

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

March 30, 2008

A Thought before the Service Begins:

“Hope, like faith, is nothing if it is not courageous; it is nothing if it is not ridiculous.” Thornton Wilder

(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 Sonata opus 7 in E-flat major, 1st mvmt.
"Molto Allegro e con brio" (L. van Beethoven)

Call to Worship FPCOG Chimes

Welcome and Announcements Terri Ragot

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

Chalice Lighting and Sabbatical Reflection Karen Goudey

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.

The Welcome and Celebration of New Members

A Time for All Generations

When Watute Wants Some Water by Jennifer Sarja

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 We Build Temples in the Heart by Patrick Murfin

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Offertory Capriccio (W. A. Mozart)

***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 To Build the Common Good Gini Courter

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

***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 Sonata op. 7, 3rd mvmt. "Allegro"
(L. van Beethoven)

(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 Suzanna Black
in memory of Paul Dean IV,
who gave great joy to those who knew him.

Greeters: Paul, Gerri and Anya Harter

Ushers: Barbara Murray, David Gordon

Fellowship Hour Hosts: Michael, Linda and Elizabeth Vine