

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

April 24, 2011 – 9 AM Service

Ringing of the Bell Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

Thoughts as the Service Begins

Spirit of Life and Love,
moving in every living thing, and in us,
astonish us this morning.
Startle us. Stun us...
Shake us from our sleeping.
For we are winter-weary and disbelieving
and our eyes have forgotten what surprises look like,
and we are ready, we are more than ready,
to open them and be amazed. (Victoria Safford)

Don't ask what the world needs.
Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it.
Because what the world needs
is people who have come alive. (Howard Thurman)

Why do you seek the living among the dead?
(Gospel of Luke)

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

Prelude Variations from Organ Concerto Set 1, Opus 4, #1
(Handel)

Call to Worship Chimes

Welcome and Announcements Brenna Mayer, Worship Leader

***Hymn** Morning Has Broken #38

Chalice Lighting Sam Mayer Svarczkopf, Trent Tessier,
Jacob Tessier, words by Langston Hughes

In time of silver rain,
the earth puts forth new life again.
Green grasses grow and flowers lift their heads.

And all over the plains the wonder spreads
of life, of life, of life!
In time of silver rain,
the butterflies lift silken wings, to catch a rainbow cry.
And trees put forth
new leaves to sing in joy beneath the sky,
When Spring and life are new.

Response Hymn Spirit of Life #123

A Time for All Generations Everybody Needs a Rock
by Byrd Baylor, illustrated by Peter Parnall

***Hymn** Lo, the Earth Awakes Again #61

Readings from the Gospels of Mark and Luke
Halleluiah by Mary Oliver

Offertory and Reverse Offertory Sonata Op. 120 – Andante
(Franz Schubert)

***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.

Easter Message What Makes You Come Alive
Rev. Elea Kemler

Anthem Hallelujah Chorus from Messiah (G. F. Handel)
"Instant" Choir

*(All are welcome to join in singing.
Please remain in place for the Benediction.)*

(Service continues on back cover)

***Sung Benediction** Carry the Flame

Postlude Sonata Op. 120 - Allegro moderato
(Franz Schubert)

(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.**

Join us downstairs for good food and conversation immediately following the service!

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.

The lilies in the windows today are given by Judy Anderson in memory of her parents, Bob and Ruth McConnell.

The flowers in the chancel today are given by Gail and Steve Burne in memory of their parents, Shirley and William Harrington, and Bessie and Clarence Burne.

Greeters: Alison Dolbear, Owen Shuman, Rich Suval, Suzanna Black

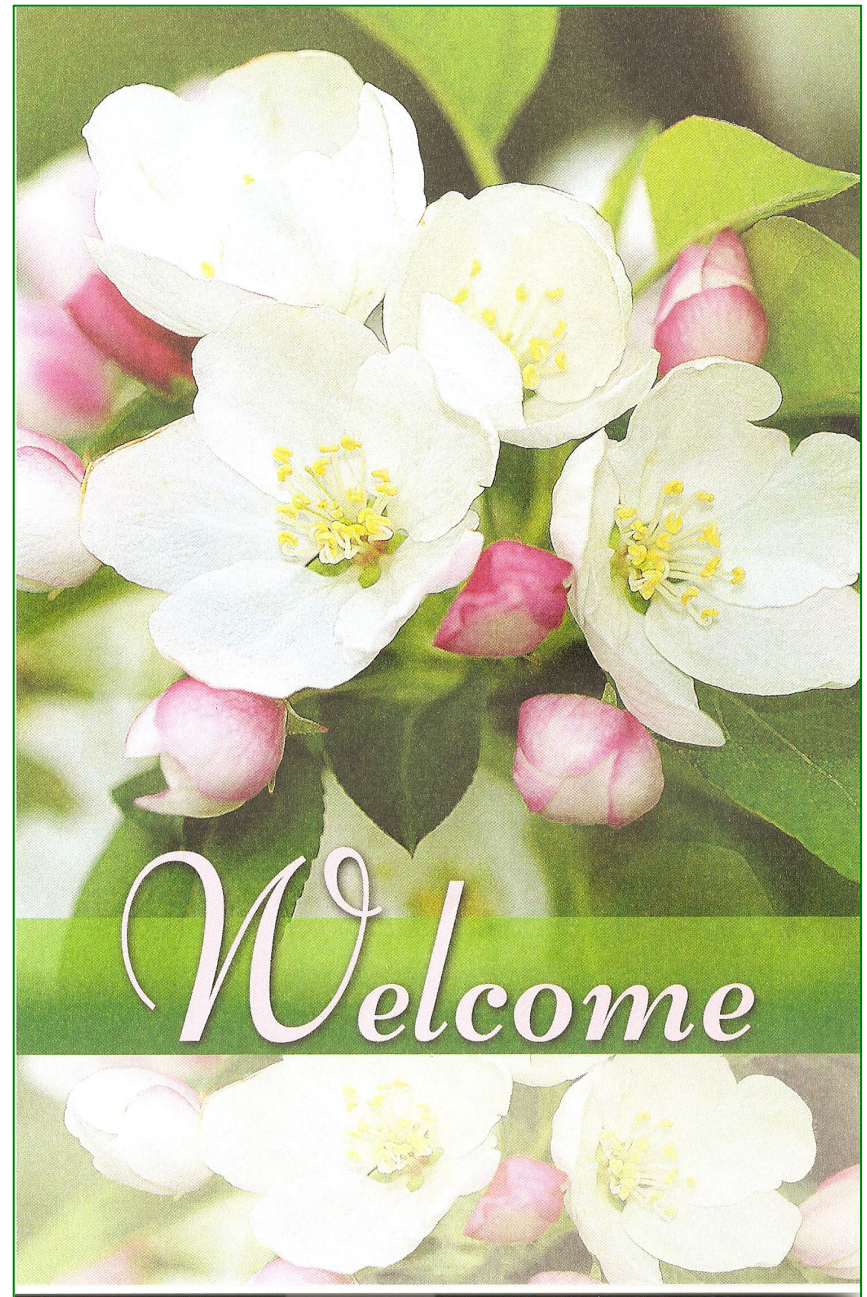
Ushers: Sarah Iacobucci, Gregg Baker, Laura Donovan, Paul Donovan

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FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts