

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

January 31, 2010

**Ringing of the Bell** Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

## A Thought as the Service Begins

If you want to identify me, ask not where I live,  
or what I like to eat, or how I comb my hair;  
but ask me what I am living for, in detail,  
and ask me what I think is keeping me from living fully  
for the thing I want to live for. (Thomas Merton)

*(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** Sonata in G minor: Adagio (J.S. Bach) Mark Stein, flute

**Call to Worship** Chimes

**Welcome and Announcements** Becky Pine, Worship Leader

**\*Hymn** Gather the Spirit #347

**Chalice Lighting** Paul Donovan

**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)

**Reading** from Teaching a Stone to Talk by Annie Dillard

**Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation**

**Offertory Hymn** Sonata 6, 1st mvmt. Adagio ma non tanto  
(J.S. Bach) Mark Stein, flute

**\*Offertory Response** *(Words: Barbara Rich; Music: Joshua Rich)*

Today we give our time  
Our compassion, wit and song  
Everyday we can choose,  
To begin again in love.

We give what we can,  
Generous as we can  
Opening the doors  
To begin again in love.

**Sermon** Welcome to the Mountain of Fire and Miracles  
Rev. Elea Kemler

**\*Hymn** Though I May Speak With Bravest Fire #34

### \*Sung Benediction

Carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.  
Oh, carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.

**Postlude** Sonata in G minor: Allegro (J.S. Bach)  
Mark Stein, flute

*(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 Conversation, a quieter alternative to Fellowship Hour, in the first floor library at 11:30 AM.*

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The flowers in church this morning are given by  
David Gordon in loving memory of Susan Skinner Gordon.

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Greeters: Paul Kurmas, Gaye Kulvete

Ushers: Kathy and Greg Reiff