

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

May 25, 2008

## A Thought before the Service Begins:

*Because I remember, I despair. Because I remember,  
I have the duty to reject despair.* Elie Wiesel

*(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** Medley of Civil War Tunes

**Welcome and Announcements** Barbara Rich

**\*Hymn** Gather the Spirit #347

**Chalice Lighting** Paul Funch

**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** Wilford Gordon McDonald Partridge  
Written by Mem Fox, Illustrated by Julie Vivas

## 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)

**Reading** "Hope, Despair and Memory"  
from Elie Wiesel's Nobel Lecture, December 11, 1986

## Speaking of Names

## Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

**Offertory** Ashokan Farewell (Jay Unger)  
Stuart Schulman, violin

## \*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 Power of Memory: Memorial Day Reflections  
Rev. Elea Kemler

**\*Hymn** One More Step #168

**\*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** Gone with the Wind *(Tara's Theme)* (Max Steiner)

*(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 by the  
NiConnor/Kidney family in honor and loving memory of  
Jane M. O'Connor and Joyce V. Curren.

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Greeters: MaryDenise NiConnor, Maeve Kidney  
Ushers: Rocky Sandy, Rebecca Sandy  
Fellowship Hour Hosts: Christina Doucette, Keith Doucette