

Fifth Sunday in Lent

9 March 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 explore our need for confession. To grow in discipleship is our Lenten journey and when we allow God to heal our brokenness, we allow for renewed love and connectedness in Christ. Thank you for being here on this Fifth Sunday of Lent as we prepare for the movement and magnitude of Holy Week soon to be upon us.

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

Two Settings of *PASSION CHORALE*

John Stansell, organ
Johannes Brahms

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Dr. David D. Young

MOMENT OF OPPORTUNITY

Peter De Riemer

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

O God, How We Have Wandered

Pilgrim Hymnal 202

OPENING PRAYER

We come out of a great sense of need
this morning, O God.

We need to praise you, thank you, and
worship you, O God.

We need to be renewed and restored
to a right relationship with
you, O Lord, our strength
and our Redeemer.

Meet us during this hour and lead us on
in the way of Christ. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we confess that we often avoid
confessing what is most needful in our lives.
We have not always been as honest with you as we might.
We have avoided acknowledging the times
when we intentionally distance ourselves from you
and others.
We have pretended everything is all right
with us, when actually we are hurting deep within.
O Lord, you know us better than we know ourselves.
Forgive us for our lack of honesty,
our avoidance, and our pretensions.
Draw us from darkness to light, from isolation to communion,
from brokenness to wholeness, for we seek to be refreshed and
remade in your image that we may be your true,
new people, through Jesus the Christ. 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.*

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Charles John Sedlock, *son of John G. and Diane H. Sedlock*

BAPTISMAL RESPONSE *Sung to the tune of Morning Has Broken*
*Water has touched us, fresh on our foreheads,
showing an inward, spiritual grace.
Into God's family we have been welcomed,
as sons and daughters, we take our place.*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Dale Greene

Psalm 32: 1-5

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

*The Chancel Choir
David Halls*

Wash me thoroughly
Text is Psalm 51: 2-3

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 2: 1-11

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation
from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and
sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having
the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing
from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as
better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own
interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in
you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

*‡HYMN

My Song Is Love Unknown *New Century Hymnal 222*
As the hymn begins, the Sixth Grade
and Pastors' Class leave for their classes.

SERMON

Sharing the Shadows
(Confession)

Dr. David D. Young

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

He, although He was in the divine Form,
Did not think equality with God a thing to be grasped;
But surrendered His rank
And took the role of a servant;
Becoming like the rest of humankind,
And appearing in a human role;
He humbled Himself,
In an obedience that went so far as to die.
For this, God raised Him to the highest honour,
And conferred upon Him the highest rank of all;
That, at Jesus' name every knee should bow,
and every tongue should own that
"Jesus Christ is Lord".

(Philippians 2: 6-11)

***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;

Erik Kroncke, bass; Lisa Flanagan, soprano

Let This Mind Be in You

Mrs. H. H. A. Beach

Text is Philipians 2: 5-11

***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**

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

New Century Hymnal 547

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

Leader: Most precious to me is the assurance of the grace of God – and its availability! To me this means that God loves me when I least deserve to be loved.

People: That God accepts me – as I am – in so many ways unacceptable.

Leader: That God forgives me – again and again – when I fall short of my commitments.

People: That every new day I have a chance – a fresh start – to try again.

Leader: It is this grace which gives me the courage (and endows me with some skill) to attempt to do more than I am able to do and to become more than I can ever become.

People: God's grace frees me to dare and to risk.

Margaret I. Sonnenday

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Cortège (24 Pieces in Free Style)

Louis Vierne

The flowers in the Meetinghouse are given in celebration of Charlie's christening, and in loving memory of the Cahill, Sedlock, Ramsdell and Hathaway great grandparents.

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. Previous sermons can be found there as well.

Calendar

TODAY

The **Church School** classes have a choice of lessons today. Some will learn about Mary, Martha and their brother Lazarus. Other classes will focus on the events of Holy Week. Please remember to sign up for Egg Saturday (March 15 - this year it is the day before Palm Sunday, not Easter). There is no Church School on Palm Sunday or Easter; however, there is child care at all services on these days.

Ushers - There will be a meeting for all ushers in the Meetinghouse after conclusion of the worship service today. 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 is about to begin, and soon we will need volunteers of all shapes, sizes and abilities to help with the planting, tending, and picking of our crops. All present and prospective Growers are asked to stop by our table **in the Auditorium today at Coffee Hour** to learn about the upcoming season and how you can be involved. If you aren't able to visit with us today but are interested in learning more about the Growers, please call Marge York at 637-4207.

