

**S t r e n g t h**

**C o m e s**

**f r o m**

**the**

**S O U R C E**

**Music Sunday – 20 May 2007**



**W**elcome to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church as today we celebrate the gifts of music. We humbly acknowledge that our strength comes from God and that music has an awesome ability to communicate that reality. You are invited to participate heartily in the hymn singing and to listen attentively to the musical offerings.

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

#### **PRELUDE**

*Terence J. Flanagan & R. Mark Swicegood, organ*

Variations in A on an original theme *Adolf Friedrich Hesse*

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Rev. Susan M. Craig*

### **PRAISING GOD**

**INTROIT** *The Cherub Choir; Stephanie Hanbury-Brown, director; Alex Leidy, guitar*

Come On and Celebrate!

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

#### **\*OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Great Is Your Faithfulness

*New Century Hymnal 423*

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

Great God of Life, set a note of joy in our hearts and a song of praise on our lips as we gather to worship you. We seek your presence both in our speaking and in the music that we might hear your voice and respond with faithful living through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **CONFESSING TO GOD**

#### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of Rhythm, we confess our inability to keep in step with your plan and purpose for our lives, choosing to follow the casual leadings of the near-at-hand. God of Rest, we confess our absorption in the frantic pace of endless activity frantically embraced, forgetting our need for inner solitude and renewal. God of Harmony, we confess our captivity to discordant patterns of action and involvement, fleeing the fullness of life and love Christ brings. Forgive us on this day of song and praise for neglecting the inner music which you have placed at the center of all that is...for we would be prompted toward that way of living which senses the song at the heart of things. We pray in the name of your son, Jesus. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

CHORAL RESPONSE *The Chancel Choir*

Alleluia *Randall Thompson*

**HEARING GOD'S WORD**

FIRST LESSON

*Barbara Norrgard*

Isaiah 40: 27-31

Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,  
'My way is hidden from the LORD,  
and my right is disregarded by my God?'  
Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.  
He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.  
Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;  
but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.

ANTHEM *The Youth Choir, Carolyn Paulus, director; Brian Plancher & T.J. Kenny, trumpets*

God Is Our Refuge *Allen Pote*

God is our refuge and strength; A present help in time of trouble. Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though the waters roar and foam, we will not fear. Come and behold the work of the Lord, the awesome acts of God. He is in the midst of his people, in all the earth. He is the Word, we are his hands, He will lead us. He is the air, we are his song, we will celebrate his presence all the day long. 2<sup>nd</sup> time: He is the rain, we are the stones, He will cleanse us.

*(Psalm 46:1-3, 8a, additional text by Jay Johnson)*

## John 14:12-17

Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

ANTHEM *The Children’s Choir*

Didn’t My Lord Deliver Daniel *arranged by Roger Emerson*

## SERMON “Strength Comes from the Source”

*Dr. David D. Young  
Dr. John Stansell*

## HYMN DURING THE SERMON

What a Covenant

*New Century Hymnal 471*

ANTHEM OF AFFIRMATION *The Chancel Choir, Stephanie Hanbury-Brown, soprano*

Festival Te Deum *Benjamin Britten*

We praise thee, O God, we acknowledge thee to be the Lord. All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting. To thee all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the powers therein. To thee cherubim and seraphim continually do cry, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory.

The glorious company of the apostles praise thee; The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise thee; The noble army of martyrs praise thee; The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee; The Father of an infinite majesty, thine honorable, true, and only Son; Also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.

Thou art the King of glory, O Christ, thou art the everlasting Son of the Father. When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man, thou didst not abhor the Virgin’s womb. When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death, thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Thou sittest at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father. We believe that thou shalt come to be our judge.

We therefore pray thee help thy servants whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood. Make them to be numbered with thy saints in glory everlasting.

O Lord save thy people and bless thine heritage; govern them and lift them up forever. Day by day we magnify thee and we worship thy name ever world without end.

Vouchsafe O Lord to keep us this day without sin. O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us. O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us, as our trust is in thee. O Lord, in thee have I trusted, let me never be confounded.

## 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.

## RESPONDING TO GOD

### CALL TO OFFERING

#### OFFERTORY ANTHEM *The Palmer Handbells*

Faithful Promises *Hart Morris*

Based on the tunes *FAITHFULNESS*, *New Century Hymnal 423*, and *PROMISES*, "Standing on the Promises of God," not found in our hymnals.

