

Order of Worship
Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 14, 2007
10 o'clock in the morning



Welcome to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church as we continue on in a Winter Sermon Series, “Struggling with Tough Questions.” As we explore the environment, may we seek to discern our way as a part of God’s way. And may the light of Christ which we now celebrate guide and direct us in all our choices and journey.

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

PRELUDE

John Stansell, organ

Prelude and Fugue in D Minor *Georg Böhm*

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Dr. David D. Young

CALL TO THE 336TH ANNUAL MEETING

Shirley Flierl

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Pilgrim Hymnal 478

To the tune ROYAL OAK

OPENING PRAYER

So it is that your joy in us is so full. So it is that you have come down to us. You have taken us as partners of your creation. In our hearts is the endless play of your delight. In our lives your will is ever taking shape. In your light do we see light this day. Amen

--*Saint Francis*

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You have called us, O God, to care for the earth, but we prefer the life of using, giving little heed to the renewing moment which shapes futures. You have called us, O God, to affirm the neighbor, but we are surprised when his pain makes demands on our person, asking us to take a second look at our priorities. You have called us, O God, to embrace ourselves, but we are awkward in the skills of self-affirmation, falling into moods of personal despair. Forgive us, O Lord, for our casual disregard of all that makes life an event of beauty, bounty, blessing, for we would walk again in that path called the Way, on which Christ bids us travel as his disciples. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Pat Larrabee

Hosea 4: 1-10

Hear the word of the LORD, O people of Israel;
for the LORD has an indictment against the inhabitants
of the land.
There is no faithfulness or loyalty,
and no knowledge of God in the land.
Swearing, lying, and murder,
and stealing and adultery break out;
bloodshed follows bloodshed.
Therefore the land mourns,

and all who live in it languish;
together with the wild animals
and the birds of the air,
even the fish of the sea are perishing.

Yet let no one contend,
and let none accuse,
for with you is my contention, O priest.

You shall stumble by day;
the prophet also shall stumble with you by night,
and I will destroy your mother.

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge;
because you have rejected knowledge,
I reject you from being a priest to me.
And since you have forgotten the law of your God,
I also will forget your children.

The more they increased,
the more they sinned against me;
they changed their glory into shame.

They feed on the sin of my people;
they are greedy for their iniquity.
And it shall be like people, like priest;
I will punish them for their ways,
and repay them for their deeds.

They shall eat, but not be satisfied;
they shall play the whore, but not multiply;
because they have forsaken the LORD
to devote themselves to whoredom.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

*The Chancel Choir
and Palmer Handbell Choir*

In Your Light We See the Light *David McCarthy*

All life comes from you, O God! And in your light we see the light. O Lord, your constant love covers the sky. Under your wings we find protection. You give us the food we eat. We drink from the river of your goodness. All life comes from you,

O God! And in your light we see the light. Amen *adapted
from Psalm 36*

SECOND LESSON

Revelation 21: 22 - 22: 5

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

*SERMON HYMN

Touch the Earth Lightly
to the tune *TENDERNESS*

New Century Hymnal 569

SERMON “What About the Environment?” *Dr. David D. Young*

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Most high, all-powerful, all good, Lord! All praise is yours, all glory, all honor, and all blessing.

To you alone, Most High, do they belong. No mortal lips are worthy to pronounce your name.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through all that you have made, and first my Lord Brother Sun, who brings the day; and light you give to us through him.

How beautiful is he, how radiant in all his splendor! Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Moon and Stars; In the heavens you have made them, bright and precious and fair.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air, and fair and stormy, all weather's moods, by which you cherish all that you have made.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Water, so useful, lowly, precious, and pure.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom you brighten up the night. How beautiful he is, how gay! Full of power and strength.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Earth, our mother, who feeds us in her sovereignty and produces various fruits and colored flowers and herbs.

— *Saint Francis*

***Gloria** (*New Century Hymnal* 754)

Glory to God the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Susan M. Craig

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.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

For the Beauty of the Earth *John Rutter*
(text at Pilgrim Hymnal 66)

***Doxology** (*New Century Hymnal 776*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

***CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Thank You, God

New Century Hymnal 559

to the tune AMSTEIN

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

Leader: Let the earth and the water, the air and the fruits of my country be sweet, my God.

People: Let the homes and marts, the forests and fields of my country be full, my God

Leader: Let the promises and hopes, the deeds and words of my country be true, my God.

People: Let the lives and hearts of the sons and daughters of my country be one, my God.

Rabindranath Tagore

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Prelude in F Major *Georg Böhm*

Ushers: Ted Hoster, Bob Janelli, Darren Beuer, Sue and Rich Gilbert, Michael Pellegrino

Greeters and Coffee Hour Hosts: Christian Outreach Committee members: Bob and Jeanne Ebersole, Mac Sykes and Carisa Koontz, and Daniel and Tina Videtto.

