

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

Sunday, September 30, 2007

A Thought before the Service Begins:

It is good to have an end to journey towards;
but it is the journey that matters in the end.

Ursula K. LeGuin

I am circling around God, around the ancient tower,
and I have been circling for a thousand years,
and I still don't know if I am a falcon, or a storm,
or a great song. (Rainer Maria Rilke)

(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.)

Ringing of the Bell Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

Prelude For The Beauty of the Earth (arr. Diane Bish)

Welcome and Announcements Amy Sturm

***Hymn** Enter, Rejoice and Come In #361

Chalice Lighting Janet Armstrong

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 The Cat Who Walked Across France
by Kate Banks

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.

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)

Music Cantilena (Charity Boyles)

Reading Walking Toward Morning Victoria Safford

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory Children of the Heavens (arr. Diane Bish)

*Offertory Response (Melinda Green/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 Circling For a Thousand Years Rev. Kemler

Hymn We are Dancing Sarah's Circle #212

***Sung Benediction** Carry the Flame
Carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.
Oh, carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.

Postlude The Spacious Firmament On High (arr. Diane Bish)

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

The flowers in church this morning are given by the Groton Women's Alliance for all the wonderful women that have entered through the doors of this church

Greeters: Diane Blackburn and Jane Roselund

Ushers: Becky Barth and Diane Swift

Fellowship Hour Hosts: The Groton Women's Alliance