

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

April 27, 2008

## A Thought before the Service Begins:

People say, what is the sense of our small effort.  
They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time,  
take one step at a time.  
A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all  
directions.  
Each one of our thoughts, words, and deeds is like that.  
No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless.  
There's too much work to do.                      Dorothy Day

*(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** Gott sei gelobet und gebenedeiet (Heinrich Scheidemann)

**Call to Worship** "To Set All the Children Free"      James Forbes

**Welcome and Announcements**                                      Steve Lieman

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

**Chalice Lighting and Sabbatical Reflection**      Alice Van Ormer

**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**                                      Rev. Laurie J. Auffant

**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.

**Special Music**                      Impromptu in A-flat, Op. 29                      (Chopin)

**Responsive Reading** "Faith Cannot Save" (James 2)                      #668

**Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation**

**Offertory**                      Pastorale                                      (Karg-Elert)

**\*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**                      Being Called To Respond      Rev. Laurie J. Auffant

**\*Hymn**                      Faith of the Larger Liberty                                      #287

**\*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**                      Voluntary in D                                      (Domenico Scarlatti)

*(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.*

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The flowers in church this morning are given in fond remembrance  
of Marie Whitehouse and Albert David Martin whose spirits still  
touch us today, by Jenifer Berndt, MT, Dale and Scott Martin

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Greeters: Paula Bogdanoff, Suzanne Nelson

Ushers: Zoa and Peter Guernsey

Fellowship Hour Hosts: Terri Ragot and Tom Crow