

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

October 18, 2009

## Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

## A Thought as the Service Begins

Just when you seem to yourself  
nothing but a flimsy web  
of questions, you are given  
the questions of others to hold  
in the emptiness of your hands,  
songbird eggs that can still hatch  
if you keep them warm,  
butterflies opening and closing themselves  
in your cupped palms, trusting you not to injure  
their scintillant fur, their dust.  
You are given the questions of others  
as if they were answers  
to all you ask. Yes, perhaps  
this gift is your answer. (Denise Levertov)

*(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** Waltz, Op. 39 #15 (Johannes Brahms)

**Call to Worship** Air Moves Us (C. Sheil, Moonsea, Prune)  
Children's Choir

**Welcome and Announcements** Deborah Johnson, Worship Leader

**\*Hymn** My Life Flows On in Endless Song #108

**Chalice Lighting** Georgess McHargue

**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

**Anthem** Brief Our Days (text: Lenneth L. Patton; music adapted from Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (J.S. Bach) by Jim Scott)  
Children's Choir

## 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 "Ladder to the Pleiades" by  
Michael P. Branch

## Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

**Offertory** Pas de deux from Souvenirs, Op. 28  
(Samuel Barber)

**\*Offertory Response** *(Words: Melinda Green; Music: Shawn McCann)*  
We thank each other for these gifts  
which makes our giving bless-ed;  
We bless the works our gifts sustain  
and pray they ripple outward.  
With grace and generosity  
we show our faith enacted.

**Sermon** Perhaps This Gift is Your Answer Rev. Elea Kemler

**\*Hymn** What Wondrous Love #18

*(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** Waltz from Souvenirs, Op. 28 (Samuel Barber)

*(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 Ministry Working Group for "A Taste of Small Group" at 11:45 am in the East Wing.*

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Greeters: Bob and Sue Lotz  
Ushers: Jenny Deenik and Jim Oehler

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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.