

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

Thursday, December 24, 2009 – 8 PM Service

## A Thought as the Service Begins:

And it came to pass in those days (as it is always coming to pass, on any ordinary day, in any ordinary place), that the days were accomplished that a child should be born. And this child's name would be called a thousand beautiful names, every word there is for gladness, every word there is for love, every word there is for peace. (Libbie Stoddard)

Enough.

These few words are enough.

If not these words, this breath.

If not this breath, this sitting here.

This opening to the life

we have refused

again and again

until now.

Until now. (David Whyte)

*(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** In Dulce Jubilo (J.S. Bach)

**Call to Worship** The Boar's Head Carol (traditional)  
Adult Choir / John Jackson, Solo

**Welcome** Ed McNierney, Worship Leader

**Chalice Lighting** Kira LaFosse-Baker

## \*Hymn O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come, ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold him, born the king of angels;

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Lo, humble shepherds, Hasting to his cradle,

Leaving their flocks in the fields, draw near.

We, too, with gladness, thither bend our footsteps,

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:

Glory to God in the highest,

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

**Reading** from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke  
read by Aaron Stockwell

## \*Hymn Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains

and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?

Why these songs of happy cheer?

What great brightness did you see?

What glad tidings did you hear?

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see

Him whose birth the angels sing:

Come, adore on bended knee,

Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Anthem** Ave Maria (Tomas Luis de Victoria - 1548-1611)

**Reading** Magnificat by Christina Hutchins

**Anthem** Nativity Carol (John Rutter) Adult Choir



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Greeters: Paul Kurmas, Suzanne Nelson

Ushers: Kate McNierney, Ed McNierney, Meghan McNierney,  
Gregg Baker

Light Bearers: Youth of First Parish Church: Fran McNierney,  
Meghan McNierney, Conor McNierney, Clara O'Rourke

Fellowship Hosts: Sarah Iacobucci,  
Pamela Worden & Charles Faucher

Special thanks this evening to soloist John Jackson; and to Jeff Close,  
Greg Reiff and Bob Nowak for fire safety.

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**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."*

**First Parish Staff:**

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