

Welcome to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church as we celebrate the joy of Easter! May the shared energy of the liturgy and the deep significance of the event we celebrate touch all of us, that together we might be renewed in the joy of Jesus Christ our Lord. In the words of G. K. Chesterton:

“Melancholy should be an innocent interlude, a tender and fugitive frame of mind; praise should be the permanent pulsation of the soul. Pessimism is at best an emotional half-holiday; joy is the uproarious labor by which all things live.”

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

*organ & brass*

Grand Chœur Dialogue *Eugène Gigout*

CALL TO COMMUNITY

*Dr. David D. Young*

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP & EASTER PROCLAMATION

## ‡\*OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION

Christ the Lord is Risen Today      *New Century Hymnal # 233*  
*Arr. by Paul Sjolund. Stanza 3 – women only*

## OPENING PRAYER (In Unison)

O God of light and life, we give you thanks that you have not destined us to be defined by darkness. Enlighten our hearts on this Day of Resurrection that our prayers might become new ways of seeing, and our songs, the counterpoint of a continuing melody in the soul. In the power of the risen Lord.      Amen.

## CONFESSING TO GOD

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

There was a darkness on that first Easter morning, but we are all too comfortable with shadow perspectives and so we fail to see. There was a decision for those who mourned Christ's death, but we are gifted in the skills of avoidance and so we fail to move. There was a dawning for those who dared to face the tomb, but we are weary from life's disappointments and so we fail to be enlivened. Forgive us on this Day of Resurrection for our blindness, our inertia, our fear of light, for we would be renewed as children of the seventh day, who acknowledge a risen Lord even yet in our midst. Amen.

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

## ‡CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

*9:00am Peter Schay*

*11:00am Donald Haviland*

Isaiah 60: 1-6

**A**rise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.  
For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.  
Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.  
Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.  
A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

9:00 am *The Children's Choir*

*Nancy McLarnan, piano*

Alleluia! For Christ the Lord Is Risen *J. S. Bach/John Leavitt*

11:00am *The Youth Choir & Alumni*

*Carolyn Paulus, Director*

The Whole Bright World Rejoices Now

*The tune HILARITER was composed by Richard Dirksen;*

*the setting is by Bret Heim*

*Text at Pilgrim Hymnal # 194.*

*"Hilariter" means "joyfully"*

SECOND LESSON

Luke 24: 1-12

**B**ut on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

*Rev. Susan M. Craig*

‡\*SERMON HYMN

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

SERMON “The Is So of It Ain’t So”

*Dr. David D. Young*

RESPONDING TO GOD

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (In Unison)

He, although He was in the divine form, did not think equality with God a thing to be grasped, but surrendered His rank and took the role of a servant, becoming like the rest of humankind, and appearing in a human role. He humbled Himself, in an obedience that went so far as to die. For this, God raised Him to the highest honor, and conferred upon Him the highest rank of all: that at Jesus’ name every knee should bow and every tongue should own that “Jesus Christ is Lord.” *Philippians 2: 6-11*

\*Gloria Patri (*Pilgrim Hymnal 513*)

Glory 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

*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*

*The congregation is invited to join the choir for stanza five.*

### \*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

### \*Dedication of Offering and Lenten Offering

*Chris Hartwell,  
Benevolence Steward*

## GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

### \*CLOSING HYMN

*Pilgrim Hymnal # 193*

Thine is the Glory *setting by Robert Hobby*

### \*CLOSING SENTENCES

*Leader: Many a life has been injured by the constant expectation of death. It is life we have to do with, not death.*

People: The story of Easter is the story of God's wonderful window of divine surprise.

*Leader: The whole history of the Christian life is a series of resurrections...out of the night of troubled thought into the gladness of truth.*

People: There is a land of the living and a land of the dead and the bridge is love, the only survival, the only meaning.

\*BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATION & CHOIR RESPONSE

Hallelujah! (*Messiah*) *Georg Frideric Handel*  
*arr. by Drummond Wolff*

POSTLUDE

*Symphonie X – Final: Haec Dies Charles Marie Widor*  
*(this last movement of Widor's last organ symphony is based on a*  
*Gregorian chant for Easter Day, "This is the day the Lord has made!")*

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*The last few pews in the Meetinghouse are reserved for latecomers.*

*Ushers:* 9:00 Lois and Marty Berlin, Betsy Kreuter, Gifford Reed,  
Bob Alden, Tom Mahoney, Paul Pacent  
11:00 Susan and Richard Gilbert, Carol and Dick  
Hermance, Judy and Bob Goodchild, Rob Janelli,  
Dick Peebles, Mary Ann Chidsey

*Greeters:* Membership Committee

*Coffee Hour:* Membership Committee

*Instrumentalists:* Lowell Hershey, Jim Cifelli, trumpets;  
Bill Bonnell, horn; Steve Shulman, Cliff Haynes, trombones;  
Eric Phinney, timpani; Mark Swicegood, organ

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**TODAY, APRIL 8**

Child Care for babies and toddlers is available in the Undercroft.

Church School is on vacation and will resume April 15 for a Big Event. Church School classes resume April 22.

The Confirmation Class will resume on April 10 with their mentors.

The Senior Pilgrim Fellowship (SPF – High School) and Junior Pilgrim Fellowship (JPF -- Middle School) will resume on April 22.

#### NEWS AND NOTICES

Church School Teachers Wanted. Many thanks to the first several people who have volunteered to teach Church School next year. Please prayerfully consider this important ministry to our children. Teaching is conducted by teams of adults and high school students with the support of the Church School Task Force. No experience is necessary. Returns are “priceless.” Please talk to Susie Craig or Rosemary Lamie about this unique opportunity.

