

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
Laity Sunday
12 November 2006
10 o'clock in the morning



Welcome to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church where we celebrate and receive the gifts of the ministry of our laity. This ministry is declared week after week on the masthead of our bulletin which reads “Ministers: The Members of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich.”

First Congregational Church of Greenwich declares itself to be open and affirming; open to all for participation, membership, leadership and employment, and affirming of all who wish to join us as children of God. We continue to give thanks for God's guidance in our journey of faith.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*All who are able please stand
‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE *Cheryll Hadley, piano*
Amazing Grace *arranged by Jack Schrader*

CALL TO COMMUNITY *Dr. David D. Young*
Please sign and pass the red book.

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

*OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION
Pilgrim Hymnal 239 to the tune DOWN AMPNEY
Come Down, O Love Divine

OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

Steve Carihfield

O God, we gather to celebrate
your calling and
your presence.

Your love has surrounded us
from our birth and has
sustained us throughout
our life's journey

You have touched us
through your Word
and through
the words and acts of those
who came before us

Renew a faithful
spirit within us
and help us
to walk in your path,
which is the Way of Christ
in whose name we pray.
Amen

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

Mary Ranta

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Lord, we long to see you and know you in every part of your life and ministry among people. We strain to hear You calling us, for we need to be gathered back again to your Church and your Kingdom. We try to be strong; we try not to lose heart, but so often we sigh with anxiety as we are pulled in other directions. Our faith is carried in fragile earthen vessels. So enable us Lord with courage, and in your mercy, forgive our past and redeem our futures, for Jesus' sake.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

‡ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Larry Haviland

I Corinthians 12: 4-11

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

Many Gifts, One Spirit *Charles Callahan*

(text by Al Carmines, alt., see New Century Hymnal 177)

SECOND LESSON

II Corinthians 4: 1, 5-6

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

‡*HYMN

New Century Hymnal 495 to the tune BEECHER

Called as Partner in God's Service

SERMON

"Following the Lay Leader"

Peter G. Garlid

*LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

FOR THE MINISTRY OF LAITY (read responsively)

Barbara Davidson, Pat Mendelsohn, Barbara Norrgard

Let us thank God for those persons who have responded to Christ's call to serve him in the world.

Lord, we know that you call us to serve our neighbor in love, not only in church, but also in the world in which we live.

For those who minister to the sick as medical personnel, or through hospital chaplaincy and volunteer work:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

*For those who help with the education of our children, both
salaried staff and volunteer aides:*
We give you thanks, O Lord.

*For those who are actively involved in the political process of our
community, state, and nation:*
We give you thanks, O Lord.

*For those who work for social justice, fair housing, and equal
opportunity for both sexes and all races:*
We give you thanks, O Lord.

*For those who visit the lonely and shut-in, and those who find
time to listen to the troubled and distressed:*
We give you thanks, O Lord.

*For those who offer counsel and support at walk-in centers or
anonymously over the phone:*
We give you thanks, O Lord.

*For those who work to make our community a safe and pleasant
place to live—engineers, bakers, contractors, architects, fire, and
police personnel:*
We give you thanks, O Lord.

*For those who work with our children and youth through
scouting, tutorial programs, athletic groups, and teen centers:*
We give you thanks, O Lord.

*For those who seek both to glorify you and to help their neighbor
through their work:*
We give you thanks, O Lord.

*For those men and women who serve as homemakers, providing
care, nourishment, and a secure haven for families:*
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who labor and whose efforts are often unseen and unsung, but who contribute significantly to Christ's ministry in this world:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

We pray for all who labor faithfully day in and day out:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

Let us thank God for the love we have experienced in Jesus Christ, which motivates and empowers us to serve others in his name.

O Lord, we recall the words of your Son when he said, "I came not to be served, but to serve."

He saw our needs and he ministered to us in love.

We thank you for calling us to follow in his footsteps.

We ask you to keep our eyes open to the possibilities around us and grant us strength and courage, and willingness to continue to serve Christ and all those around us. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

*Gloria Patri (*Pilgrim Hymnal 513*)

Glorify be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

Dana Low

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

Praise His Holy Name *Keith Hampton*

*Doxology (*Pilgrim Hymnal 515*)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all
creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION

New Century Hymnal 377 to the tune ST. GERTRUDE
Forward Through the Ages

*CLOSING SENTENCES (read responsively)

Enid Norris

All real living is meeting.

