

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

December 6, 2009

Ringing of the Bell Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins

How did the rose
Ever open its heart
And give to this world
All its beauty?
It felt the encouragement of light
Against its being,
Otherwise,
We all remain
Too frightened (Hafiz)

(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 a minor (William Boyce)

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

Welcome and Announcements Kathy Reiff, Worship Leader

***Hymn** This Little Light of Mine #118

Chalice Lighting Donna Nowak

Advent Wreath Lighting Maeve Kidney and Meghan McNierney

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.

Singing the Children and Teachers to Church School #413
Go now in peace. Go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you
Everywhere, everywhere you may go. (repeat)

Anthem Brother James' Air Adult Choir
(James MacBeth Bain; arr. Gordon Jacob)

Reflections on the CityReach Trip Meghan McNierney, Maeve Kidney, Tim Svarczkopf, Laura Mangones representing the group.

Responsive Reading

Leader: Although diverse we came together
To build a human connection,
Some were worried.
Some were confused.

All: *Yet together, through strength and faith
We formed an intimate fellowship.*

Leader: We have been humbled by this
Intoxicating experience.
We give thanks to the people.

All: *The people who were welcoming.
The people who were compassionate.
The people who were gracious and accepting.
The people who learned.*

Leader: We commit to charity.

All: *The charity that serves all people.*

Leader: We commit to respect.

All: *The respect of the silent hopes.*

Leader: We commit to sharing, The sharing of this surreal
and emotional experience.

All: *Let us give each other strength,
For we are all equal.
To spread the seed of compassion.*

Leaders: We hope this eye-opening experience
Brings warmth and camaraderie to all.
Go forth among others,
And love.

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory Voluntary in B flat (Jonathan Battishill)

(Service continues on back cover)

***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.

Message Waiting for the Light, Being the Light

Rev. Elea Kemler

***Hymn** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #225

***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 Cornet Voluntary (Henry Heron)

(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 Deborah Johnson in remembrance of her family's December birthdays:
Roy Ruggles Johnson, Donald Blake Johnson, Betsy Cavitt Denny and Susan Johnson Christena.

Greeters: Rich Suvall, Nancy LaFosse
Ushers: Susan Hughes, Owen Shuman



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.