

Order of Worship
January 21, 2007
10 o'clock in the morning

Winter Sermon Series
“Struggling With Tough Questions”



Welcome to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church
As we continue on a Winter Sermon Series, “Struggling with Tough Questions.” As we explore peace, 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 journeys.

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 *Cheryll Hadley, organ*
Sinfonia to Cantata No. 106 "God's Time is Best" J.S. Bach

CALL TO COMMUNITY *Rev. Susan M. Craig*

MOMENT OF OPPORTUNITY *Senior Pilgrim Fellowship*

CALL TO THE 336TH ANNUAL MEETING *Peter Garlid*

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

God the Omnipotent! *New Century Hymnal 577*
to the tune RUSSIAN HYMN

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who created the heavens and the earth, and breathed into the body of persons your own spirit, be merciful to us in these difficult days, that in the midst of the world’s distortions

we would remember your Kingdom of peace and light,
building into our hearts and hopes all that cannot be built as yet
into the world. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of presence,

we confess our inner attraction to the self-sufficient life,
preferring to keep you at worshipful distance in our priorities.

God of power,

we confess our casual preference for self-generated energy,
where the fruits of our labors can be clearly marked as our

own.

God of peace,

we confess our comfortable addiction to policies of
confrontation, really believing the tempter's promise that the
world's kingdoms might be ours.

Forgive us

On this day of self-renewal within community
for fleeing your presence, ignoring your power, denying your
peace,
for we would be restored to Christ's Kingdom Way
which we have claimed in our Baptisms as our heritage and
hope. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Beth Beam

Isaiah 30: 8-18

Go now, write it before them on a tablet,
and inscribe it in a book,
so that it may be for the time to come
as a witness forever.
For they are a rebellious people,
faithless children,
children who will not hear
the instruction of the LORD;
who say to the seers, 'Do not see';
and to the prophets, 'Do not prophesy to us what is right;
speak to us smooth things,
prophesy illusions,
leave the way, turn aside from the path,
let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel.'
Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel:
Because you reject this word,
and put your trust in oppression and deceit,
and rely on them;
therefore this iniquity shall become for you
like a break in a high wall, bulging out, and about to collapse,
whose crash comes suddenly, in an instant;
its breaking is like that of a potter's vessel
that is smashed so ruthlessly
that among its fragments not a shard is found
for taking fire from the hearth,
or dipping water out of the cistern.

For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel:
In returning and rest you shall be saved;
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.
But you refused and said,
'No! We will flee upon horses'—
therefore you shall flee!
and, 'We will ride upon swift steeds'—
therefore your pursuers shall be swift!
A thousand shall flee at the threat of one,
at the threat of five you shall flee,

until you are left
like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain,
like a signal on a hill.

Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you;
therefore he will rise up to show mercy to you.
For the LORD is a God of justice;
blessed are all those who wait for him.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

*The Children's Choir,
Nancy McLarnan, accompanist*

A Gaelic Blessing John Rutter

SECOND LESSON

Luke 1: 67-80

Rev. Karikottuchira K. Kuriakose

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

‘Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a mighty savior for us

in the house of his servant David,

as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of
all who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,

and has remembered his holy covenant,

the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,

to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness
before him all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

to give knowledge of salvation to his people

by the forgiveness of their sins.

By the tender mercy of our God,

the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of
death,

to guide our feet into the way of peace.’

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the
wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

***SERMON HYMN**

O God of Every Nation
to the tune NYLAND

(printed later in this bulletin)

SERMON

“What About Peace?”

Dr. David D. Young

RESPONDING TO GOD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We are the people of God.

We are a sign of the New World

We are the sisters and brothers of Jesus.

We believe in God. We believe in the goodness of God, the
presence of God in human history, and the nearness of God’s love.

We believe in Christ. We believe that God was and is revealed
in human life, that out of human suffering may come rescue and
healing, that out of death comes new life.

We believe in the Eternal Spirit, who moves among God’s
people and invites the world into God’s reign. We believe that the
world can change, that peace and wholeness can come, and that the
New World can arrive.

We are the people of God.

We are the sign of the New World.

We are the brothers and sisters of Jesus.

***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. Ronald E. Halvorsen

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

Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace *John Rutter*

**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

This Is My Song

New Century Hymnal 591

to the tune FINLANDIA

*CLOSING SENTENCES

Leader: The message of the Bible is...

that into the confusion of our world, with its divisions and hatred, has come a message of transforming power.

People: And those who believe it will experience within themselves the power that makes for reconciliation and peace on earth.

Leader: The Word of God...

penetrating our inmost being is more than a communication

of light.