Existence cannot be possessed, but only shared in.

What have you then if you have not life together?

There is no life that is not community and no
community not lived in praise of God

Martin Buber / T.S. Eliot

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Les Cloches *Nicolas Lebègue*

The flowers in the Meetinghouse today are given in loving memory of C.A. and Joan Westerbrook by their family and in loving memory of Dr. Clinton Olson, by his wife and family.

Ushers: Peter Flierl, Shirley Flierl, Judy Chapman, George Handley, Peter Dadzis, and Rita Dadzis

Greeters and Coffee Hour Hosts: Persis Alden, Tina Birkic, Alison Cox, Carolyn Paulus, Andy Taylor, and Jean Watkins.

Flower Delivery: Erna and Ken Olson

Chancel Artwork by Deborah Bonnell

Calendar

TODAY

Church School - Thank You Mary Durland for being with us and donating 20% of your sales to the Church School! Congratulations to those families who have chosen gift tags for our friends at HOME in Orland, ME. There are tags still to be selected so please bring your children to the trees in either the Undercroft or Auditorium and be a giver!

Church School Worship in the Daniels Center before class for Kindergarten - 5th Grades. Sixth grade and Pastors' Class begin in the Meetinghouse. All classes meet until 11:15 AM. Child Care for babies and toddlers is available in the Undercroft. Parents please note: Because there is a TEACHERS MEETING today in the Daniels Center at 11:20, if you arrive at your child's classroom late, please go to Room 103 to meet them.

H.O.M.E. Craft Show volunteers needed. Help is still needed check out sign-up sheet at coffee hour to see what is needed and if you can help.

Christmas Tree Sale volunteers needed. Sign-up sheet at coffee hour.

Blood Pressure Screening A member of the Wellness Committee is available to check blood pressures in room 203 following Church School (11:15).

Meeting For ALL Church School Teachers in the Daniels Center from 11:20 to Noon. Refreshments and Child Care will be provided.

Cherub Choir 11:20 to 11:50 AM in Room 104

Youth Choir 11:20 AM to 12:20 PM in the Choir Room

Medicare Part D Second Hour Medicare's prescription drug plan's open enrollment begins November 15. Many of the 51 plan choices have significant changes in cost or coverage. Hear the latest developments from Sam Deibler, Director of the Greenwich Commission on Aging, in the Lounge at 11:30.

JPF 5 - 6 PM Room 103

SPF 6:30 - 8 PM Room 103

THIS WEEK

"Getting Oriented to Enlighten the Christian Faith" Tues Nov 14th 7:15-8:30 PM in the Church Lounge. A repeat of same material covered on Sun Nov 12th.

Children's Choir Wed Nov 15th 5 - 6 PM in the Choir Room

Hats Off Thurs Nov 16th 9:45 – 11:30 AM in the Church Lounge

Chancel Choir rehearsal Thurs Nov 16th 7:30 - 9:00 PM

H.O.M.E. Annual Craft Show Sat Nov 18th 9 AM to 4 PM

Call for Pumpkins and Baskets The Chancel Committee encourages you to bring pumpkins, baskets, and harvest decorations into the church office this week. These will be used to decorate the Meetinghouse for Harvest Sunday.

NEXT SUNDAY

Harvest Sunday we will be collecting a food offering to be shared between Neighbor-to-Neighbor here in Greenwich and H.O.M.E. Coop in Orland, Maine.

“Getting Oriented to Enlighten the Christian Faith” 8:30-9:45 AM in the Church Lounge. Material will be repeated on Tues Nov 21th 7:15-8:30 PM. This is the last Sunday session.

H.O.M.E. Annual Craft Show Sun Nov 19th 11 AM to 1 PM

NEWS AND NOTICES

Hold the Date! Parish Life is planning another wonderful "Sing for Your Supper" on December 10th beginning at 5 PM. Join us for an evening of carols and great food.

To all women of our church family: The survey that will help mold our future is now available on the Church Website Homepage. Just click on the link in the messages box. We are looking forward to your input!