

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

March 28, 2010

## Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

## A Thought as the Service Begins

Sometimes everything has to be  
enscribed across the heavens

so you can find the one line  
already written inside you.

Sometimes it takes a great sky  
to find that small, bright and indescribable  
wedge of freedom in your own heart.

Sometimes with the bones of the black  
sticks left when the fire has gone out  
someone has written  
something new  
in the ashes of your life. (from *The Journey* by David Whyte)

*(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** Postludium (Erno von Dohnanyi)

**Welcome and Announcements** Janet Armstrong, Worship Leader

**\*Hymn** Just as Long as I Have Breath #6

**Chalice Lighting** Barbara Rich

**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.

## The Celebration of New Members

Rocky Sandy, Deacon, and the Membership Committee

Today we welcome into Membership: Gina Perini Benedict, Peter  
Benedict, Susie Duffy, Holly Durkin, Jack Durkin, Sarah Iocabucci,  
Meghann Marshall, Bonnie Peterson, Colleen Tessier

**\*Hymn** Enter, Rejoice and Come In! #361

## Singing the Children and Teachers to Church School

Go now in peace. Go now in peace. #413  
May the love of God surround you  
Everywhere, everywhere you may go. (repeat)

**Reading** from the Gospel of Luke

## Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

**Offertory** Song Without Words Op. 102, No. 4  
(Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy)

**\*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** Telling a New Story

**\*Hymn** A Promise Through the Ages Rings #344

## \*Sung Benediction

Carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.  
Oh, carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.

**Postlude** Capriccio Op. 76, No. 5 (Johannes Brahms)

*(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.)*

*Palms are available as you leave the sanctuary today.  
Please take one or several.*

(Service continues on back cover)

**\*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.*

\* \* \* \*

*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 Coffee Hour, in the first floor library at 11:30 AM.*

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The flowers in church this morning are given by Susan Beers  
in loving memory of Scott Griffith

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Greeters: Steve Lieman, Owen Shuman, Ed McNierney,  
Barbara Murray  
Ushers: Alice Van Ormer, Suzanne Nelson

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**WELCOME TO VISITORS:** Visitors are encouraged to sign the Visitor's Book downstairs. Please stop by the Newcomer's Table on the stage in the Vestry. It has information on the First Parish Church and Unitarian Universalism. Join us for our fellowship hour in the Vestry following the service. Nametags help us to identify one another. You can order one at the Visitors' Table. Our minister, staff and identified leaders are available to meet with you to answer questions about our community.

**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.

## PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 28, 2010



## FIRST PARISH CHURCH GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS

### **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.