

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

Sunday, April 12, 2009

A Thought as the Service Begins

All of a sudden, without warning, . . .
Something promised us rebirth, the resurrection of our hoping.
The rain rained down wet and clear, not thick and white,
and without warning, winter washed away
and we were free.

Spirit of life and love,
moving in every living thing, and in us,
astonish us this morning.

Startle us.

Stun us . . .

Shake us from our sleeping.
For we are winter-weary and disbelieving
and our eyes have forgotten what surprises look like,
and we are ready, we are more than ready, to open them
and be amazed.

(Victoria Safford)

(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 Toccata in e minor (Johann Pachelbel)

Call to Worship Sing Alleluia, Sing (Ewer) Adult Choir

Welcome and Announcements Brenna Mayer, Worship Leader

***Hymn** Lo, the Earth Awakes Again #61

Chalice Lighting Melinda Green, Kira Hill, Lara Hill,
Alexandra Tansey, Haley Watson

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.

Anthem Rejoice together ev'ry one (Cabena) Adult Choir

A Time for All Generations

Rolling Away Stones

Anthem The Heavens Are Telling (Haydn)
Soloists Michelle Kurmas (Gabriel),
David Gordon (Uriel), Dave Hill (Raphael)

Offertory and Reverse Offering Fantasia (Johann Pachelbel)

***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.

Easter Message New Life Always Arriving Rev. Elea Kemler

Anthem Hallelujah Chorus from Messiah (G. F. Handel)
"Extended" Choir *(All are welcome to join the choir. Please remain in place for the Benediction.)*

Benediction Rev. Elea Kemler

Postlude Toccata in C Major (Johann Pachelbel)

(Please remain seated during the Postlude. You are also invited to come to the front of the church and light a silent candle for a joy or a sorrow. 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.

Join us downstairs for good food and conversation immediately following the service!

The lilies in the chancel this Easter Sunday are given by Gail and Steve Burne honoring the life and memory of Gail's father, William Howard Harrington. The lilies in the windows are given by Judy Anderson in memory of her father, Robert Hartwell McConnell.

Greeters: Deb Johnson, Allegra Harris

Ushers: Jenny Deenik, Diane Hewitt, Bob Nowak, Donna Nowak

Fellowship Hour Hosts: The Fisher Family