8, 2009

A Thought as the Service Begins

It is said: Before the world was created, the Holy One kept creating worlds and un-creating them. Finally, God created this one and was satisfied. So God said to Adam and Eve, "This is the last world I shall make. I place it in your hands. Hold it in trust." (Jewish midrash)

(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 Alla Breve (Handel)

Call to Worship Oh Great Spirit (source unknown)
Children's Choir

Welcome and Announcements Kathy Reiff

***Hymn** For the Beauty of the Earth #21

Chalice Lighting Ed McNierney

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 Welcome and Celebration of New Members Terri Ragot
for the Board of Deacons and the Membership Committee

***Enter, Rejoice, and Come In** #361

Anthem We Are One, We Are Many (Wagner, Venus)
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)

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.

Reading Tikkun Olam: Repair of the World (a Jewish mystic creation story) by Naomi Newman and verses from the book of Genesis, Chapter 1

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory Air (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 Spirituality, Simplicity, Sustainability:
Holding the World in Trust Rev. Elea Kemler

***Hymn** Earth Was Given as a Garden #207

***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 Variations from Organ Concerto Set 1, Op. 4, No. 1
(Handel)

(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.**

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.

(Service continues on back cover)

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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The flowers in church this morning are given by the Vine family.
Let there be hope.

Greeters: Marge and David Kimpton
Ushers: June Johnson, Steve Lieman
Fellowship Hour Hosts: Tucker and Hale Smith

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.

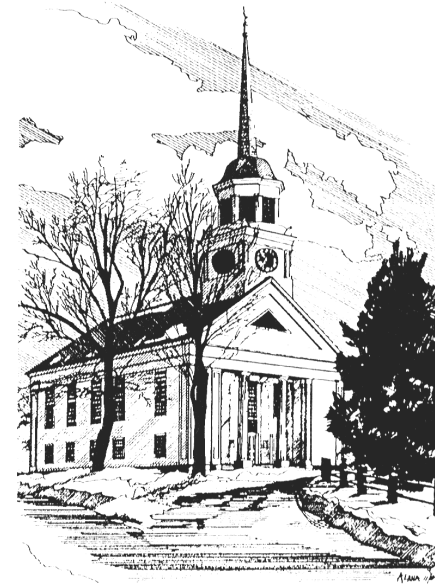
Membership is open to all age 13 and older. If you are interested in membership, please speak to the minister or any member of the Membership Committee.

"First Parish is a Unitarian Universalist Association Welcoming Congregation. We warmly welcome members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community."

Our Web Page: www.uugroton.org **Email:** office@uugroton.org

Office Hours are Tuesday–Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The telephone number is 978-448-6307.

Our newsletter is published monthly from September through June. The deadline for submitting articles is the 15th of the previous month. Articles can be submitted through the church e-mail address, on disk, or placed on the administrator's desk.



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."