

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
8 July 2007
10 o'clock in the morning



Welcome to this service of worship at First Congregational Church on this summer Sunday. May you know the warmth and love of the lord's presence as together we worship God during this sacred hour.

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

John Stansell, organ

Partita: Von Gott will ich nicht lassen *Georg Leyding*

(This partita has six verses or variations. The tune and text are from the 16th century. "Von Gott will ich nicht lassen" translates as "I will not abandon God" and the text continues with the idea that God doesn't abandon us. Georg Leyding lived from 1664 to 1710.)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Dr. David D. Young

Please sign and pass the red book.

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

God Reigns o'er All the Earth

New Century Hymnal 21

OPENING PRAYER

We rejoice, O God,

that you have brought us into fellowship with you,
that you have given us direction in our daily living,
that no matter where we are, near or far,
we are never absent from you.

Through our worship
may we enter into your fullness of life,
and may our hearts be warmed by the joy of
knowing that you are with us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of time and space,
we confess our confusion when we contemplate
the scope of your creation
and so we settle for an unresolved world
of impersonal mystery.

O God of the here and now,
we confess our busyness with the issues
and adventures that are passing
and so we are absorbed by trivial agendas
of our creation.

O God of all small things
we confess our dullness in seeing
and affirming your presence
and so we ignore the familiar moment
as meaningless.

Forgive us on this day of renewal
for all those portions of our lives which are unconnected,
for we would sense your nearness in the large,
the small, the everyday,
through Christ who reveals your presence. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*‡ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Mary Ranta

Psalm 16

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you."

As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble,
in whom is all my delight.

Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;
their drink-offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.

The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.

I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

I keep the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.

For you do not give me up to Sheol,
or let your faithful one see the Pit.

You show me the path of life.

In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

ANTHEM

I Will Dwell In His Secret Place *Gail Cole & Glenn Cummings,*
(based on Psalm 91) *arr. Shirley Lewis Brown*

The Summer Choir

SECOND LESSON

John 14: 15-24

“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.

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.” Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?” Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

*‡HYMN

What a Friend We Have in Jesus *New Century Hymnal 506*
As the hymn begins, the children will go with Rosemary Lamie to the undercroft for Summer Church School.

SERMON

The Present of Presence

Dr. David D. Young

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that we are never alone. God is with us.

We believe that the world is kept in God’s hands.

God has sent his only son, Jesus Christ, into the world.

We believe that we are not alone among people.

Around us is the large fellowship of the church, the people, whom God loves. They live everywhere,

in all countries of the world, on all continents,
and among all races. We are part of them.

We believe that God wants life for us and not
death, joy and not sadness, and that God is with
us today and always! Amen.

***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

Sue Asselin

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

A Gaelic Blessing

John Rutter

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the gentle night to you,
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you,
Deep peace of Christ, the light of the world to you.
(word adapted from an old Gaelic rune)

***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**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

***CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Abide with Me

New Century Hymnal 99

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

Leader: O God, surround us with your love all our days.

People: Be beneath us to support us.

Leader: Be behind us to protect us.

People: Be in front of us to guide our footsteps.

Leader: Be within us to sustain us.

People: Be above us to light our thoughts to higher things.

James Earle Danieleley

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Postlude in C Minor

George Blake

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in memory of former church members.

Greeters and Coffee Hour Hosts: Members of the Diaconate

Ushers: Peter Schay, Sheila Bennett, Virginia Liddel and Angela Stevens

Flower Delivery: Sue Baker

Calendar

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 - Older preschool and elementary school children are welcome to attend church school. 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 take place every Sunday morning at Tod's Point. Please join us at the beach, weather permitting, for this service.

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: fans and cool clothing. Please note that the Rummage Room will be closed starting Monday, July 30 until the grand reopening on Monday, August 27 at 10am.

First Congregational Church of Greenwich

www.fccog.org

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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