

Order of Worship  
January 28, 2007  
10 o'clock in the morning

Winter Sermon Series:  
Struggling With Tough Questions

“What About Poverty?”



*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 poverty, 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.

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### PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

- \* All who are able, please stand
- ‡ Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE *Cheryll Hadley, piano*  
Intermezzo, Op. 117, No. 1 *Johannes Brahms*

CALL TO COMMUNITY *Rev. Ronald E. Halvorsen*

### PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

\*OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION  
Hope of the World *New Century Hymnal 46*  
*to the tune ANCIENT OF DAYS*

OPENING PRAYER

O Lord, who has taught us that to gain the world  
and to lose our soul is a great folly,  
grant us the grace so to lose ourselves  
that we may truly find ourselves anew in the life of grace,  
and so to forget ourselves  
that we may be remembered in your Kingdom. Amen.  
*Reinhold Niebuhr*

## CONFESSING TO GOD

### CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Have we been selfish? Make us generous, Lord.

Have we been wasteful? Show us how to be good stewards.

Have we been foolish? Show us a wiser way.

Have we cheated others in order to get ahead?

Move us to make retribution.

Have we made money the number one thing in our lives?

Set our priorities straight.

Have we coveted others and their things?

Teach us to enjoy what we receive and be grateful.

Lord, sometimes we are confused and have doubts about life.

Show us how to act,

and teach us what is really important in life.

Often enough we do turn from your ways,

denying and thwarting your love at work

in other people, and in our families

and even deeply at work in ourselves.

Forgive us this day, O God, and restore us to right relationships,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### FIRST LESSON

Stuart McCalley

**Amos 5: 6-15**

**S**eek the LORD and live,  
or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire,

and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.  
Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,  
and bring righteousness to the ground!

The one who made the Pleiades and Orion,  
and turns deep darkness into the morning,  
and darkens the day into night,  
who calls for the waters of the sea,  
and pours them out on the surface of the earth,  
the LORD is his name,  
who makes destruction flash out against the strong,  
so that destruction comes upon the fortress.

They hate the one who reproves in the gate,  
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.  
Therefore, because you trample on the poor  
and take from them levies of grain,  
you have built houses of hewn stone,  
but you shall not live in them;  
you have planted pleasant vineyards,  
but you shall not drink their wine.  
For I know how many are your transgressions,  
and how great are your sins—  
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,  
and push aside the needy in the gate.  
Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;  
for it is an evil time.

Seek good and not evil,  
that you may live;  
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you,  
just as you have said.  
Hate evil and love good,  
and establish justice in the gate;

**it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts,  
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.**

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

*The Chancel Choir*

O Vos Omnes *Pablo Casals*

O vos omnes, qui transitis per viam,  
attendite, et videte:  
si est dolor, sicut dolor meus.

O all you who pass along this way,  
behold and see  
if there is any sorrow  
like unto my sorrow.  
(Lamentations 1:12)

SECOND LESSON

Luke 7: 18-23

**T**he disciples of John reported all these things to him. So John summoned two of his disciples and sent them to the Lord to ask, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’ When the men had come to him, they said, ‘John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?”’ Jesus had just then cured many people of diseases, plagues, and evil spirits, and had given sight to many who were blind. And he answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.’

‡\*SERMON HYMN

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love  
*to the tune CHEREPONI*

*New Century Hymnal 498*

SERMON

“What About Poverty?”

*Dr. David D. Young*

## RESPONDING TO GOD

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

God, our gracious Creator,

we declare this day our hope in the future.

We renew our belief in the holiness of the earth  
and sanctity of all life.

We believe you send us to work with others

to correct the growing disparity between rich and poor nations,

to achieve fair legislation justly administered and enforced,

to make the operation of courts and penal institutions more just  
and humane.

We are commissioned to stand with women and men of all ages,

racess, and classes as they struggle for dignity and respect and the  
chance to exercise power for the common good.

We choose struggle rather than indifference.

We choose to be friends of the earth

and of one another rather than exploiters.

We choose to be peacemakers rather than peace keepers.

Before us today are set life and death

We choose life that we and our children may live. Amen

### \*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*

Precious Lord *words & music by Thomas A. Dorsey,*  
*choral setting by Jack Schrader*  
*(text and tune at New Century Hymnal 472)*

\**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

Through All the World, A Hungry Christ *New Century Hymnal 587*  
*to the tune DE TAR*

*John Stansell knew Calvin Hampton, the composer of this hymn-tune.*  
*It is named after John's teacher at Juilliard, Vernon de Tar.*

\*CLOSING SENTENCES

*Leader: When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; When health is lost, something is lost; When character is lost, all is lost.*

*People: Fame is what you have taken, character's what you give; When to this truth you waken, then you begin to love.*

*Leader: I wish you then, a very rich, deep, true, straight and simple growth in the love of God, accepted and willed gently but greatly, at the daily and hourly cost of self.*

*People: My business is not to remain myself, but to make the absolute best of what God has made.*

*St. Augustine, Bayard, Taylor, Baron Von Hugel, Robert Branning*

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

*John Stansell, organ*

Solemn Procession *Calvin Hampton*

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*Ushers:* Ted Hoster, Michael Pellegrino Gordon and Mary-Ann Assing  
*Greeters and Coffee Hour Hosts:* Stewardship Committee  
*Flower Delivery:* Judy Gordon

The flowers in the Meetinghouse are given in loving memory of Joseph Robinson by his wife Shirley and family.

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

Church School continues today including worship in the Daniels Center. Middle school students begin in the Meetinghouse. Child care is available in the Undercroft for babies and toddlers. Our children are encouraged to bring in healthy valentines.

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.

HONDURAS. The Senior Pilgrim Fellowship and their advisors are getting 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.

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS LIVE: in the Auditorium: Violinist Edita Orlinyte, violinist, accompanied by pianist Li-Pi Hsieh, will perform works by Vitali, Grieg, Kreisler and Sarasate. This is of special interest to children learning stringed instruments. 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. We were glad to see the regulars at JPF last week but MISSED YOU!!! You missed our people bingo and human battleship - IN THE DARK!!!! Don't miss tonight's episode of "Would You Rather..." Would you rather what?

You'll have to come and find out!!! TONIGHT AT 5:00 in the YOUTH ROOM!!! Debbie & Steve

THE SENIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP (SPF – High School) will meet at 6:30 PM in the Youth Room.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31: COMMUNION 101. Susie Craig will conduct a teaching on Communion for the parents of second graders. A letter has gone to second 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 [rosemary@fccog.org](mailto:rosemary@fccog.org).

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1. HATS OFF meets at 10:30 in the Lounge.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4 is Junior Pilgrim Fellowship (JPF Middle School) Super Sundae Sunday.

FEBRUARY 11 IS JUNIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP BOWL-A-RAMA!!! The price for bowling has changed from \$15 to \$10!!! Sign up quickly!!!

FEBRUARY 27: "COOKING FOR THE HEART" Lecture and potluck dinner, 6:30-8:00 in the Auditorium with Dr. Robert Stark.

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## NEWS AND NOTICES

### 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.