

Third Sunday in Lent  
24 February 2008  
10 o'clock in the morning

The Cross of the Uncrowded Way:



Difficult Disciplines of Discipleship



**W**elcome to this service of worship at First Congregational Church as we continue our Lenten Sermon Series **The Cross of the Uncrowded Way: Difficult Disciplines of Discipleship**. May the spirit which meets you here in this place and the shared moments of this liturgy prompt you on your life journey, and may we all learn new and simpler ways to live out our faith.

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

O Gott, du frommer Gott  
(O God, Thou Faithful God)

*Tom Ferry, organ  
Johannes Brahms*

#### CALL TO COMMUNITY

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Rev. Ronald E. Halvorsen*

### PRAISING GOD

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

#### \*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION

Morning Has Broken

*Pilgrim Hymnal 38*

#### OPENING PRAYER

O God our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come;  
we turn again to worship you,  
knowing we must find something –  
Someone –  
beyond ourselves in whom to trust.  
Be our beacon through troubled days;  
Our light in joyful hours;  
Our inspiration in challenging moments;  
and so lead us onward  
to be your faith-full people. Amen.

## CONFESSING TO GOD

### CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God,  
there is much we know,  
and little we confess,  
and more we want,  
and less we need.

So in these days of crowded competitiveness,  
which see us scrapping to “get ahead”,  
forgive us our rush to  
accumulate and to multiply,  
and confirm instead a new desire  
to serve and to simplify.

We humbly bow before the Cross  
and confess that we gild  
the very symbol of our salvation  
in order to mask its plain truth –  
that you, O God, do for us what we need  
and cannot do for ourselves.

We open our lives to your leadership, Lord,  
“til by turning, turning, we come ‘round right”. 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.*

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### FIRST LESSON

*Maryan Ainsworth*

#### Psalm 62

**F**or God alone my soul waits in silence;  
from him comes my salvation.  
He alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress; I shall never be shaken.

How long will you assail a person,  
will you batter your victim, all of you,  
as you would a leaning wall, a tottering fence?  
Their only plan is to bring down a person of prominence.  
They take pleasure in falsehood;  
they bless with their mouths,  
but inwardly they curse.

For God alone my soul waits in silence,  
for my hope is from him.  
He alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.  
On God rests my deliverance and my honor;  
my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

Trust in him at all times, O people;  
pour out your heart before him;  
God is a refuge for us.

Those of low estate are but a breath,  
those of high estate are a delusion;  
in the balances they go up;  
they are together lighter than a breath.  
Put no confidence in extortion,  
and set no vain hopes on robbery;  
if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

Once God has spoken;  
twice have I heard this:  
that power belongs to God,  
and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord.  
For you repay to all  
according to their work.

ANTHEM

Simple Gifts

*The Chancel Choir  
Shaker Song, Adapted by Aaron Copland,  
Arranged for chorus by Irving Fine*

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,  
'Tis the gift to come down where you ought to be,  
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,  
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained,  
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed.  
To turn, turn will be our delight  
'Till by turning, turning we come round right.

SECOND LESSON

KJV Mark 10: 17-22

And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honor thy father and mother. And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

\*‡HYMN

I Would Be True

*Pilgrim Hymnal 489  
As the hymn begins, the Sixth Grade and Pastors' Class leave for  
their classes.*

SERMON

*Dr. David D. Young  
Till by Turning, Turning We Turn 'Round Right  
(Simplicity)*

## RESPONDING TO GOD

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God,  
and we believe God  
believes in us.

On that conviction,  
we stand erect and confident  
that God always leads us  
to do what is right,  
to be what is noble,  
to give and to forgive,  
to serve and to risk,  
to hope and to make dreams come true.

We believe in God.  
In God we trust.

### \*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

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross  
When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,

*The Chancel Choir  
Gilbert M. Martin*

My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ, my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love, so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen!

**\*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**

Dear God, Embracing Humankind *New Century Hymnal 502*

**\*CLOSING SENTENCES**

*Leader: O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve you to the end.*

People: Give me grace to follow,  
my Master and my friend.

*Leader: In simple trust like theirs who heard  
beside the Syrian Sea  
the gracious calling of the Lord,*

People: Let us, like them,  
without a word,  
rise up and follow thee.

**\*BENEDICTION**

## \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

### POSTLUDE

Carillon

*Léon Boëllmann*

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The flowers in the Meetinghouse are given in loving memory of Madeline McConnell by the McConnell 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](http://www.fccog.org), where a bulletin can be found as well as a link to the live broadcast. Previous sermons can be found there as well.