People: It is a new birth, the beginning of a new being.

Thomas Merton

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Go Forth in Triumph Franklin Ritter

Ushers: Ted Hoster, Michael Pellegrino, Gordon and Mary-Ann Assing, Sue Baker and Cyndy Anderson

Greeters and Coffee Hour Hosts: Stewardship Committee

Flower Delivery: Judy Gordon

The flowers in the Meetinghouse are given by the Videtto Family in loving memory of their grandparents and a special aunt who passed away on January 2, 2007.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

Church School resumes today including worship in the Daniels Center for the K-5th grade. Three & four year olds stay in their classrooms. Middle school students begin in the Meetinghouse. Child care is available in the Undercroft for babies and toddlers.

Church Directories and Collection Envelopes are available at Coffee Hour after the service today and in the church office during the week.

Parish Nurse Sue Asselin, RN is available today in Room 203, after the Worship Service. Stop in to have your blood pressure checked or discuss any health problems.

Second Hour in the Lounge at 11:20: Globalization, Religion and Nonviolence by Karikottuchira K. Kuriakose, Ed D., who recently edited the book, “Religion, Terrorism and Globalization – Nonviolence: A New Agenda.”

Sunday Afternoons Live : Doug Cameron, jazz violinist...., will play at 4 pm in the Auditorium. WONDERFUL...Bring the kids. Tea and hot chocolate from 3:30. Performance at 4:00.

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

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

January 25: The first meeting of the four-part, Thursday-night series, “The Healing Path of Prayer and Meditation” in the Lounge, 5:45 – 6:45pm, led by Rev. Doug Abbott of the Center for Hope in Darien.

January 25: Pies for the Pre-Annual Meeting can be delivered all day to the church kitchen until 6:00.

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 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

January 26 5:00 Senior Pilgrim Fellowship Concert Rock to support Honduras and H.O.M.E. 7:00 – 10:00 pm.

January 31 Communion 101 - On Wednesday, January 31, Susie Craig will conduct a teaching on Communion for the parents of 2nd graders. A letter has gone to 2nd grade families. If you did not receive one or if your children are older but have not had the opportunity to learn about or participate in Communion, please contact Rosemary Lamie at ext. 20 or rosemaryl@fccog.org.

NEWS AND NOTICES

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH** **January 4, 2007**

[brackets] indicate deleted text.

Additional text is underlined.

Article V, Section 1. Officers

The officers of this church shall be a Pastor, or Pastors, a maximum of twenty-four deacons, fifteen trustees, a Clerk, a Treasurer, a Financial Secretary, a Benevolence Steward, and such other officers as are elected. All lay officers shall have been members of the church for at least two years preceding their elections. Trustees shall not be spouses, partners, [or] close relatives of church employees [.] , or employees of the church except for the Senior Pastor as stated in Article V, Section 4.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH** **January 4, 2007**

Article V, Section 2. Nominating Committee

To encourage participation of the membership, there shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of the Senior Pastor, the

immediate past Senior Deacon, the immediate past Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, two deacons [and] , one trustee [all of whom shall be starting their second or third year in office] and three other members of the congregation at large [who are not professional staff, who shall be elected at the annual meeting.] .

The deacons and trustee shall be starting their second or third year in office. The members at large, who shall not be professional staff, shall be elected at the annual meeting for three year staggered terms.

If the immediate past Senior Deacon and/or the immediate past Chairperson of the Board of Trustees is unavailable to serve on the Nominating Committee, a replacement candidate(s) shall be nominated for approval at the Annual Meeting. If possible, the candidate(s) should be an immediate past deacon or trustee, as appropriate.

[Members of the committee shall elect either the immediate past Senior Deacon or the immediate past Chairperson of the Board of Trustees as the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee.] The immediate past Senior Deacon shall serve as Chairperson of the Nominating Committee. In the event that he or she is unable to serve, the Committee shall select a Chairperson.

This committee shall, before the next annual meeting, prepare a list of nominations for officers and members of the Nominating Committee for the ensuing year and shall publish such nominations at least one week before the annual meeting. The right of any member of the church to make a nomination from the floor shall always be recognized.

The 2007 Directory of Members and Friends. You can pick up your copy in the church office - Monday through Friday from 9am to 4pm. and Sundays at Coffee Hour. **Collection Envelopes** are available during the week from Kirk Young and on Sundays at Coffee Hour.

Directory Updates: If you know of updates for the directory – changes in names, addresses or phone numbers -- please call the church office at 637-1791.

Honduras. The Senior Pilgrim Fellowship and their advisors are beginning to get ready for a February trip to Honduras. During this next month donations of 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.

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.