

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
5 August 2007
10 o'clock in the morning



Welcome to this service of worship at First Congregational Church on this summer Sunday. We welcome this morning as our guest preacher the Reverend Daniel B. England. Dan and his wife Claire are members of Green's Farms United Church of Christ in Westport and make their home in Fairfield. Dan is an ordained minister and holds theological degrees from Cambridge University in England and Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey.

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

Mariales

Terence J. Flanagan, organ

Naji Hakim

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rosemary Lamie

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

We Worship You, O God

New Century Hymnal 26

OPENING PRAYER

Our Lord and our God, we come this morning seeking to be made well in body and mind and spirit. Our afflictions and blessings are both great, and we offer them up to you. But in this hour, Lord, help us to go beyond our own swirling thoughts, to remember those around us and to find our way to you.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Daniel B. England

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of heaven and Lord of earth, we are not exempt from the sins of pride and self which have always held our race since Adam. Why then do we often think we do not hourly need your forgiveness and your grace? Lead us, we pray, to the humility through which we treat people better and are far more kind and compassionate than we sometimes are.

We ask this in Jesus name, Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

‡**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Jean T. Watkins

From 2 Kings 5: 1-14

Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, but a leper. Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house. And Elisha sent a messenger to him saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean." But Naaman became furious and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God and wave his hand over the place and heal the leprosy.'" And his servants came near and spoke to them and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?"

So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was made clean.

ANTHEM

Here, Savior, in this Quiet Place

Text is found in New Century Hymnal 555

(The Congregation is invited to follow the text as the choir sings this hymn. This tune for the Fred Pratt Green text was commissioned for our hymnal.)

The Summer Choir

Peter Cutts

SECOND LESSON

John 5: 1-18

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids - blind, lame, and paralysed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me." Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who had been cured, "It is the sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your mat." But he answered them, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Take up your mat and walk.' " They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take it up and walk'?" Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there. Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you have been made well! Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. Therefore the Jews started persecuting Jesus, because he was doing such things on the

sabbath. But Jesus answered them, “My Father is still working, and I also am working.” For this reason the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because he was not only breaking the sabbath, but was also calling God his own Father, thereby making himself equal to God.

***‡HYMN**

There Is a Balm in Gilead

New Century Hymnal 553

SERMON

Do you want to be well?

Rev. Daniel B. England

RESPONDING TO GOD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

***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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Summer Choir

Come, I Pray Thee

Charles Callahan

Come, I pray thee, thou sweet and true joy.

Enter a soul that longs for thee.

Enflame with thy divine fire all my heart.

Enlighten my inmost parts with thy radiant light. Amen.

(Richard Rolle, ca. 1290-1349)

***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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Since, dear God, in this place, at this table, we have touched, we have tasted, and we have heard the signs of your love for us, grant that we may go away from this house filled with our love for you and overflowing with your love for those who are around us and who share our lives. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray saying...

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**

Teach Me, O Lord, Your Holy Way *New Century Hymnal* 465

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

Leader: Lord, that we would be made well,

People: Grant us courage and grace to walk in your ways,

Leader: In paths where you lead us to go,

People: In paths where we have not been.

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

A Trumpet Minuet

Alfred Hollins

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in loving memory of Robert Crossley Sr. and Robert Crossley Jr. by their family.

The Memorial Flowers in the Meetinghouse are in celebration of the life of Peggie Coe.

Deacons Serving Communion: Peter Schay, Clem Lepoutre, Barbara Davidson, Phil Alexandre, Larry Haviland, Paul Kretschmann, Lois Berlin and Nancy McConnell

Greeters and Coffee Hour Hosts: Members of the Board of Trustees

Ushers: Paul Pacent, Head Usher and Members of the Usher Committee

Flower Delivery: Tommy Starkweather

Calendar

TODAY

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

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

Today's Point. Please join us at the beach, weather permitting, for this service.

Peter Schay will be leading next Sunday's beach service preaching on

The Faith of Abraham.

10 AM Worship - Next Sunday we welcome back to First Church the Reverend Zan Harper. He will be preaching on *Playfulness – Heaven's Best Secret.*

NEWS AND NOTICES

Silver Lake Conference Center celebrates 50 years on Sunday, August 19th from 11:00am to 5:30pm. All are invited. A special day of worship, live music from all the decades, photo displays, games, hayrides, swimming, crafts, hiking, cookout, tours and much more! Sign up at <http://silverlake.ctucc.org> so they know how many are coming. The cost is \$20 per person with an \$80 family maximum. Let's have a great representation from Old Greenwich.

Rummage Room - Please note that the Rummage Room is now closed until the grand reopening on Monday, August 27 at 10am. In addition, there will be no more donations until Tuesday, August 28. Have a great summer!

Summer "Nights Off" at Tod's Point - On Monday evenings, beginning at 5:30 – 6pm weather permitting, all women are invited to join together for fellowship and snacks. We meet at the picnic tables along the path that goes around the point. Go past the OG Yacht Club and the Windsurfer's beach and park in the lot adjacent to the path. Just walk until you see a familiar face or hear the laughter. If you are the first to arrive, pick a table! Just bring a snack and beverage of your choice, or, just bring yourself! There is always more than enough food to go around. Friends are always welcome. Questions... email Rosemary (rosemaryl@fccog.org) or call the church office.

Help!!!! Susie's Quilt

In case you haven't already heard: The women of the church gave Susie a voucher for a quilt made by us. All the initial volunteers have done their share of sewing a strip of fabric to 45 blocks. This took each sewer not more than 1-2 hours. We are still in need of more sewers. If you are interested in helping, please call Inge Thalheim at 637-9614. We would like to finish this project as soon as possible. In addition, if you are interested in helping with the quilting once the quilt is assembled, leave a message as well. We will not begin this before September or October.

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
Minister of Pastoral Care: Ronald E. Halvorsen
Director of Music/Senior Organist: John Stansell
Associate Organist/Director: Terence J. Flanagan
Director of Junior Pilgrim Fellowship: Debbie Bocchino
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Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister
Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin
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