

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

## **The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

**12 July 2009**

10 o'clock in the morning



Welcome to this Service of Worship at The First Congregational Church during the informal summer season. Our theme today emerges from Luke's account of a centurion who approached Jesus as one who knew what it meant to carry authority. May this time of worship awaken in you that same awareness of Jesus' authority which touched the centurion. In the words of Edward Worsdell:

*"Our safety does not lie in the present perfection of our knowledge of the will of God, but in our sincerity in obeying the light we have, and in seeking for more."*

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### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

\*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

#### **PRELUDE**

My soul doth magnify the Lord

(Schübler-Chorale, BWV 649)

*Terence J. Flanagan, organ*

*Johann Sebastian Bach*

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Rev. Dr. David D. Young*

### **PRAISING GOD**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

#### **\*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

*Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 251*

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

A new day dawns

and with it the call

to respond to your creation,

O God of newness.

Draw near to us

both in our speaking

and in the silence

that we might hear your voice

and respond with faithful living

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## CONFESSING TO GOD

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In the simplicity of this worship hour,  
we confess our attachment to complex schemes  
and endless calculations which give the illusion that we control,  
O God of caring.

In the silence of personal self-reflection,  
we confess our absorption in the hectic hum of busyness  
which helps us to feel that we are doing something,  
O God of Active Love.

In the soaring moment of inward renewal,  
we confess our fascination with things external to our  
true identity which divert our energies from authentic centering,  
O God of Bestowal.

Forgive us  
in this time of inner assessment  
for all those moods and movements in our soul which separate  
us from you and your Spirit-filled presence in our lives,  
for we would be restored this day to the joy of your salvation,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

#### ‡Congregational Response

*Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### FIRST LESSON

*Joe McBride*

Daniel 2:12-23

**B**ecause of this the king flew into a violent rage and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed. The decree was issued, and the wise men were about to be executed; and they looked for Daniel and his companions, to execute them. Then Daniel responded with prudence and discretion to Arioch, the king's chief executioner, who had gone

out to execute the wise men of Babylon; he asked Arioch, the royal official, "Why is the decree of the king so urgent?" Arioch then explained the matter to Daniel. So Daniel went in and requested that the king give him time and he would tell the king the interpretation.

Then Daniel went to his home and informed his companions, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions with the rest of the wise men of Babylon might not perish. Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night, and Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Daniel said:

"Blessed be the name of God from age to age,  
for wisdom and power are his.  
He changes times and seasons,  
deposes kings and sets up kings;  
he gives wisdom to the wise  
and knowledge to those who have understanding.  
He reveals deep and hidden things;  
he knows what is in the darkness,  
and light dwells with him.  
To you, O God of my ancestors,  
I give thanks and praise,  
for you have given me wisdom and power,  
and have now revealed to me what we asked of you,  
for you have revealed to us what the king ordered."

#### SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

The Lord is a Mighty God

The Lord is a mighty God and a mighty ruler over all false idols.

*(text taken from the Ninety-fifth Psalm)*

*The Summer Choir*

*Felix Mendelssohn*

#### SECOND LESSON

Luke 7:1-10

After Jesus had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. A centurion there had a slave whom he valued highly, and who was ill and close to death. When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave. When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy of having

you do this for him, for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us.” And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him, “Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed. For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, ‘Go’, and he goes, and to another, ‘Come’, and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this’, and the slave does it.” When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said, “I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.” When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

\*‡HYMN

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation     *Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 263*  
*As the hymn begins, the children will go with Pastor Kate to the*  
*Undercroft for Summer Church School.*

SERMON     *It Takes One to Know One*     *Rev. Dr. David D. Young*

**RESPONDING TO GOD**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that God was in love with the  
world and could not keep the secret.

The telling of it was creation.

We believe that God’s love is constantly being shown  
as creation continues and continues every  
moment of every day.

We believe that Jesus is our window to divinity  
and our mirror of humanity.

Through Jesus we find God’s love for us fully revealed,  
and we discover that God’s will for us is that we  
love one another in full humanness.

We find God’s presence of love with us in the Holy Spirit  
which often speaks to us in the voices of other people.

Therefore, we affirm that openness to God and openness to  
others are two sides of the same coin and that really  
listening to others can help us hear God.

We believe that God never gives up on us and that nothing can separate us from God's love. Alleluia. Amen.

**\*Gloria** *New Century (black) Hymnal 754*  
*Glory to God the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Amen.*

**CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER** *Rev. Avery C. Manchester*

**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*  
With a Voice of Singing *Martin Shaw*  
With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia.  
Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.  
The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia.  
O be joyful in God, all ye lands,  
O sing praises to the honor of his name, make his praise to be glorious.

**\*Doxology** *New Century (black) Hymnal 776*  
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen. Amen.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD**

**\*CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION**  
Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun *Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 202*

## \*CLOSING SENTENCES

*Leader: All real living is meeting.*

People: Existence cannot be possessed,  
but only shared in.

*Leader: What have you then if you  
have not life together?*

People: There is no life that is not community  
and no community not lived  
in praise of God.

*Martin Buber and T.S. Eliot*

## \*BENEDICTION

## \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

## POSTLUDE

Salvation now is come to earth  
(from Orgelbüchlein, BWV 638)

*Bach*

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The 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.

We have **child care for babies and toddlers** every Sunday in the Undercroft downstairs, staffed by adults and assisted by high school students. Your children are always welcome for the entire service or for a respite time if needed. Please see an usher if you need directions.

The 10:00 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). A bulletin can be found there as well as a link to the live broadcast. Previous sermons may also be found there.

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## *Calendar*

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## TODAY

### Church School

Summer Church School continues today and every Sunday throughout July. This "one room schoolhouse" for ages 4 through 10 begins in the Meetinghouse with children and their families worshipping together. As the middle hymn begins, children will go to the Undercroft with Kate Forer for Church School.

## Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, RN, is available in Room 203 after the Worship Service. Stop in to have your blood pressure checked or discuss any health concerns.

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## THIS WEEK

**Nights Off**, the evening women's fellowship group, will meet on Monday July 13 (weather permitting) at Greenwich Point - look for us at a table near the first parking lot beyond the Chimes Building. Bring something to drink and a snack to share and enjoy the company of your fellow church women. This group is open to all women in the church and we would love to see you there! If you do not have a beach pass or for further information, please contact Karen Young at 637-7877 or [klyct1@aol.com](mailto:klyct1@aol.com).

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## NEWS AND NOTICES

**Summer Choir** - The Chancel Choir doesn't rehearse on Thursdays during the summer, but invites all who would like to join them to come on Sunday mornings for a 9:00 am warm-up and rehearsal in the Meetinghouse. Adults and youth are welcome. It's a great time to see if choir is right for you. You can even come just to the rehearsal, if you feel you're not quite "ready for prime time." To help newcomers learn the music, the parts for each week's anthems will be found on the website, [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org), under Music/Choir Learning Files.

The All Church Retreat has been canceled for this upcoming fall weekend of October 16-18. It will be "downsized" to the traditional Women's Fall Retreat. If you are disappointed that the all church retreat is canceled, please let Kate Forer know. We are hoping to plan an All Church Retreat for fall of 2010 and would like to continue to gauge interest.

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## *The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*

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

Ministers: Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. David D. Young

Minister of Communication and Adult Education: Rev. Daniel B. England

Minister of Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Associate Pastor for Christian Education: Rev. Kate S. Forer

Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry: Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

Director of Music/Senior Organist: Dr. John Stansell

Associate Organist/Director: Terence J. Flanagan

Director of Church School: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Stiers and Rev. Sally Colegrove