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### *Calendar*

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#### TODAY

**Church School** resumes today with worship in the Daniels Center for our Kindergarten through 5th grade. In their classrooms, children will consider the story of the woman at the well who was blessed to learn that Jesus knew her and that God loved her. She shared this news with everyone who would listen (John 4: 5-42). Parents are asked to help their children remember their offering envelopes each week. We have plenty, so let us know if you need them. Also, see the notice about Family Movie Night on Friday, Feb 29.

#### **Blood Pressure Screening**

A member of the Wellness Committee is available to check blood pressures in room 203 following the Worship Service.

Please join us this afternoon at 4 pm for our last **Sunday Afternoons Live** offering. The candlelight concert in the Auditorium begins with tea, cocoa and cookies served from 3:30. Baritone and son of our congregation, Thomas Woodman, accompanied by Stephen Sulich, will perform Schumann's *Dichterliebe*. Additionally Tom will be singing some Neapolitan songs and a Rogers and Hammerstein set.

**JPF / Junior Pilgrim Fellowship (6-8 grade)** - No JPF.

**SPF / Senior Pilgrim Fellowship (9-12 grade)** - No SPF.

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#### THIS WEEK

**JESUS 101** - The new series, Jesus 101 (*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 on Tuesday at 7:30 pm or for the repeat of the program the following Sunday 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.

Come to the **Leap Year Family Movie Night** hosted by Women's Ministries on Friday, February 29. Pizza is served at 6:00 pm and movies begin at 6:45. Your choices will be *Ratatouille*, rated G or *Evan Almighty*, rated PG. Children are welcome to come in PJ's, bring a blankie and a parent, and be comfortable. Everyone is welcome to join this intergenerational event! RSVP to the office or see the signup sheets in Coffee Hour.

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## NEXT SUNDAY

**Organ Recital** - Our own Terry Flanagan will present an organ recital on Sunday, March 2 at 4:30 pm at St. Bartholomew's Church in New York City. The program is part of the church's Lenten organ recital series and will be 30 minutes long. He will play music of Langlais, Bach, Franck and CocherEAU.

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## NEWS AND NOTICES

**Ushers** - There will be a meeting for all ushers in the Meetinghouse after conclusion of the worship service on Sunday, March 9. Anyone interested in becoming an usher is cordially invited to attend! We will discuss the recent changes in the worship service, how this affects us, and also provide a quick overview of procedures for anyone new. Please see Paul Pacent if you have any questions.

**First Church Growers for the Hungry** - There may yet be more cold and snowy weather before winter ends, but the Growers already have their sights set on a fifth season of producing nutritious, natural vegetables for hungry people in our community. Preparation of the garden will begin in early March, and soon thereafter we will need volunteers of all shapes, sizes and abilities to help with the planting, tending, and picking of our crops. An informational meeting will be held in the Auditorium after Coffee Hour on **March 9, 2008**. If you aren't able to attend the meeting but are interested in learning more about the Growers, please call Marge York at 637-4207.

**Save the Date: Tuesday, April 8** - The Woman's Ministries luxury bus trip for art and history including a fine lunch at Hartford's Best Restaurant. Details to follow.

**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.

**Committees Looking for Members!** If you've been thinking about ways to be involved at First Church but don't quite know how to get started, or, if there is something you might like to do but have not been asked, here are some opportunities for you. Contact the following people to find out what is required:

- Membership Committee: Ginny Breismeister, ext. 26 or  
Bob Mendelsohn, 637-5773
- Parish Life: John Leidy, 531-7938
- Music Committee: John Stansell, ext. 22 or  
Barbara Norrgard, 637-3703
- Church School Task Force: Rosemary Lamie, ext. 20
- Wellness Committee: Sue Asselin, ext. 21

**Meals-On-Wheels** needs drivers to deliver one day per week. Most routes take less than two hours and are less than 15 miles round trip. If you are interested in taking a spin on one of our routes with a current driver to see what it is like, please call Deborah Warfield at 869-1312.

**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. 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.

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## THE LENTEN PROJECT 2008

For the third year, The Lenten Project will again focus on the basic human needs of food and shelter, both in our local community and in less affluent areas of our country.

As we prepare to receive the Good News of Easter morning, we hope that everyone will consider making a gift.

Our goals for the Lenten Project 2008 are twofold:

100% Participation, reaffirming that Outreach is a vital part of the life and mission of First Congregational Church.

\$78,000 in Contributions, representing \$39,000 for shelter improvements at H.O.M.E. in Maine and \$39,000 for the purchase and delivery of nutritious foods by The Food Bank, Neighbor to Neighbor and New Covenant House in Fairfield County.

**Look for the Lenten Project Mailing around March 1.**

### *First Congregational Church of Greenwich*

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870

203-637-1791

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

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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