

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

March 22, 2009

## A Thought as the Service Begins

*When the animals come to us,  
asking for our help,  
will we know what they are saying?*

*When the plants speak to us  
in their delicate, beautiful language,  
will we be able to answer them?*

*When the planet herself  
sings to us in our dreams,  
will we be able to wake ourselves, and act?*  
(Gary Lawless)

*(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** Trio Sonata in D major: Allegro (G. P. Telemann)

**Welcome and Announcements** Sue Lotz

**\*Hymn** Gather the Spirit #347

**Chalice Lighting** Pat Parker-Roach and Joni Parker-Roach

**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.

**Reading** Reflections on the Eagle and the Condor Sue Lotz

**Hymn (please remain seated)** The Lone Wild Bird #15

## Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

**Offertory** Trio Sonata in D major: Con gravita ma non grave  
(G. P. Telemann)

**\*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:  
Wisdom, Ancient and Emerging Rev. Elea Kemler

**\*Hymn** Winds Be Still #83

**\*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** Trio Sonata in D major: Adagio / Presto  
(G. P. Telemann)

*(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.*

(Service continues on back cover)

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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 AM.*

Special thanks to Paul Funch (flute), Susan Randazzo (cello) and Stuart Schulman (violin) for providing music this morning.

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The flowers in church this morning are given in loving memory of Joyce Waddell Staven Manget and Miriam Koski Goudey.

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Greeters: Sal Lombardi, Suzanne Nelson

Ushers: John Jackson and Ellen Todd

Fellowship Hour Hosts: Gin Mackey

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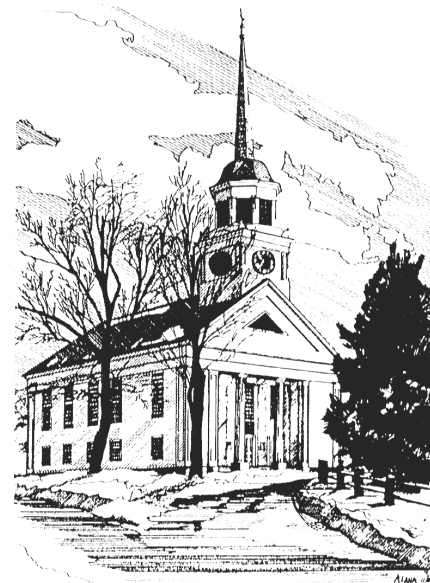
**WELCOME TO VISITORS:** Visitors are encouraged to sign the Visitor's Book downstairs. Please stop by the Newcomer's Table on the stage in the Vestry. It has information on the First Parish Church and Unitarian Universalism. Join us for our fellowship hour in the Vestry following the service. Nametags 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 Staff:**

Minister	Rev. Elea Kemler minister@uugroton.org	(978) 448-5106
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## 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."*