

First Sunday in Lent
10 February 2008
10 o'clock in the morning

The Cross of the Uncrowded Way:



Difficult Disciplines of Discipleship

Welcome to this service of worship at First Congregational Church as we begin our Lenten Sermon Series **The Cross of the Uncrowded Way: Difficult Disciplines of Discipleship**. It is a time of beginnings... a time of inward reflection and change... and a time for picking up special pieces of our lives – long neglected. In the words of the Roman poet Horace:

“Dare to be wise, begin! The one who postpones the hour of living rightly is like the rustic who waits for the river to run out before crossing.”

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

Sicilienne (from *Suite, Op.5*)

*Terence J. Flanagan, organ
Maurice Duruflé*

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Dr. David D. Young

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

“Take Up Your Cross,” the Savior Said

New Century Hymnal 204

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of all life's journeys
and Lord of the Lenten journey
now beginning,
we gather in the awareness that we live
in a world of many words
and much confusion.

Center us down during this hour of worship
that we may hear your
simple, still, small voice
and know your Word,
Thus being led in the way of Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we confess that we are reluctant to move through this Lenten journey to Jerusalem. The past appears pleasant in comparison with the future unknown. We meet pressing human need with fear – and pain – and inaction. In a chorus with worshipers everywhere, we say, “We have fallen short, we live in a state of brokenness and alienation.”

O God, our Sustainer and Redeemer, help us to discover the gifts of power, talent and energy which you give us that we might bring healing into a broken world.

Forgive our shortcomings, strengthen our resolve, and renew us in your ever vibrant Spirit. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

‡Congregational Lenten Response

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind but now I see.*

ANTHEM

The Children’s Choir;
Caroline Glover, flute and Jonathan Baker, oboe
I Sing the Mighty Power of God *Arranged by Michael Bedford*
(The congregation is invited to follow the text at Pilgrim
Hymnal #68 and join in singing the third stanza.)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Pat Larrabee

Psalm 63: 1-8

O God, you are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.
Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.
So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.
My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips
when I think of you on my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.

ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

Sicut cervus
Sicut cervus desiderat
ad fontes aquarum,
ita desiderat anima mea
ad te, Deus.

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina
As the hart longs for
flowing streams of water,
so my soul longs for you,
O God.

(Psalm 42: 1)

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 2: 13-16a, 6: 10-18a

B ut now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two,

thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

***‡HYMN**

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Pilgrim Hymnal 348

As the hymn begins, the Sixth Grade and Pastors' Class leave for their classes.

SERMON

Welcome to Central Avenue

Dr. David D. Young

(Prayer)

RESPONDING TO GOD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Our faith illumines the mysteries of life that are within and beyond us.

In the creative processes of God, life was given to us precious and free,
able to endure, destined to grow,
eager to give and receive love.

God expects us to make free choices that:

will establish personal and communal relationships,
are just, loving and helpful to others and
will demonstrate our responsible stewardship.

In the story of Jesus we read of a life lived for others.

In the death of Jesus we feel the pain of evil, and
in his continued life celebrate the renewing power of God.

In the Jesus of faith, we have glimpses of the
character of God.

Through Christ's Church, empowered by the Holy Spirit,
to which we renew our allegiance, we gratefully
received:

the vision of the Bible,
the directions for prayer and praise,
and the mission of Jesus to all the earth.

The mysteries within and beyond
threaten and tempt, confuse and allure,
turn us toward faithfulness.

And our faith calls us to remembrance,
to change our ways to trust,
and to the Source of light and life. Amen.

Adapted from Robert G. Kemper

***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

Rev. Daniel B. England

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 Chancel Choir
Paul Halley*

Jesu, The Very Thought of Thee

Jesu, the very thought of thee
With sweetness fills the breast;
But sweeter far thy face to see,
And in thy presence rest.

No voice can sing, no heart can frame,
Nor can the memory find
A sweeter sound than Jesus' name,
The saviour of mankind.

O hope of every contrite heart,
O joy of all the meek,
To those who ask how kind thou art,
How good to those who seek.

But what to those who find? Ah! This
Nor tongue nor pen can show;
The love of Jesus, what it is
None but his loved ones know.

Jesu, our only joy be thou,
As thou our prize wilt be;
In thee be all our glory now,
And through eternity.

*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

COMMISSIONING OF HONDURAS MISSION GROUP

*CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION

Standing in the Need of Prayer

*(Erik Kroncke will lead us in this song. The congregation will
join the choir on the responses: Standing in the need of prayer
and It's me, it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.)*

*CLOSING SENTENCES

*Leader: Do not pray for easy lives,
pray to be strong persons.*

People: Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers,
but pray for powers equal to your tasks.

*Leader: Then the doing of your work
will be no miracle,
but you shall be a miracle.*

People: Every day you shall wonder at yourself,
at the richness of life which
has come to you
by the Grace of God.

Phillips Brooks

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Toccata (a Dix Pièce)

Eugène Gigout

The flowers in the Meetinghouse are given in loving memory of
Peter Mc Lennan by his family.

The 10 am Service is broadcast live each week on WGCH 1490 AM Radio.
In addition, the service is available through the church's website,
www.fccog.org, where a bulletin can be found as well as a link to the live
broadcast.

Calendar

TODAY

Church School - There is Regular **Church School** today. The lesson today is on the temptations of Jesus in the desert as found in Matthew 4: 1-11. This is not an easy passage for children. Our youngest children will focus on Jesus' time in the wilderness as a time of preparation for his ministry AND a time when although he was alone, God was with him. Our elementary school ages will consider the story from the point of view of the choices Jesus made and making good choices in our own lives even when it is difficult. Our oldest students will look more directly at temptations and choices within that context.