The flowers in the Meetinghouse are given in loving memory of Roberta K. Williamson by her daughter and son-in-law, Jane and Rex Howland, and granddaughter, Lindsay.

Flower Delivery: Judy Gordon

TODAY

Church School begins at 10 am in the Daniels Center with a Big Event based upon the new movie, and classic Charlotte's Web. Clips from the movie will be used, so it is not necessary to have seen the movie ahead of time. Childcare is available in the undercroft.

Second Hour: The Healing Power of Meditation. Roberta Brown Brugo, R.N., L.M.T., yoga instructor and Clinical Resource Nurse from Greenwich Hospital's Integrative Medicine Department, will share her expertise. Come and explore and experience this interactive workshop.

Blood Pressure Check Sue Asselin, RN is available today in room 203, after the Worship Service. Stop in to have yours checked or discuss any health concerns.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration at 2:00 at Christ Church Greenwich, 254 East Putnam Avenue. Featured speaker is Indra Nooyi, President and Chief Executive Officer of PepsiCo. YWCA Youth Diversity Awards will be presented during the Interfaith Service.

Honduras Travel Group Meeting at 5:00 in the Lounge.

The Senior Pilgrim Fellowship and their advisors are beginning to get ready for a February trip to Honduras. During this next month donations of medicines, toothbrushes, toothpaste and children's vitamins will be accepted in the Church Office. A list of what is needed is available in the Church Office. All medications must be current. In addition, we will be purchasing MAP boxes to take with us. A MAP Box is a box of medications specifically designed for the needs of people in Honduras. The cost of a MAP box is \$400, its value is \$10,000. The pharmaceutical companies in the US direct their coverage to US citizens who can personally courier their boxes ordered by US doctors and hand delivered to Honduran doctors. Your contributions toward MAP boxes can be received until January 15. Many thanks in advance for your support.

The Junior Pilgrim Fellowship (JPF – Middle School) will meet this evening at 5:00 PM in the Youth Room

The Senior Pilgrim Fellowship (SPF – High School) will meet this evening at 6:30 P.M. in the Youth Room.

NEWS AND NOTICES

January 21 Second Hour: Globalization, Religion and Nonviolence by Karikottuchira K. Kuriakose, Ed D., who recently edited the book, “ Religion, Terrorism and Globalization – Nonviolence: A New Agenda.”

January 21 Sunday Afternoons Live with jazz violinist **Doug Cameron**. In addition to his busy recording career, Doug performs frequently as a jazz soloist on cruise ships. His multi-faceted performances, which are likely to include a classical composition that moves into improvised jazz variations, are sure to be very entertaining.

January 25 The first meeting of the four-part, Thursday-night series, “The Healing Path of Prayer and Meditation” in the Lounge, 5:45 – 6:45.

January 25: The 336th Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, is hereby called for 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 25, 2007. The meeting will be held in the Meetinghouse:

- To hear and act upon the annual reports of the pastors, officers and committees;
- To hear and act upon the report of the Nominating Committee, and to elect officers for the coming year;
- To adopt the budget for 2007;
- To hear and act upon the recommendation of the Church Committee to amend the by-laws, and
- To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Shirley Flierl, Church Clerk

Pie and coffee will be served in the Auditorium from 7:30 – 8:00 p.m. prior to the Annual Meeting. Please come for this time of fellowship and treats provided by the Women’s Fellowship.

January 28 Sunday Afternoons Life We will hear classical violinist **Edita Orlinyte** in a program that will include “Sonata for violin and piano in F Major, Op. 8” by Edvard Grieg and three waltzes by Fritz Kreisler. Ms. Orlinyte is a native of Vilnius, Lithuania, and now resides in Stamford. She has been a regular in our *Messiah* orchestra for several years. She will be accompanied

by Taiwan-born pianist Li-Pi Hsieh.

Women's Fellowship will be providing gourmet pies before the Annual Meeting on January 25. The members of Nights Off will be assisting in this endeavor and we welcome any additions by women and men of the congregation. Pies can be left in the kitchen, labeled appropriately, at any time during the day, or up until 6 P.M.. Serving begins at 6:30.

Thank you to everyone who has responded to the **Women's Fellowship survey** about its future mission. We still especially want to hear from those who HAVE NOT participated in the programs and activities. The survey is designed to capture your thoughts and opinions. Co-President Barbara Norrgard will be available in Coffee Hour to answer questions and distribute surveys. You can also answer the survey online by accessing it on the First Church homepage, www.fccog.org.

Hospital Admissions

Are you or a loved one going into the hospital? If so, would you please contact the church office at 637.1791. Or upon admission, please list First Congregational Church of Greenwich as your church affiliation. Similarly, if you know someone who is homebound and would benefit from a Clergy or Parish Nurse visit, please let the church know.