

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

April 17, 2011

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

## A Thought as the Service Begins:

Once you have seen the bush on fire, you are not going to get out of the assignment unless you close your eyes to the beauty. But if you have seen, if you have taken off your shoes, tasted the blackberries, and felt the tenderness of love, if you have seen how the full force of soul is in each child that comes into this world, you either have to close your eyes or go back to Egypt and set the people free. (Rebecca Parker)

*(We ask that you turn off the ringers on your cell phones, beepers and electronic devices, and the flashes on your cameras. Please join us in a time of quiet during the prelude.)*

**Prelude** Fugue in D major (J.C. Kellner)

**Call to Worship** Let Us Give Thanks (Joyce Poley)  
Childrens' Choir

**Welcome and Announcements** Sue Lotz, Worship Leader

**\*Hymn** Wade in the Water #210

**Chalice Lighting** Kate McNierney

**Response Hymn** Spirit of Life *(please remain seated)* #123

## A Time for All Generations

**Anthem** Habitat (Bill Oliver) Children's Choir

**Singing the Children and Teachers to Church School**  
Go Now in Peace #413

## 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.

**Reading** Passover by Lynn Ungar

## Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

**Offertory** Nun danket alle gott (H.W. Tauscher)

**\*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** If You Have Seen Rev. Elea Kemler

**\*Hymn** Come and Go With Me #1018

**\*Sung Benediction** Carry the Flame

**Postlude** Voluntary XIII (Maurice Greene)

*(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.)*

*Palms are available as you leave the sanctuary today.  
Please take one or several.*

**\*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!*

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The flowers in church this morning are in fond remembrance of Albert David Martin (April 1979) whose spirit still touches us today. Given by Dale Martin, Jenifer Berndt and Scott Martin.

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**Greeters:** Melinda Stewart, Elizabeth Hussong, Dale Martin, Shirley Man

**Ushers:** Donna Nowak, Bob Nowak

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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."

**Officers of the First Parish:**

Chair, Board of Trustees	Gregg Baker	(978) 448-3847
Senior Deacon	Becky Pine	(978) 448-2710
Treasurer	Roger Allen	(978) 252-5321
Clerk	Barbara Murray	(978) 448-3706

**Our Web Page:** [www.uugroton.org](http://www.uugroton.org)      **Email:** [office@uugroton.org](mailto:office@uugroton.org)

**Office Hours** are Tuesday–Friday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The office telephone number is 978-448-6307.



## 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.