Quilt for Susie Craig

Hurrah! The quilt we stitched for Susie Craig is finished and will be displayed today in the Auditorium during coffee hour. Also on display will be two hand-quilted pillow covers made for Susie by Joyce Nye.

Thanks to all who contributed their time and talent. I am sure Susie will be very happy to receive this quilt.

Inge Thalheim

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.

JPF / Junior Pilgrim Fellowship (6-8 grade) - From 5-6 pm it's dodgeball, pictures and paint night.

SPF / Senior Pilgrim Fellowship (9-12 grade) - From 6:30-8 pm it's sunrise service preparation and dodgeball.

THIS WEEK

JESUS 101 meets today at 11:15 am in the lounge. The series, Jesus 101 (*Saving Jesus*), is a just-released DVD-based program that is an exploration of Jesus Christ for the third millennium. Please join us this Tuesday at 7:30 pm in the Lounge for the last class of the series. Our hope and pledge is that you will go away with a greater and more satisfying understanding of Jesus, the center of our faith.

The Church School Task Force invites you to Egg Saturday on March 15 from 10 am – 12 Noon. This is a chance to bring your Easter Egg coloring fuss to us. We have all the supplies and snacks too. Bring your own hardboiled eggs ready to decorate. We are also collecting and packaging food for our friends who live in Pilgrim Towers, a residence in Stamford for seniors. So please bring nonperishable, healthy, small serving sized foods such as single serving sized fruit containers, small peanut butter, small zip top cans of tuna - chicken etc., microwavable soups, small cans of soup (low sodium), 100 calorie snack packs, etc.

NEXT SUNDAY

JPF - It's time for an egg hunt, peep mania, graveyard manhunt and "find bunny." Bring a flashlight.

SPF - There will be sunrise service preparations followed by graveyard manhunt and "find bunny." Bring a flashlight.

NEWS AND NOTICES

CPR Training

Classes are forming for Saturdays March 29 or April 5, from 9 am to 11:30 am. The course, which includes the use of our automatic external defibrillator AED, is for those in need of recertification as well as those interested in becoming newly certified. A third class in the afternoon can be formed if needed. Thanks to the generosity of the Greenwich EMS, and to First Congregational Church for covering the reduced fees, we can offer the classes at no cost to the participants. Please contact Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse at extension 21 to register.

Save the Date and Time: Tuesday, April 8, 8 am - 5:30 pm: Join the Women's Ministries luxury bus trip, *Almost All of the Best of the City of Hartford, Part II*, with a tour of the exhibit *Impressionism by the Sea* at the Hartford Atheneum, a tour of one of the oldest statehouses in the nation (1796), a beautiful building designed by Charles Bulfinch in downtown Hartford; and lunch at Hartford's best restaurant, Max Downtown, with new and old friends and our favorite bus driver. It is the kind of trip that the Women's Ministries has come to expect; all for \$56.00.

Scholarship funds are available. Please see David Young or Ginny Breismeister.

A sign-up sheet is in the office. Please make checks payable to the Women's Ministries. The deadline for reservations is Friday, March 21.

The Lenten Project 2008 Needs Your Contributions! This year we complete our three-year commitment to address the basic human needs of food and shelter, both in our local community and at H.O.M.E. Co-op in rural Maine. The past two years have seen our participation and contributions rise dramatically in response to these needs. But in a challenging economy, our neighbors' needs have become much greater. Our goals for 2008 are **100% Participation** and **\$78,000 in contributions**. Please take the time to read about the Lenten Project in the mailing that was recently sent to all members of our congregation, or see the Christian Outreach bulletin board outside the Auditorium. And please respond by joining us in doing even more to provide shelter and warmth for the people of H.O.M.E. and nutritious foods for our hungry neighbors in Fairfield County.

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 is in need of drivers for delivering 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.

Easter Memorial Decorations

The Chancel Committee invites memorial contributions for decorations for our church this Easter. Any amount is welcome. Please deliver the completed form with your check to the church office (payable to the First Church Flower Fund) on or before Wednesday, March 19. Thank you.

In Memory/Honor of

By

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____

Please print names legibly to minimize spelling errors.

First Congregational Church of Greenwich

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870

203-637-1791

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