

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

November 1, 2009

Ringing of the Bell Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins

A perfect coincidence in religious opinions, is not, and cannot be expected.

Caleb Butler: Deacon & Selectman, Groton, 1826

When you enter the doors of our faith, you may not lock them after you. Rev. Barbara Pescan

(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.)

Prelude Air (Samuel Wesley)

Call to Worship Sovereign and Transforming Grace (words by Frederick Henry Hedge; music by Jane Marshall) Adult Choir
Unitarian minister Frederic Henry Hedge wrote this hymn for the ordination of another Unitarian minister (#33 in our hymnal).

Welcome and Announcements Brenna Mayer, Worship Leader

Chalice Lighting Steve Lieman

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.

Introduction to Dramatic Reading Melinda Green

Scene 1 July 25, 1825 – November 25, 1825

Time for All Generations Rev. Elea Kemler & Brenna Mayer

Singing the Children to their Art Activity #413
Go now in peace. Go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you
Everywhere, everywhere you may go. (repeat)

***Hymn** From Age to Age #105

Scene 2 November 28, 1825 – January 21, 1826

Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Scene 3 February, 1826 – July 23, 1826

Honoring Past & Present Members Melinda Green
26 Original Signers of New Covenant First Parish Church of Groton, July 23, 1826:
Sally Ames, Amos Bancroft, Sarah Bancroft, Luther Blood, Sally Blood, Caleb Butler, Clarissa Butler, Walter Dickson Sr., Phineas Dunsmore, Mrs. Phineas Dunsmore, Eunice Lewis, John Park, Anna Park, Stuart J. Park, Catherine Park, Catherine Reed, Elnathan Sawtell, Ruth Sawtell, Joseph Sawtell, Lucy Sawtell, Martha Stone, Abel Tarbell, Pamela Tarbell, Nehemiah Tarbell, Aaron Williams, John Wright

Anthem Dedham (words by William Cullen Bryant; music by William Gardiner) Adult Choir
William Cullen Bryant, Unitarian hymnist, composed the lyrics of this hymn for the church whose case set the legal precedent that benefited Groton.

Scene 4 August 4, 1826 – August 31, 1826

Offertory Hornpipe (Samuel Wesley)

***Offertory Response** *(Words: Melinda Green; Music: Shawn McCann)*
We thank each other for these gifts
Which makes our giving bless-ed.
We bless the works our gifts sustain
And pray they ripple outward.
With grace and generosity
We show our faith enacted.

(Service continues on back cover)

Scene 5 November 1, 1826

Community Response: Responsive Reading

We Open Our Doors by Melinda Green (see insert)

Please hold applause for appreciation of readers until the end of the Responsive Reading. Thank you.

***Hymn** We'll Build a Land #121

***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.

Spoken Benediction

Postlude Gavotte (Samuel Wesley)

(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. Please place your candle toward the back of the candle table. We ask the congregation to remain seated in quiet until the last candle is lit.)

***Please stand as you are able.**

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 the O'Rourke family in honor of all our dear ones gone before us.

Greeters: Paul, Gerri and Anya Harter
Ushers: Jim Frey, Amy Sturm, Gregg Baker, Steve Lieman
Fellowship Hour Hosts: Gail Burne, Steve Burne, Donna Allen, Roger Allen

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Groton, Massachusetts



"We are a community seeking to deepen spirituality, to take care of one another, and to be a blessing to the world."

A Warm Welcome to All!

There is childcare for infants and toddlers through age 4 years beginning at 9:50 AM on the second floor of the East Wing and you are welcome to take children there at any time during the service. There are quiet toys in the soft, red pouches in each pew. The service is also broadcast downstairs in the large room beneath us if children become restless.