Women's Fellowship Looks to the Future - This ministry has been blessed every year with wonderful leadership and the coming year we continue to be. Barbara Norrgard and Lori White have agreed to continue as Co-Presidents. There are other board positions open: Vice President, Secretary and Nominating. If you would like to join with 20 or so other Board members who meet every other month to coordinate activities, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members: Rosemary Lamie (637-1791) or Susan Tedford (637-8251).

The Women's Fellowship Allocations Committee has completed their deliberations and is ready to present the list of allocations for approval. All women of the congregation are asked to meet immediately following the worship service on Sunday, April 22, 2007 in the chapel to discuss and vote on the Committee's recommendations.

The Lenten Project 2007 will conclude this week, and we are getting nearer and nearer our goals! As of April 2, we had received \$47,760 from the very generous contributions of about 33% of our church families. Our goals are \$60,000 and 100% participation. Contributions may be made by using the special envelopes in the pew racks, or simply by noting “Lenten Project” on your check. All proceeds go to meet the basic human needs of food and shelter, both in our local community and at H.O.M.E. Co-op in rural Maine. If you haven't already done so, please make it a priority to JOIN US TODAY in sharing this Easter worship experience!

RUMMAGE ROOM WISH LIST: Full set of golf clubs, bread maker, high chair, child's bed, port-a-crib, pack 'n play, stroller, jogging stroller, bike.

It is our joy to announce that Kelly J. Stone, our former Youth Minister, will be ordained next Sunday at the United Church of Christ at Geneseo, Illinois. Kelly has been called to serve as the Campus Chaplain at Lakeland College, a United Church of Christ affiliated college. Letters and cards can be sent to the church at 101 West Pearl St., Geneseo, IL 61254

NO LORD

## **EASTER FLOWERS WERE DONATED BY**

Erlinda & Larry Haviland in memory of their parents, Purisima Teria and Richard and Louise Haviland

Howard Truss in honor of Sylvia and Sarah Truss

The McCue Family, in loving memory of their parents and grandparents, Betty Rozmus, D.J. Rozmus, Irene McCue, and Jack McCue

Edward, Barbara and Thomas Oppedisano, in memory of Isabella Oppedisano, Edward Oppedisano, Sr., and Warren Classon

Thelma J. Colegrove, in memory of her father, mother, brother and two sisters.

Charles Johnson

Sheila Tolmie, in memory of Jeannette T. Belmont, Jeannette A Traugott, and Miriam K, Traugott

Parker & John Freeman, in memory of Donald Matthews Freeman

Don & Frosty Friedman and family, in memory of Helen, Harry, Stuart, and Ray Hoskins

Ruth E. Lindegren, in memory of Bob Lindegren

Jean L. Jankovich and family, in loving memory of Daniel F. Jankovich

Carolyn, his wife, and Sally and Jonathan, his children, in memory of Allan W. Colegrove

Carolyn Grant Colegrove, daughter, in memory of Edward and Eva Grant

The children and grandchildren, in memory of Kip and Helen Couch

Sue Hout Baker, Sara, Charlie and Liz in memory of Marian J. and Fred B. Hout

Chris Collins and James and Sara DeFazio, in memory of Rose Scott

The family, in memory of Dana Andersen

The family, in memory of Melita and John Megress

Marc & Julie Johnson and children, in memory of Bud Johnson

In honor of Carolyn Paulus and The Youth Choir

Sandra Radosh, in memory of her parents, Daniel and Lorraine  
Radosh

Kelly Phillips in memory of her father, C. Vincent Dougherty

The Culpen family in memory of parents, grand parents and Aunt Mary

Ken & Erna Olson in memory of Efraim & Victoria Olson, Ryan &  
Margaret Rosendale, and Erna Nelson

Their family, in loving memory of Joan & C. A. Westerbrook, Jr.

The Rogers Family, in memory of Mario Morson

Brad & Susie Craig and family, in memory of our parents, Mr. and  
Mrs. W. Emerson Craig and Mr. And Mrs. Peter W. C. McNeily

Susie Craig, in memory of Jeanne Phelps

David Woodbridge Walton, grandson, in memory of Flora & Percy

J. Walton and Helen and Milo B. Williams, parents of Don and  
Connie Walton

Bobby Littlefield and family, in memory of Jack Littlefield

Diane, Paul & Kate Kretschmann, in memory of family and friends

Ginny & Don Breismeister, in memory of their parents and  
loved ones

Nadean Hirth, in memory of her husband, Elmer Hirth

Dawn & Rob McCready, in memory of her parents, Lloyd and  
Virginis Heberling

The family, in memory of Bertrand Moss

Lee Davenport, in memory of Anne Davenport

The children and grandchildren in memory of Joan and Jim Kreuter

The loving family, in memory of Daniel Schmitt

John W. Fryback, in loving memory of Lt. Col C. George Fryback  
and Nicholas Fryback

Jack, Judy, Michael, Jennifer & David Provoost, in memory of  
John Provoost

His wife Suzanne, daughter Patti, and son Jack, in memory of  
William J. Provoost Jr.

Suzanne Provoost, in mamory of her parents, Dorothy and John  
Green, her in-laws, Willa and Bill Provoost Sr., and grandson,

**John Provoost**

**Vicki Altmeyer & Al Reams, in memory of Doris Altmeyer**

**Gifford Reed and family, in memory of his parents, Louise and**

**Harrison Reed**

**Darleyne Sandreuter and family, in loving memory of daughter and**

**sister, Susan**

**In loving memory of Richard Vogt**