#### \*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

When the Morning Stars Together

*New Century Hymnal 453*

#### \*CLOSING SENTENCES

*Leader: Where words fail, music speaks.*

*People: Music is to be praised as second only to the Word of God because by it are all the emotions swayed.*

*Leader: The "tune is in the tree," the skeptic showeth me; "No Sir! In Thee!"*

*People: The aim and final reason for all music should be nothing else but the glory of God and the refreshment of the spirit.*

*Hans Christian Andersen, Martin Luther, Emily Dickinson, J. S. Bach*

#### \*BENEDICTION

#### \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *The Chancel & Youth Choirs*

Go Forth Into the World *Robert J. Powell*

Go forth into the world in peace: Be of good courage, hold fast that which is good, render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the afflicted, honor all persons. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit, and the blessing of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

#### POSTLUDE

Toccata in the French Style, on the name "Helmut"

*Terence J. Flanagan & John Stansell, organ  
Ralf Bölting*

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***Greeters:*** Karen Vissicchio and Diane Jenkins

***Coffee Hour Hosts:*** Church School Families and Task Force

***Ushers:*** Sandi Sandlock, Phoebe Griffith, Gifford Reed, Bobby Littlefield, Jeffrey & Arlene Whitehill

***Flower Delivery:*** Judy Chapman

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### ***Calendar***

#### **TODAY**

There is no **Church School** today. Childcare for Babies and Toddlers is available in the Undercroft. See an usher if you need directions.

**Junior Pilgrim Fellowship** (JPF – Junior High School) will meet from 5:00-6:00 in the Youth Room for **SURPRISE SUNDAY!** What does that mean? Come and find out!

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#### **NEXT SUNDAY**

Next Sunday, May 27, is **Heritage Sunday**. Please join us as we recognize and honor fifty-year members of First Congregational Church.

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#### **NEWS AND NOTICES**

**Youth and Graduation Sunday June 3, 2007** – We will be honoring high school and college graduates during the worship service on Sunday, June 3. If you are receiving a degree from a two-year or four-year college, trade school or an advanced degree, you are invited to let us know so that you can be recognized along with our high school graduates. This applies to anyone graduating or receiving a degree from the Fall of 2006 to August 2007. Please contact Donna White at 637.1791 ext. 14, email [donnaw@fccog.org](mailto:donnaw@fccog.org).

**Summer Church School** will begin on Sunday, June 10 during worship and will run through July 30. We hope to see our children as often as they are able to be with us.

**Beach Services** will begin Sunday, June 10, 8 am at Tod's Point.

**HELP!** On Sunday, May 6th (Church School Recognition Sunday), our new Canon Power Shot digital camera was misplaced somewhere in the building. We have been unable to locate it since. Please be sure that the camera you have at home is yours and let Rosemary (ext. 20) know if you have any info about this Church School camera. Thank you.

**Bus to "Synod in the City"** – First Church has chartered a bus to Hartford for the wonderful General Synod activities on Saturday, June 23, leaving our parking lot at 7:30 am and leaving Hartford at 9:00 pm, at a cost of \$ 25.00 per person. Bill Moyers, Barack Obama, and many others will be speaking. Go to [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) to learn more about **EXCITING** details!

## Special Thanks

Loretta Stagen and the Chancel Committee for the floral decorations in the Meetinghouse.

Members of the Chancel Choir and Music Committee who prepared the strawberries and croissants for our celebration on the lawn.

Church School Families for their help with the Coffee Hour.

Brad Craig, Deborah Bonnell, Ashley Young, Mary Fike, and the Maypole Dancers.

Barbara Norrgard, chair, and all the members of the Music Committee who worked in so many ways to make today a success, and for their help during the year - Sue Baker, Peter Dadzis, Rita Dadzis, Chris Moore, Darlene Moore, Joyce Nye, Nancy Pierson, Steve Pierson, Michael Pugh, Bill Sandberg, Bob Small, James Standish, Donna Tagliarino, Arlene Whitehill, Jeff Whitehill, Nancy Whiteman.

Members of the Chancel Choir, Youth Choir, Children's Choir, Cherub Choir and the Palmer Handbells who contribute their time and talents so selflessly, not only today, but throughout the year.

Our entire music staff: John Stansell, Terence J. Flanagan,  
Carolyn Paulus and Stephanie Hanbury-Brown.

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*First Congregational Church of Greenwich* [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org)  
108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 203.637.1791  
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: Ronald E. Halvorsen  
Director of Senior Pilgrim Fellowship: Josh Ziac  
Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin  
Director of Junior Pilgrim Fellowship: Debbie Bocchino  
Director of Church School: Rosemary Lamie  
Director of Music/Senior Organist: John Stansell  
Associate Organist/Director: Terence J. Flanagan  
Pastors Emeriti: Thomas L. Stiers and Sally Colegrove

