

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

October 25, 2009

Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins

Mysteries, Yes

Truly, we live with mysteries too marvelous
to be understood.

How grass can be nourishing in the
mouths of the lambs.

How rivers and stones are forever
in allegiance with gravity
while we ourselves dream of rising.

How two hands touch and the bonds
will never be broken.

How people come, from delight or the
scars of damage,
to the comfort of a poem.

Let me keep my distance, always, from those
who think they have the answers.

Let me keep company always with those who say
"Look!" and laugh in astonishment,
and bow their heads.

(Mary Oliver)

*(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 Italian Concerto - 1st movement (J.S. Bach)

Call to Worship The Lone, Wild Bird (arr. Alf Houkum) Adult Choir

Welcome and Announcements Terri Ragot, Worship Leader

***Hymn** Every Time I Feel the Spirit #208

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

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.

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)

Anthem Let Music Fill the Air (Gwyneth Walker) Adult Choir

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory Italian Concerto - 2nd movement (J.S. Bach)

***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 Laughing in Astonishment, Bowing Our Heads:
The Mysteries of the Jesus Prayer

***Hymn** Winds Be Still #83

*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.

(service continues on back cover)

Benediction Response Go Your Way In Peace (Jim Scott)

Adult Choir

Postlude Italian Concerto - 3rd movement (J.S. Bach)

(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 this morning are in deep appreciation for the love and friendship that has touched me deeply from this wonderful and vibrant congregation. Blessings, Janet.

Greeters: Paul Kurmas, Suzanne Nelson

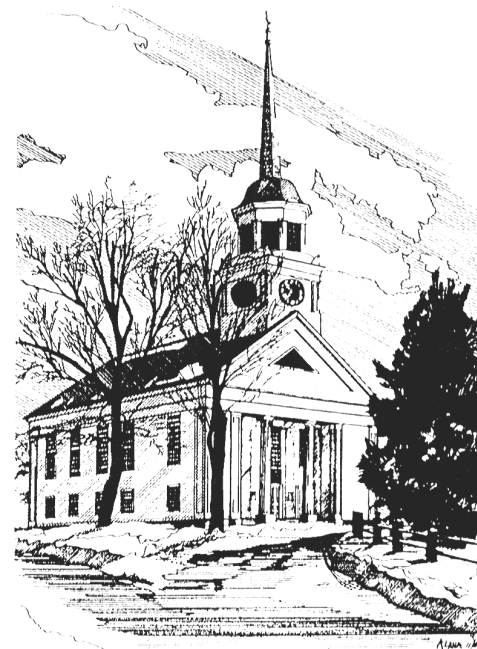
Ushers: Gregg Baker, Susan Hughes

Fellowship Hour Host: Sarah Iacobucci;

(and two very helpful kitchen angels, Terri Ragot and Becky Barth)

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.