

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

Sunday, December 3, 2006

A Thought before the Service Begins:

Love means to love that which is unlovable, or it is no virtue at all.
Forgiving means to pardon the unpardonable, or it is no virtue at all.
And to hope means hoping when things are hopeless, or it is no
virtue at all. CK Chesterton

*(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 Prelude and Fugue in c minor (J.F.N. Seger)

Ringing of the Bell Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

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

Welcome and Announcements Becky Pine

***Hymn** People, Look East #226

Chalice Lighting Melinda Green

Response Hymn *(please remain seated)*

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

Singing the Children and Teachers to Church School

Go now in peace. Go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you
Everywhere, everywhere you may go. (repeat)

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.

Anthem Peace, Like A River (arr. Moore) - Adult Choir

Readings from the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 18
Doubletake by Seamus Heaney

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory Sonata con Ripieni E Flauti (Baldassare Galuppi)

*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.

Sermon The Further Shore of Forgiveness Rev. Kemler

Hymn Break Not the Circle #323

*Benediction (sung)

As we leave this friendly place,
Love give light to every face.
May the kindness, which we learn,
Light our hearts till we return.

Benediction Response Go Your Way In Peace (Jim Scott)
Adult Choir

Postlude Fugue I (L'Abbe Maximillian Stadler)

*(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. We ask
the congregation to remain seated and silent until the last candle is lit.)*

***Please stand as you are able.**

*Large Print Hymnals, Orders of Service and Assisted Listening
Devices are available at the sanctuary doors.*

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The flowers in church this morning are given in honor of Johnson family
birthdays in December.

Greeters: Susan Randazzo and Stuart Schulman

Ushers: Alison Manning and Barbara Rich

Fellowship Hour Hosts: Potluck hosted by the Groton Alliance