

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

Sunday, December 10, 2007

A Thought before the Service Begins:

Even
After
All this time
The sun never says to the earth,
“You owe Me.”
Look
What happens
With a love like that,
It lights the
Whole
Sky. (Hafiz)

(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 Voluntary in G (Henry Heron)

Ringing of the Bell Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

Call to Worship May This Light Shine (Agnes Paulson)
Children's Choir

Welcome and Announcements Karen Goudey

***Hymn** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #225

Chalice Lighting Kristin Moffat

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

Anthem Moonlight Whispers (Wendy Bartel) – Children's Choir

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.

Readings *If, on a starlit night* Marni Harmony
This holy season... Rebecca Parker

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory Largo (George Green)

*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 At the Threshold of Your Being Rev. Kemler

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

*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.

Postlude Voluntary in d minor (Samuel Long)

(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 in quiet 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.

The flowers in church this morning are given by Tom Crow in memory of his oldest sister, Rachael Crow Campochiaro

Greeters: Paul Funch, Florence Funch

Ushers: Patrick and Diana Hughes

Fellowship Hour Hosts: Mary Larrabee and Elizabeth Malley