

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

March 15, 2009

A Thought as the Service Begins

Mostly I just stand in the middle of the field,
in the middle of the world, breathing
in and out. Life so far doesn't have any other name
but breath and light, wind and rain.
If there's a temple, I haven't found it yet.
I simply go on drifting, in the heaven of the grass
and the weeds.

(Mary Oliver, from "What Is There Beyond Knowing")

(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 Sortie (Marcello)

Call to Worship Love, Be Our Way (Carolyn McDade)
Adult Choir

Welcome and Announcements Janet Armstrong

***Hymn** This Little Light #118

Chalice Lighting Peter Richardson

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

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 Let Music Fill The Air (Gwyneth Walker)
Adult Choir

Reading Work by Mary Oliver

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory Nocturne in Eb major Op. 9, No. 2 (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 and Sustainability:
The Temple of Breath and Light, Wind and Rain 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 Adagio/Allegro in e minor (Vivaldi)

(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

The flowers in church this morning are given by Elaine Herzog

Greeters: Keith and Christina Doucette
Ushers: Jenny Deenik and Jim Oehler
Fellowship Hour Hosts: The Frey Family