

The Second Sunday of Easter  
Order of Worship  
April 15, 2007  
10 o'clock



WELCOME to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church as we begin a Spring Series of Sermons addressing the question, “Does God Really Make a Difference?” It is hoped we will continue the joy of Easter throughout this spring season. In the words of the Apostle Paul,

“So open your hearts to  
one another as Christ  
has opened his heart to you,  
and God will be glorified.”

*Romans 15: 17*

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

*Mark Swicegood, organ*

Offertoire sur *O Filii et Filiae*    *Alexandre Guilmant*

(Offertory on “O Sons and Daughters,” Pilgrim Hymnal # 191)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

*Rev. Susan M. Craig*

## PRAISING GOD

### CALL TO WORSHIP

#### ‡\*OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain *Pilgrim Hymnal # 185*

#### OPENING PRAYER (In Unison)

O God, in this joyous Easter season we pray for your penetrating presence in our lives, that we might know the renewal and empowerment that comes when we open ourselves to you and thus see you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly – day by day. In the spirit of the risen Christ. Amen.

## CONFESSING TO GOD

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

O God of laughter,  
we confess our attachment  
to the somber tones of seriousness,  
where all is measured  
by calculating the cost in events.

O God of light,  
we confess our compromise  
with the darkness of limited vision,  
where our expectation is controlled  
by framing your promises  
with limitations.

O God of lift,  
we confess our preoccupation  
with carrying the burdens of our journey,  
in casual neglect  
of your power to see us through.

Forgive us  
in this time of reflection,  
for all those moods in us  
which deny  
the joy,  
the radiance,  
the power,  
of your presence  
in our midst,  
for we would be renewed  
in the Way that is Christ this day. Amen.

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### ‡CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

*Rosemary Lamie*

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### FIRST LESSON

*Aaron Sinay*

Genesis 21: 1-19

**T**he LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." And she said, "Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son

Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named after you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.

#### SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

*The Chancel Choir*

God Is a Spirit *William Stern Bennett*

#### SECOND LESSON

John 4: 7-29

**A** Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is

deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"

‡\*SERMON HYMN

When, Like the Woman at the Well *New Century Hymnal* # 196

SERMON "A New World View"

*Dr. David D. Young*

## RESPONDING TO GOD

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (In Unison)

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind.

His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for people when the gospel is proclaimed and believed.

In this experience the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all people, moves them to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.

The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are.

They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand except God's grace.

The new life does not release anyone from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, fear.

We still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems.

Nevertheless, as we mature in love and faithfulness in our lives with Christ, we live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.

*The United Presbyterian Church Confession of 1967 USA*

### \*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. 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.

## CALL TO OFFERING

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*The Chancel Choir*

Eternal God *Richard Shephard*

Eternal God, the light of the minds that know you, the joy of the hearts that love you, the strength of the wills that serve you, grant us so to know you that we may truly trust you, grant us so to love you that we may freely serve you, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

(A prayer of St. Augustine)

## \*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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

*Pilgrim Hymnal # 180*

## \*CLOSING SENTENCES

*Leader: All true religious movements desire not so much to offer persons the solution of the secret of the world as to arm them to live by the strength of the secret.*

People: They desire not to give persons instruction in the nature of God, but rather to show persons the way in which they can meet with God.

*Leader: God speaks to every person through the life he gives them again and again.*

People: There is no human share of holiness without the hallowing of the every day.

*Martin Buber*

## \*BENEDICTION

## \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

## POSTLUDE

Sinfonia to Cantata 29      *Johann Sebastian Bach*

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

*Ushers:* Sue Baker, Paul Pacent, Debbie Lacivita, Jacky Schofield,  
Rich and Bobbie Hopkins

*Greeters:* Membership Committee

*Coffee Hour:* Membership Committee

The flowers in the Meetinghouse today are given in loving memory of Elaine Sweatt and Peter Alan Sweatt by Charles Sweatt.

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## TODAY, APRIL 15

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

Church School resumes today with a Big Event following the Children's Sermon. Church School classes resume April 22.

Blood Pressure Screening -- A member of the Wellness Committee is available to check blood pressures in room 203 following the Worship Service.

The Senior Pilgrim Fellowship (SPF – High School) and Junior Pilgrim Fellowship (JPF -- Middle School) will not meet today, but will resume on April 22.

### NEWS AND NOTICES

Our children need you! Many of you have taught Church School classes over the years and we thank you for that. For those of you who may have been thinking about it, your time has come. We already have a full team for the Kindergarten Class and other teams are developing. So before all the spots are taken and your opportunity is gone, please prayerfully consider spending some Sunday mornings with our children who so need our example and support while they form their faith and beliefs. No experience is necessary. Rewards are "priceless." There are more details in the April Meetinghouse Monthly or just talk to Rosemary Lamie or Susie Craig. There are sign-up boards in the Auditorium and the Undercroft. Our goal is to be fully "staffed" by May 6, Recognition Sunday!

Hats Off will not meet on Thursday, April 19. They will resume on Thursday, April 26. The new book for this spring, Riding the Bus with My Sister is available in the Church Office.

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 in the chapel to discuss and vote on the Committee's recommendations.

### The Lenten Project

Thank you to all of the church families who made our Lenten Project a great success! As of April 11, with quite a few more envelopes yet to be opened, we had received \$66,270 from the very generous

contributions of about 43% of our members. We exceeded our contribution goal by over 10%, and we are approaching last year's participation rate of 47%. Your contributions will mean so much to our neighbors who are served by The Food Bank, Neighbor to Neighbor, New Covenant House, and H.O.M.E. Coop!

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, 12" bike.

*First Congregational Church of Greenwich* [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org)

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Ministers: The Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Senior Pastor: David D. Young

Senior Associate Pastor: Susan M. Craig

Minister of Pastoral Care and Adult Ed: Ronald E. Halvorsen

Director of Music/Senior Organist: John Stansell

Director of Middle School Ministry: Debbie Bocchino

Director of High School Ministry: Josh Ziac

Church School Coordinator: Rosemary Lamie

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Pastors Emeriti: Thomas L. Stiers and Sally Colegrove