

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

May 10, 2009

A Thought as the Service Begins

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other. (Mother Theresa)

Peace may sound simple - one beautiful word - but it requires everything we have, every quality, every strength, every dream...(Yehudi Menuhin)

(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 Prelude I: Allegro ben ritmato e deciso
(George Gershwin)

Call to Worship Bwana Awabariki Children's Choir
(Swahili folk hymn and melody)

Welcome and Announcements Janet Armstrong

***Hymn** I've Got Peace Like a River #100

Chalice Lighting Owen Shuman

Response Hymn *(please remain seated)* #123

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 Dedication of Lucian Gale, son of Stacy and Kevan Gale and big brother of Natalie and Samantha

Anthem Mother Earth, Beloved Garden Children's Choir
(Amanda Udis-Kessler)

Singing the Children and Teachers to Church School

Go now in peace. Go now in peace. #413
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 The Mother's Day Proclamation written by Julia Ward Howe, read by several women of First Parish

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory Prelude II: Allegro con moto e poco rubato
(George Gershwin)

***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 Great Human Family 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 Prelude III: Allegro ben ritmato e deciso
(George Gershwin)

(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.)

(Service continues on back cover)

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

Large Print Hymnals, Sunday Bulletins and Assisted Listening Devices are available at the sanctuary doors. If you don't wish to keep your Sunday Bulletin, 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 AM.

In appreciation of mothers, the potted flowers in the sanctuary this morning were donated by Pat Hartvigsen, Susan Hughes and Owen Shuman. At the end of today's service we invite each family or household to take one plant in celebration of mothers, those who remain actively in our lives and those we hold lovingly in our hearts.

Greeters: Marge and David Kimpton

Ushers: Terri Ragot and Tom Crow

Fellowship Hour Hosts: Jane Roselund, Julie Bissell

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."



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."