

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
1 July 2007  
10 o'clock in the morning



**W**elcome to this service of worship at First Congregational Church on this summer Sunday. Today we celebrate the gifts of walking together in faith accompanied by our God-with-us. Today we celebrate what it means to be church family – with hearts open to one another, ministers all, sharing our gifts as the body of Christ in this world.

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**

Music for a Festival  
Fanfare

*Carolyn Diamond, organ  
Calvin Hampton  
Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens*

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Dr. David D. Young*

### PRAISING GOD

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

All Creatures of Our God and King

*Pilgrim Hymnal 64*

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

Upon our journey of faith, O God, we travel step by step. And from our first tentative tries through our continuing daily walk, we rely upon you to guide and strengthen us. We give thanks for a faith that keeps us moving. You invite us to new places of understanding. We give thanks for a faith that offers us challenge. By your grace, you equip us to deal with detours, dangers and hazards of the road. We give you thanks for a faith

that has direction. You call us to be wayfarers, yet not wanderers. You bid us to go into the world with a decisive message of love and healing and good news. All along the way you offer us companionship in persons who share our journey and in the presence of your Son who has promised to be with us always. For this we give you thanks and praise. Amen.

## CONFESSING TO GOD

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O God, sometimes we find it difficult to comprehend the fullness of your love for us. Throughout the whole of human history, that love has shown itself through sacrifice and steadfastness, forthrightness and forgiveness, and generosity and justice. You have renewed us in times of community tragedy and personal despair. You have redeemed us from collective sin and individual misdeed. You have restored us to faithfulness when we have wandered.

We are tempted to label your love as “unbelievably gracious”, yet it is precisely to a firm belief in your grace that you now call us. Increase our understanding of that which you would have us do. Give us courage as we take steps in new directions. Open our eyes that we might be guided by your light, and open our hearts that we might know that you are by our sides. In the strong name of Jesus our brother, we pray. Amen.

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

#### **\*‡CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### **FIRST LESSON**

*Larry Haviland*

Psalm 121

**L**ift up mine eyes unto the hills – from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot be moved; he who keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is thy keeper; the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil; he shall preserve thy soul. The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth and even forevermore.

## ANTHEM

*The Summer Choir*

### Sing a New Song

*Roland E. Martin*

Sing a new song to the Lord. Wonders he has done.

His right hand and holy arm victory have won.

The Lord makes known his triumph, his righteousness is shown;

In the sight of all the nations his glory shall be known.

He recalls his faithful love to his Israel.

All the ends of earth have seen, and his glory tell.

Acclaim the Lord all you peoples; Lift your voice, rejoice and sing;

With trumpet, harp and voices, shout with joy before the King!

Let the sea resound with praise, and all that dwell therein,

The lands around the earth and his praise begin.

Then clap your hands you rivers, and mountains lift your voice,

The Lord, our God, shall come, and his people shall rejoice.

*(The text is a paraphrase of Psalm 98 by the composer.)*

## SECOND LESSON

I Corinthians 12: 4-12, 14, 31

**N**ow there are varieties of gifts, but the same spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of

tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **\*‡HYMN**

This Is a Day of New Beginnings      *New Century Hymnal 417*  
(\*We will sing the alternate 4<sup>th</sup> stanza.)

**SERMON**      *A Day of New Beginnings*      *Rev. Susan M. Craig*

## RESPONDING TO GOD

### **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

You, O God, are supreme and holy.

You create our world and give us life.

Your purpose overarches everything we do.

You have always been with us.

You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous,

Good beyond all measure.

You came to us before we came to you.

You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ,

Who lived and died and rose again.

You are with us now.

You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.

You empower us to be your gospel in the world.

You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God. We worship you.

*(A New Zealand Prayer Book)*

**\*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 OFFERING**

*Rev. Ronald E. Halvorsen*

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*The Summer Choir*

Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether

*Harold Friedell*

Text and tune are found in *New Century Hymnal 337*

**\*Doxology**

*Pilgrim Hymnal 514*

*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**

**SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (seated)**

**Prayer of Consecration**

**Serving of the Bread and Cup**

*In the tradition of our church, let us partake of the bread as it  
is served, remembering our individual uniqueness in the eyes of  
God and our diversity within the Body of Christ. Let us hold  
the cup until all have been served, remembering our oneness  
with God and our unity in the Body of Christ.*

During Communion the organ selection will be Ralph Vaughan  
William's setting of the Welsh hymn tune *Rhosymedre*, which is  
found in *The New Century Hymnal*, # 222.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

For the healing you have given us in the brokenness of bread  
and the pouring out of the cup, we thank you. For the  
community that you have restored in us through the sharing of  
life, we thank you. For the courage and strength that you have  
promised to us, even as we have honored the ones of courage  
in our own past, we thank you. Send us forth from this place in

love, letting justice be worked out with gentleness and power known in the presence of your spirit. Amen.

### **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.

### GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

#### **\*CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

*New Century Hymnal 556*

#### **\*CLOSING SENTENCES**

*Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say rejoice.*

People: Let your gentleness be known to everyone, the Lord is near.

*Leader: Do not worry about anything, but in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

People: And the peace, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

#### **\*BENEDICTION**

#### **\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

#### **POSTLUDE**

Jubilation Toccata

*Dennis Janzer*

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The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in celebration and gratitude for Susan Craig's 20 years of ministry to this church.

***Deacons Serving Communion:*** Jean Watkins, Clem Lepoutre, Enid Norris, Phil Alexandre, Barbara Davidson, Ted Hoster, Tom Mahoney and Karen Pacent

***Greeters:*** Members of the Diaconate

***Ushers:*** Peter Schay, John Davidson, Phoebe Griffith, Betsy Kreuter, Michael Pellegrino and Peggy Whitlock

***Coffee Hour Hosts:*** Paul Kretschmann and Dale Myer

***Flower Delivery:*** Sue Baker

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## ***Calendar***

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### 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** – This Sunday our children are invited to take part in worship with their families. We hope they will come forward for the Children's Sermon, and know as well, that they are welcome to take part in communion. However, should your child become restless, they are welcome to go downstairs to the Undercroft either to stretch their legs or enter our childcare program for the morning.

**Susie's Sunday** – Please plan to attend a special coffee hour following our worship service in honor of Susie and her ministry at First Church. In addition, you are still welcome to attend the potluck supper at 6pm in celebration of Susie and her ministry with presentations, music, photos and fun. We hope to see you there!

**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.

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### NEXT SUNDAY

**8 AM Beach Service** - Summer Beach Services will resume next Sunday, July 8 at Tod's Point, weather permitting. Please plan to join us for these services.

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## NEWS AND NOTICES

The **Prayer Shawl Ministry** continues to thrive, knitting and gifting shawls to members and friends of our congregation experiencing a crisis or need. If you know of anyone who may need/appreciate our tangible message of love and support, please contact a minister, Parish Nurse, knitter, or call the church office.

**Rummage Room** – The following items are needed for donation this week: swimsuits, beach chairs and beach toys. Please note that the Rummage Room will be closed starting Monday, July 30 until the grand reopening on Monday, August 27 at 10am.

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## *First Congregational Church of Greenwich*

[www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org)

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203-637-1791

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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