

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

Sunday, January 21, 2007

## A Thought before the Service Begins:

*In the Universe, there moves a Wild One.*

*Whose gestures alter the earth's axis toward love.*

*In the immense darkness, everything spins with joy!*

Rebecca Parker

*(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** Massig Schnell (from Sonata no. 2) (Hindemith)

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

**Call to Worship** Chimes

**Welcome and Announcements** Patrick Hughes

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

**Chalice Lighting** Barbara Rich

**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

**Presentation of the Love and Help Emblem**

**to William Frey** Linda Vine, Senior Deacon

## 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.

**Reading** "The Dragon-Princess" from On Love and Other Difficulties by Rainier Maria Rilke

## Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

**Offertory** Pas de deux (from 'Souvenirs' op. 28) (Samuel Barber)

## \*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** Waiting to See Us Once Beautiful and Brave Rev. Kemler

**Hymn** For All That is Our Life #128

## \*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** Impromptu 1 in A-flat op. 29 (Chopin)

*(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 and Assisted Listening Devices are available at the sanctuary doors.*

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The flowers in church this morning are given by Diane Hewitt

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Greeters: Diane Swift, Laura Lundberg Donovan

Ushers: Bob Lotz, Jamie Granatino

Fellowship Hour Hosts: The Harter Family