

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

November 15, 2009

Ringing of the Bell Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins

Every human carries the same soul, but the bodies are in hundreds of thousands.

Similarly, there are countless almonds in the world, but there is the same oil in each of them.

There are many tongues and dialects in this world. But the meaning of all of them is the same.

Waters put in different containers unite when the containers are broken and start to flow together as one stream.

If you understand what unity means, if you attain unity and if you rip up and throw away meaningless words and thoughts, the spirit sends news to those whose heart's eyes are open and tells them the truth.

Our prophet's way is the way of love.

We are the children of love, and our mother is love.

(Rumi, 13th century Sufi poet)

(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 Voluntary in G (Henry Heron)

Call to Worship Rise Up, O Flame (Words: Anonymous;
Music: Christoph Praetorius) Children's Choir

Welcome and Announcements Janet Armstrong, Worship Leader

***Hymn** Gather the Spirit #347

Chalice Lighting Gregg Baker

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 Building a New Way (Martha Sandefer)
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.

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory Pastorale (Charles Wesley)

***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 Come to Prayer, Come to Well-Being Rev. Elea Kemler

***Hymn** There is More Love Somewhere #95

*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 Con Spirito (Thomas Arne)

(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.**

(Service continues on back cover)

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.

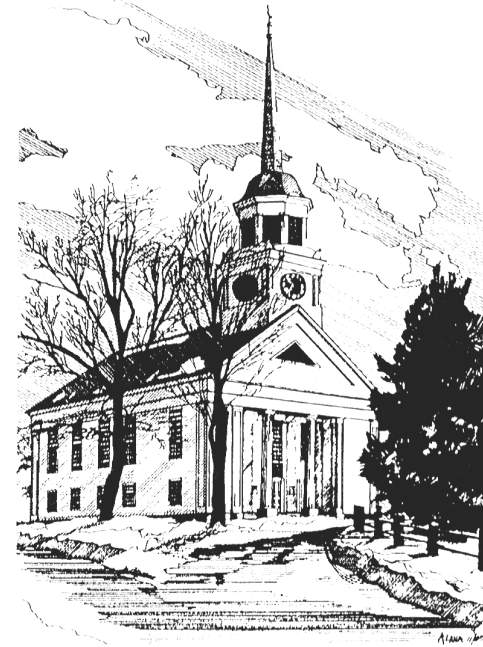
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Join us downstairs for good food and conversation immediately following the service! All are welcome to join the Small Group Conversation, a quieter alternative to Fellowship Hour, in the first floor library at 11:30 AM.

Greeters: Tucker and Hale Smith

Ushers: Jim Frey, Amy Sturm

Fellowship Hour Hosts: Diane Blackburn, Diane Swift



FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts

"We are a community seeking to deepen spiritually, 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.

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."