

The Third Sunday after Pentecost
17 June 2007
10 o'clock in the morning



Welcome to this service of worship at First Congregational Church. This morning you are invited to join us as we take a look at our common humanity and our understanding that while no one is ever perfect, love can be. God's love invites us to faith. God's grace makes it possible for us to come, and enables us to know God's love even more personally as we join with others seeking to know and love our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Pièce d'Orgue, BWV 572

Terence J. Flanagan, organ

Johann Sebastian Bach

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Dr. David D. Young

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

God Is Here! As We Your People Meet *New Century Hymnal 70*

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, we who bear Christ's name comprise a unique kind of family. We are not bound together by relationships that get charted on family trees. We cannot be identified by distinguishing family features of personality or physical appearance. We have not ever lived with one another in the closeness that is a family's fondest hope. We are family nonetheless, and for that we offer our grateful praise. We give

thanks for the faith that bonds us together, for the spiritual heritage that has its roots in the person and work of Jesus Christ, and for our shared commitment to do your will. In companionship with our brothers and sisters, we pray in the name of your son, Jesus. Amen

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we gather as people who long to be faithful, and we confess that our longing comes more easily than our faithfulness. Although we sense your presence within us and among us, we often acknowledge your grace grudgingly or receive it clumsily. We ask that you enable us to become an ever more grace-full people. Help us to bear witness to your grace through the acceptance and compassion we show toward one another. Encourage us to rely upon your grace as the basis for envisioning a world at peace. Forgive us, we pray when the faith we practice places primary trust in human inventions, powers, and systems. Strengthen us to live a bold faith that instead places ultimate trust in your potent love and amazing grace. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

***‡CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Ella Johanna Aulfinger, *daughter of Deborah and Erich Aulfinger*

BAPTISMAL RESPONSE *sung to the tune of "Morning Has Broken"*

Water has touched us, fresh on our foreheads,
showing an inward, spiritual grace.
Into God's family we have been welcomed,
as sons and daughters, we take our place.

After the Baptism, the children will go with Rosemary Lamie to the undercroft for Summer Church School.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Enid Norris

Psalm 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD. Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

ANTHEM

The Summer Choir; Mary Fike, Conducting

Lord, for Thy Tender Mercies' Sake *Richard Farrant*

Lord, for thy tender mercies' sake, lay not our sins to our charge, but forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives, to decline from sin and incline to virtue, that we may walk with a perfect heart before Thee now and evermore.

SECOND LESSON

Luke 7:36 – 8:3

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him – that she is a sinner." Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "Speak." "A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Soon afterwards he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and

Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources.

***‡HYMN**

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing *New Century Hymnal 459*

SERMON *Grace-filled Hospitality* *Rev. Susan M. Craig*

RESPONDING TO GOD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Leader: We are not alone, we live in God's world.

People: We believe in God:

Who has created and is creating

Who has come in Jesus,

The Word made flesh, Who works in us and others by
the spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

To celebrate God's presence

To love and serve others

To seek justice and resist evil,

To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and
our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

United Church of Canada, 1980

***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

Dr. David D. Young

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 Summer Choir; Mary Fike, Conducting*

Thou art God *Lionel Bourne*

Thou art the peace of all things calm,
Thou art the place to hide from harm,
Thou art the light that shines in dark,
Thou art the heart's eternal spark,

Thou art the door that's open wide,
Thou art the guest who waits inside,
Thou art the stranger at the door,
Thou art the calling of the poor.

Thou art my Lord and with me still,
Thou art my love, keep me from ill,
Thou art the light, the truth, the way,
Thou art my Saviour this very day.

(text by David Adam)

***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**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

***CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Forward through the Ages

New Century Hymnal 377

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

Leader: One of the great things any community can do is not teach tolerance

People: But live tolerance.

Leader: Not talk respect,

People: But live inclusivity.

Leader: The bottom line is that people are never perfect,

People: But love can be.

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Allabreve, BWV 589 *Johann Sebastian Bach*

The flowers in the Meetinghouse today are in loving memory of my parents, Frederick and Eleanor Ray

Additional flowers are given in memory of William E. Hatch whose granddaughter Ella Aulfinger is being christened today. William passed away on January 25, 2007. Though his voice is quiet, his spirit echoes still.

Greeter: Mary Fike

Ushers: Paul, Kimberly and Nicole Pacent; John, Sara and Seymour Davidson and Sue Baker

Coffee Hour Hosts: Mary Fike and Sue Baker

Flower Delivery: Irene and Bill Savage

TODAY

Child Care is available every Sunday throughout the service for babies and toddlers. During the summer, younger preschool children are also welcome. Please ask the ushers for directions if needed.

Summer Church School has begun for older preschool and elementary school children. Older students are always welcome as helpers. Children will go to the Undercroft with Rosemary at the appointed time in the service order.

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 concerns.

NEXT SUNDAY

8 AM Beach Service - Summer Beach Services have begun at Tod's Point. Please join us on Sunday mornings throughout the summer, weather permitting, for this service.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Summer Choir - Our Chancel Choir continues singing for worship during the summer months but without a midweek rehearsal. We meet at 9:00 AM on Sundays to brush up old favorite pieces or learn easy new ones. You're welcome to join us next Sunday, or any Sunday you're in town. In addition to being an important ministry of the church, it's a fun and rewarding experience!

Bus to "Synod in the City" - First Church has chartered a bus to Hartford for the wonderful General Synod activities on Saturday, June 23. The bus will be boarding at 6:30 am in our parking lot at and leave Hartford at 9:00 pm. The cost is \$ 25.00 per person. Bill Moyers, Barack Obama, and many others will be speaking. Go to www.ucc.org to find more **EXCITING** details!

Susie's Sunday - On Sunday, July 1, we have planned a day of celebration of Susie's ministry at First Church. We will honor her during our 10am worship service, where she will preach her last sermon, and after worship during a special coffee hour. At 6pm there will be a potluck supper with presentations, music, photos and fun. Please RSVP if you would like to attend the potluck supper by calling the church office at (203) 637-1791 or by signing the enclosed pink sheet and leaving it in the offering plate.

Rummage Room - The following items are on the wish list: two car seats for two and a half year old twins, a baby crib, a high chair, a double stroller, a children's table with four chairs, a twenty-two or twenty-four inch youth bike, two men's mountain bikes, a man's golf set and a window air conditioning unit.

First Congregational Church of Greenwich

www.fccog.org

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203-637-1791

Ministers: The Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Senior Pastor: Dr. David D. Young

Senior Associate Pastor: Susan M. Craig

Minister of Pastoral Care: Ronald E. Halvorsen

Director of Music/Senior Organist: John Stansell

Associate Organist/Director: Terence J. Flanagan

Director of Senior Pilgrim Fellowship: Josh Ziac

Director of Junior Pilgrim Fellowship: Debbie Bocchino

Director of Church School: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin

Pastors Emeriti: Thomas L. Stiers and Sally Colegrove