

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

May 2, 2010

Ringing of the Bell

Rebecca Pike, Bell-Ringer

A Thought as the Service Begins

And we pray, not for new
earth or heaven, but to be quiet
in heart, and in eye clear.
What we need is here. (Wendell Berry)

In the beginning we have to force ourselves
to be silent. But then from our very silence
is born something that draws us into deeper silence.
(Isaac of Nineveh, seventh century Syrian monk)

*(We ask that you turn off the ringers on your cell phones, beepers
and electronic devices, and the flashes on your cameras.
Please join us in a time of quiet during the prelude.)*

Prelude Prelude: Sonata No. 2, 1st movement "Massig
Schnell" (Hindemith)

Call to Worship Chimes

Welcome and Announcements Karen Goudey, Worship Leader

***Hymn** The Lone Wild Bird #15

Chalice Lighting Rebecca Pike

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.

A Time for All Generations

Singing the Children and Teachers to Church School #413
Go now in peace. Go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you
Everywhere, everywhere you may go. (repeat)

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.

Responsive Reading: Patience and Silence by Charles A. Gaines

How quiet it is when we have the patience to be silent.
How much we can learn in moments like these.

*We can learn to have patience with ourselves, to
better understand and like who we are and what we
are.*

We can learn to have patience with others, to better listen to
what they say and how they feel.

*We can learn to have patience with life, to better
work with it, rather than against it.*

How much do we need silence:

Silence for truth so that we may learn wisdom,

Silence for wisdom so that we may love,
Silence for love so that we may be just,

Silence for justice so that we may live fully.

*All: May we be more patient and more silent, so that
we may proceed with courage and compassion.*

Sung Prayer, Spoken Prayer, followed by Silent Meditation

Voice Still and Small #391

Offertory Sonata No. 2, 2nd movement "Lebhaft" (Hindemith)

***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 Quiet in Heart Rev. Elea Kemler

***Hymn** Winds Be Still #83

(Service continues on back cover)

***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 Sonata No. 2, 3rd movement (Hindemith)

(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!

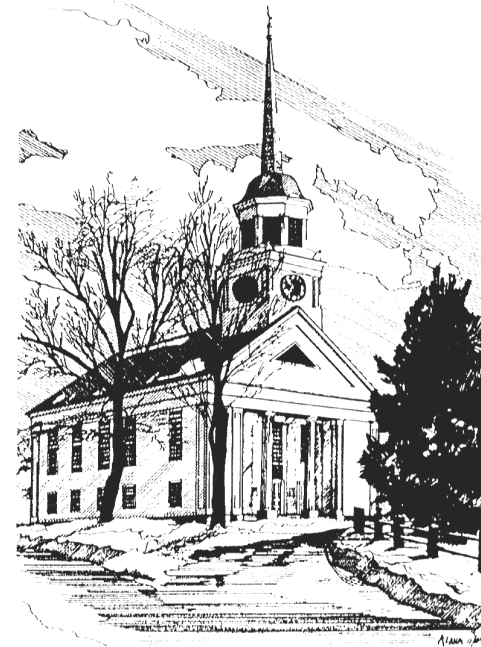
Today's flowers are given in gratitude, affection and celebration for our longtime treasurer and treasure, Tom Crow, on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

Greeters: Marcel Kates, Nancy Kates
Ushers: Patrick Hughes, Gregg Baker

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.



FIRST PARISH CHURCH
Groton, Massachusetts

“We are a community seeking to deepen spiritually, 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.