

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

February 17, 2008

A Thought before the Service Begins:

“...of those who have in the years gone by poured out their souls in praise and prayer within these venerable walls. Silent elsewhere, they are still heard here...”
Rev. John F. Moors 1883

(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 Allegro (E.F. Dall'Abaco)

Call to Worship Rise Up, O Flame (traditional) Adult Choir

Welcome and Announcements Jim Moisson

***Hymn** May Nothing Evil Cross this Door #1

Chalice Lighting and Sabbatical Reflection Deb Johnson

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 Steve Burne

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.

Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation George Downey

Anthem Early Will I Seek Thee (Thomas Weelkes)
Adult Choir

Reading 1 Patrick Hughes

Reading 2 Steve Burne

Offertory Andante (J.S. Bach)

***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 Off the Wall Steve Burne

***Hymn** Here We Have Gathered #369

***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.

Benediction Response The Lord Bless You and Keep You
(Peter Lutkin) Adult Choir

Postlude Canon (F. Durante)

(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! All are welcome to join the Small Group Conversation, a quieter alternative to Fellowship Hour, in the first floor library at 11:30.

The flowers in church this morning are given with love by the
Holway family

Greeters: Ted and Jane Roselund

Ushers: Owen Shuman, Andrea Mason

Fellowship Hour Hosts: Donna and Roger Allen, Edythe Salzman