

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

Earth Day Celebration - Sunday, April 19, 2009

A Thought as the Service Begins

I SEEK ACQUAINTANCE WITH NATURE

I want to go soon and live by the pond, where I shall hear only the wind whispering among the reeds. It will be enough if I shall leave myself behind. I seek acquaintance with nature, to know her moods and her manners. I wish to know an entire heaven and an entire earth.

(Henry David Thoreau)

(We ask that you turn off the ringers on your cell phones, beepers and electronic devices.)

Ringing of the Bell Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

Call to Worship Artemis Singers

Welcome and Announcements Becky Pine

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

Chalice Lighting Paul Kurmas

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 in Celebration of the Earth

You are invited to come forward, light a candle and briefly share a reflection about a place or experience of the earth that has touched you deeply

Reading The Drumlin written and read by Bob Pine

Anthem Turn the World Around Artemis Singers
(Harry Belafonte and Robert Freedman)

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory To a Wild Rose (Edward Mac Dowell)
*Today's offering is for outreach and will be given to the
Alternatives to Violence Prison Ministry.
Please give as generously as you can.*

***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 The Ever Changing Poetry of Landscape
Patrick Hughes

***Hymn** Blue Boat Home (Singing the Journey Hymnal)
#1064

***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.

Choral Benediction Let Me Find Some Quiet Place
(Doris Clevenger) Artemis Singers

Spoken Benediction Patrick Hughes

Postlude Buds and Blossoms (Cornelius Gurlitt)

(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. We ask the congregation to remain seated in quiet until the last candle is lit.)

***Please stand as you are able.**

(Service continues on back cover)

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Join us downstairs for good food and conversation immediately following the service! Small Group Conversation, a quieter alternative to Fellowship Hour begins at 11:30 am in the church Library on the first floor.

Special thanks today to the Artemis Singers:

Nancy Bruns, Peggy Britton, Carole Tillis, Sarah Watson, Margaret Miley, Marth Childs, Karen Reardon and Caroline Marvin. Musical Director and Accompanist: Carolyn McCreary.

The flowers in church this morning are given by Jenifer Berndt, MT, Dale Martin and Scott Martin in fond remembrance of Marie Whitehouse and Albert David Martin, Erma Whitehouse and brothers Dick and Tom who passed away in the last three months. Their spirits still touch us today.

Greeters: Dale Martin, Shirley Man
Ushers: Julie Bissell, Henry Bachteler
Fellowship Hour Host: Teresa Nagle

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.

"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."

FIRST PARISH STAFF:

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EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

April 19, 2009



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. Toys appropriate for preschoolers are available there.