

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

October 11, 2009

## Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

## A Thought as the Service Begins

*We have no reason to mistrust our world, for it is not against us.*

*Has it terrors, they are our terrors;  
has it abysses, those abysses belong to us;  
are dangers at hand, we must try to love them.*

*And if only we arrange our life according to that principle  
which counsels us that we must always hold to the difficult,  
then that which now still seems to us the most alien will  
become what we most trust and find most faithful.*

*How should we be able to forget those ancient myths that are  
at the beginning of all peoples,  
the myths about dragons that at the last moment turn into  
princesses;*

*perhaps all the dragons of our lives are princesses who are  
only waiting to see us once beautiful and brave.*

*Perhaps everything terrible is in its deepest being something  
helpless that wants help from us.*

*Rainer Maria Rilke*

(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.)

**Prelude** Prelude (William Byrd)

**Call to Worship** Love, Be Our Way (Carolyn McDade)  
Adult Choir

**Welcome and Announcements** Becky Pine

**\*Hymn** Just as Long as I Have Breath #6

**Chalice Lighting** Rocky Sandy

**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.

## A Time for All Generations and Nature's Table

### 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** from *Point Last Seen* by Hannah Nyala

**Anthem** Good News, The Chariot's Comin' (arr. Moses Hogan)  
Adult Choir

**Reflection** C. David Gordon

### Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

**Offertory** Miserere (William Byrd)

**\*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.

**Reflection** Kathy Reiff

**\*Hymn** No Longer Forward nor Behind #9

(service continues on back cover)

**\*Sung Benediction**

As we leave this friendly place,  
Love give light to every face.  
May the kindness which we learn,  
Light our hearts til we return.

**Postlude**      Gloria Tibi Trinitas      (William Byrd)

*(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.*

\* \* \* \*

*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.*

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The flowers in church this morning are given by  
a member of First Parish Church

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Greeters: Julie Bissell and Henry Bachteler  
Ushers: Jenny Deenik and Jim Oehler  
Fellowship Hour Hosts: Gerri, Paul and Anya Harter

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**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 CHURCH

**Groton, Massachusetts**

*"We are a community seeking to deepen spirituality, to take care of one another, and to be a blessing to the world."*

### **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.