

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

September 13, 2009

## A Thought before the Service Begins:

*Come out of the circle of time. And into the circle of love.*  
(Rumi)

*We do not grow absolutely, chronologically. We grow  
sometimes in one dimension, and not in another; unevenly.  
We grow partially, we are relative...The past, present, and  
future mingle and pull us backward, forward, or fix us in the  
present. We are made up of layers, cells, constellations.*  
(Anais Nin)

*(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** "Little" Prelude in C (J.S. Bach)

**Call to Worship** Call to Worship (Betty Wylder) - Adult Choir

**Welcome and Announcements** Brenna Mayer

**\*Hymn** Enter, Rejoice, and Come In #361  
*(Children are invited to help return the chalice to the sanctuary)*

**Chalice Lighting** John Jackson

**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.  
You are invited to come forward, light a candle and briefly  
share a joy or sorrow that has touched your life.

**Anthem** Invocation (Sarton, McLaren) - Adult Choir

**A Story For the Child in Us All and Introducing Nature's Table**

**Offertory** Andante con moto (J.S. Bach)

**\*Offertory Response** *(Words: Melinda Green; Music: Shawn McCann)*

We thank each other for these gifts  
which makes our giving blessed;  
We bless the works our gifts sustain  
and pray they ripple outward.  
With grace and generosity  
we show our faith enacted.

**Gathering of the Water**

**Blessing of the Water**

**\*Hymn** There's a River Flowin' in my Soul #1007

**\*Sung Benediction**

As we leave this friendly place,  
Love give light to every face.  
May the kindness which we learn,  
Light our hearts til we return.

**Postlude** Presto (J.B. Pergolese)

*(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, Assisted Listening Devices and crayons and paper  
are available at the sanctuary doors.*

\* \* \* \*

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

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The flowers in church this morning are given by Ellen Todd and  
John Jackson

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Greeters: Suzanne Nelson and Diane Swift

Ushers: Bob and Donna Nowak

Fellowship Hour Hosts: The Board of Deacons