

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

May 3, 2009

A Thought as the Service Begins

*Faerys flit from flower to flower
When the rain falls they do not cower
Joyful showers in the spring's sweet rain
Cool water, washing away all the pain
Croaking frogs listen to their song
They could listen to it all night long*

by Meghan Nowosad

(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 A Day Without Rain (Enya)

Call to Worship Lady of the Season's Laughter Choirs

Welcome and Announcements Sue Gleason

Introduction Denise Noble, DRE

Chalice Lighting Dina Samfield & Dana Maloney

Response Hymn *(please remain seated)* #123

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.

Preparation We Are All Children of the Earth (John Trudell)

*During this musical interlude people are invited to
adorn themselves for the festivities*

Calling the Directions & Honoring the Elements

Sue Gleason, Krista Ingram, Joanne Watson, Dina Samfield

***Chant** Earth my Body, Water my Blood (traditional round)
(see insert)

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.

Poem Celebrate Beltane by Beth Washington Sue Gleason

Offertory Shepherd Moons (Enya)

***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.

Story A Beltane Story for Children Denise Noble

***Music & Dance** The King's Dance (Michael Praetorius)
performed by Sue Gleason's recorder group

Reading May Around the World
Dina Samfield, Krista Ingram, Joanne Watson

***Hymn** For the Beauty of the Earth #21

Reflection Denise Noble

Releasing the Directions

Sue Gleason, Krista Ingram, Joanne Watson

***Music & Dance** A Place in the Choir (Bill Staines)
(see insert) Exit sanctuary singing and dancing

***Please rise in body, or in spirit, and join in the celebration**

(Service continues on back cover)

Large Print Hymnals, Sunday Bulletins and Assisted Listening Devices are available at the sanctuary doors. If you don't wish to keep your Sunday Bulletin, please place it one of the recycle baskets at the sanctuary exits.

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Join us downstairs for good food and conversation immediately following the service!

The flowers in church this morning are given by Roger and Donna Allen with gratitude for the people whose lives have and continue to enrich their own.

Greeters: Melinda Stewart, Elea Kemler

Ushers: Donna and Bob Nowak

Fellowship Hour Hosts: The Deacons, Michael Vine, Joe Fowler

Special thanks this morning to all those who participated in the service:

Members of the Adult and Children's Choirs who helped in leading the congregation in singing this morning.

Sue Gleason and her Recorder Group:

Rocky Sandy, Alice van Ormer, Barbara Murray, Bonnie Asselin

Worship Assistants: Krista Ingram, Joanne Watson and Dina Samfield

Faery Folk: Kira Hill, Lara Hill, Dana Maloney, Haley Watson, Kaitlin Meyer and Jackie Meyer

THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON was gathered as the town church in 1664. The congregation worships in its fourth Meeting House which was completed in 1755. A town clock and Revere-cast bell rings out our call to service every Sunday. The congregation is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association, a liberal faith that affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth; a free and responsible search for truth and meaning; the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large; the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; and respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Membership is open to all age 13 and older. If you are interested in membership, please speak to the minister or any member of the Membership Committee.



Beltane / May Day Service

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts

"We are a supportive and welcoming liberal religious community. We live and share our beliefs by: exploring and nurturing our spirits; being inspired by the examples and teachings of diverse religious and moral leaders; fostering faith, justice and stewardship among ourselves and within the larger community; valuing our children and youth; celebrating our individual diversity and common unity."