

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

March 2, 2008

A Thought before the Service Begins:

“Everything you see around you, all that we have done and will do, happens because this community chooses to believe that our greatest treasure is found not in what the world gives us, but what we give to it.”

(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 Voluntary in C major (Simon Stuble)

Call to Worship Gathered Here (Philip Porter) Adult Choir

Welcome and Announcements David Gordon

***Hymn** Here We Have Gathered #360

Chalice Lighting and Sabbatical Reflection Susan Randazzo

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 How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place (Johannes Brahms)
Adult Choir

Reading

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory Invocation (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 The Stone-Carvers' Shed Rev. Sue Phillips

***Hymn** We Are the Earth Upright and Proud #303

***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 Part in Peace (Adams) Adult Choir

Postlude Voluntary IV (John Alcock)

(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 AM.

The flowers in church this morning are given by the Kelly family.

Greeters: Jackie and Jim Frey

Ushers: Bob and Donna Nowak

Fellowship Hour Hosts: Potluck Coffee Hour