

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

May 17, 2009

A Thought as the Service Begins

I do not believe that sheer suffering teaches. If suffering alone taught, all the world would be wise since everyone suffers. To suffering must be added mourning, understanding, patience, love, openness, and the willingness to remain vulnerable. (Anne Morrow Lindbergh)

(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 Sonata No. 2, 1st movement "Massig Schnell"
(Hindemith)

Call to Worship Now Let Us Sing (traditional) Adult Choir

Welcome and Announcements Ed McNierney

***Hymn** Morning Has Broken #38

Chalice Lighting Rebecca Pike

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 Laurencia Elle Sweetser, daughter of Darra and Doug Sweetser, and granddaughter of Sue Gleason

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.

Anthem Morning Has Broken Adult Choir
(words: Eleanor Farjeon; music: Bob Chilcott)
Solo by Barbara Murray

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory Sonata No. 2, 2nd movement "Lebhaft"
(Hindemith)

Today's collection will be donated to two local mental health clubhouses, Renaissance Clubhouse in Lowell and Westwinds Clubhouse in Fitchburg, which together provide services to approximately 1000 adults who suffer from a major mental illness.

***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.

***Hymn** We're Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table #407

Reflections

Some Introductory Words Rev. Elea Kemler
Walking in My Shoes Jackie Meyer
Caring for Our Mental Health Kathy Reiff

***Hymn** How Could Anyone (Singing the Journey hymnal)
Please sing through twice #1053

***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.
(Service continues on back cover)

Postlude Sonata No. 2, 3rd movement (Hindemith)

(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, 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.

The flowers in church this morning are given by Owen Shuman in honor of Susan Parks and Debby Smith – the women behind the scenes who handle all the details of church and make it run so smoothly.

Greeters: Jane Roselund, Betty Keddy
Ushers: Jenny Deenik, Jim Oehler, Greg Reiff, Suzanne Nelson
Fellowship Hour Hosts: Rocky Sandy and family

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.



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."