If your family did not receive the materials for the Lenten collection for Heifer International, please contact Rosemary in the Church School.

There is No Church School next Sunday since the public school vacation begins that weekend.

Child Care for babies and toddlers is always available in the Undercroft. Ushers can direct you.

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.

Please join us for **Sunday Afternoons Live 2008** today at 4 pm. Our candlelight concert in the Auditorium begins with tea, cocoa and cookies served from 3:30 pm. The schedule is as follows:

February 10	Vocal ensemble Musica Plenti in a program of opera favorites
February 17	Violinist Sarah Geller
February 24	Baritone Thomas Woodman

JPF / Junior Pilgrim Fellowship (6-8 grade) - Regular meeting from 5-6 pm.

SPF / Senior Pilgrim Fellowship (9-12 grade) - Regular meeting from 6:30-8 pm.

THIS WEEK

JESUS 101 - Announcing the perfect follow up to the popular Bible 101 series! The title of the new series is Jesus 101 (*Saving Jesus*). *Saving Jesus* is a just released DVD-based program that is an exploration of Jesus Christ for the third millennium. It is similar in format to the *Living the Questions* series of a few years ago. Led by Marty Berlin with the assistance from time to time of David Young or Dan England, it involves learning and discussion after viewing a DVD segment. Featuring some of the leading religious voices of today such as Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan and Hans Kung, the series seeks to answer such questions as: "Who was Jesus?", "What can we know about Jesus (and how)?", "Who killed Jesus (and why)?" and "What do words like incarnation and atonement mean and how have they been understood through the ages?"

Please join us in the lounge for five weeks beginning Tuesday, Feb. 12 at 7:30 pm or for the repeat of the program the following Sunday, Feb. 17 at 11:15 am.

Our hope and pledge is that you will go away with a greater and more satisfying understanding of Jesus, the center of our faith.

Cooking for the Heart pot luck dinner - Wednesday, February 13, 6:30-8:30 pm. Come dine on heart-healthy cuisine while listening to Dr. Adam Messenger and Dr. Steven Murphy discuss the latest initiatives in heart disease prevention and treatment. Dr. Messenger practices Internal Medicine and is a Hospitalist at Greenwich Hospital. He also holds a masters degree in pharmacology. Dr. Murphy, Chief Resident at Greenwich Hospital, is a member of the American Society of Human Genetics and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Both doctors are

getting rave reviews for their enthusiastic approach to preventing heart disease by encouraging people to make positive lifestyle changes. Participants are asked to bring a prepared heart-healthy dish to share, and may keep a copy of the *Cooking for the Heart* cookbook. Speak to Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse, at extension 21, to RSVP and to discuss recipes.

Join the Chorus! For six weeks beginning this Thursday, February 14, the first 45 minutes of Chancel Choir rehearsal will be devoted to our music for Good Friday, Dale Wood's *Service of Darkness*. The Choir would welcome extra singers for that occasion. Talk to John this morning, or simply show up on Thursday.

NEXT SUNDAY

JPF - No JPF

SPF - No SPF

NEWS AND NOTICES

Thanks to all who participated in Bible 101 over the past five weeks. In total, over 140 members and friends of our church attended one or more of the sessions. Special thanks to Marge York for helping with the emails and to our sextons for setting the room up for 50 people twice a week. It was quite a ride.

Calling all Greeters!

The Membership Committee is forming a group to welcome people to our worship services on Sunday mornings. The commitment would be about two to three Sundays per year. If you are interested in being a part of this group of greeters, please contact Ginny Breismeister at 637-1791, extension 26 or Bob Mendelsohn at 637-5773.

Share your name

You may have noticed that we have been inviting you to make a name tag as you enter the Meetinghouse each Sunday. As a welcoming, vital, and caring church, we want to get to know each other better. Please wear your name tag when you are in church and at coffee hour so we can greet each other by name.

Volunteers Needed for Call-A-Ride - Call-A-Ride helps seniors to remain independent. Volunteer drivers are needed to drive seniors to doctor's appointments, grocery shopping, hair appointments, visiting friends, etc, in Greenwich. Drivers can either be responsible for a weekly three and a half hour time frame or fill in when they are available. The cars used have been purchased with donations from participating churches, such as the First Congregational Church or donations from Greenwich residents; so, you do not have to drive your own car. We have two retired policemen who set up our schedules and are on a two-way radio connection to help with directions. Orientation rides can help you

become familiar with the process. If you would like to help, please call Bobby Littlefield at 967-3341 for further information.

First Church Honduras Group 2008

David Young
Debbie Crawford
Steve Crawford
Russ Berdoff
Scott Witmer
Nancy McConnell
Chelsea Bacon
Matt Berdoff

David Fraser
Caroline Glover
Lindsey Hascher
Kelsey Ingraham
Caroline McLennan
Kristen Morris
Alex Pugliese
Kendall Witmer

First Congregational Church of Greenwich

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www.fccog.org

Ministers: The Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Senior Pastor: David D. Young

Interim Associate Pastor: Daniel B. England

Minister of Pastoral Care: Ronald E. Halvorsen

Director of Music/Senior Organist: John Stansell

Associate Organist/Director: Terence J. Flanagan

Directors of Youth Ministries: Steve and Debbie Crawford

Director of Church School: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin

Pastors Emeriti: Thomas L. Stiers and Sally Colegrove