

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

**The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**  
**31 January 2010**  
10 o'clock in the morning



Welcome to this Service of Worship on this winter Sunday as we continue our Sermon Series, **Back to Basics: Needs vs. Wants**. May this hour spent in God's presence and the company of one another prompt you in your journey of faithful living in the way of Jesus Christ.

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**PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

\*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

**PRELUDE**

Andante (from *Fantasia in F Minor, KV 608*)

*Terence J. Flanagan, organ*  
*Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*

**CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Rev. Mark D. Montgomery*

**PRAISING GOD**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

I Sing as I Arise Today

*New Century (black) Hymnal 83*

(stanzas 3,1,2, and 3)

*The opening hymn is our current Featured Hymn, chosen to complement the sermon series. Featured Hymns may be familiar ones that we want to make sure our children learn, or new ones that we all want to learn.*

**OPENING PRAYER**

We praise you, O God, and thank you for your goodness:  
for life, and health, and strength;  
for the disciplines that strengthen us  
and the delights that give us pleasure;  
for the ties that bind us to our families and friends;  
for the neighbor whom we are to love as we love  
ourselves, and whose burdens we are called to  
bear.

We praise you above all for your Son, Jesus Christ,  
in whose life and death and resurrection we share by faith;  
and for the Holy Spirit by whose power we offer our  
thanksgiving.

To you, O God, be praise forever. Amen.

## CONFESSING TO GOD

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In a corporate world of greed and largeness,  
we confess

our avoidance of involvement  
for fear that we might be overwhelmed.

In a personal world of routine and smallness,  
we confess

our neglect of responsible action  
for fear that what we do will count for little.

In an experienced world of uncertainty and tentativeness,  
we confess

our surrender to discouragement  
for fear that our own ground will simply shift again.

Forgive us

in this time of personal reflection  
for our too-little faith  
which fails to live our visions into reality  
for we would be lifted

beyond largeness,  
beyond smallness,  
beyond tentativeness,  
to the life which is Christ,  
as we pray together...

#### 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.

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

## ‡Congregational Response

*Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

## INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

RESPONSE *(verse 1 of Called as Partners in Christ's Service)*

*Called as partners in Christ's service,  
called to ministries of grace,  
We respond with deep commitment  
fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing,  
side by side and friend with friend,  
Equal partners in our caring  
to fulfill God's chosen end.*

*As the response begins, the Church School children and teachers will leave for their classrooms. Children in second grade and older will leave independently. Children in kindergarten and first graders will meet their teachers at the back of the Meetinghouse (Narthex) and will go to their classrooms as a group. It is not necessary for parents to accompany their children because there are Hall Helpers to guide anyone who needs help.*

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

*Sue McCalley*

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

**F**or the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is

wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

### SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

*The Chancel Choir*

We Would Offer Thee This Day

*Jane M. Marshall*

We would offer thee this day, O God, with sobered minds what we are: that to the enrichment of our life, and of all life, thou mayest make of it what thou wilt. Grant us to be weary at last of our own too safe and cautious lives, and from thy certain Presence here to bring back into this defeated world some liberating sense of that inheritance which has always been ours, except for our poor dealing with it. So fulfill in us what thou didst intend when thy hands shaped us, and of thy grace fit us for thy service. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

*(text by Paul Scherer)*

### SECOND LESSON

*Stu McCalley*

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

\*‡HYMN

Blessed are the Poor in Spirit    *New Century (black) Hymnal 180*

SERMON    *Why Our Brain Needs God*    *Rev. Daniel B. England*

**RESPONDING TO GOD**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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

In the creative process 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, 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.

But 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**

*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. Dr. David D. Young*

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*The Chancel Choir*

The Peace of God

*John Rutter*

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. Amen.

*(from the Book of Common Prayer, 1662)*

**\*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**

O Jesus I Have Promised

*Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 218*

**\*CLOSING SENTENCES**

*Leader: While it is obviously true that without adequate food and space there can be no life... the equation does not hold when reversed. Adequate food and space does not equal life.*

*People: The more matter is outwardly mastered, the more it overwhelms us in our hearts.*

*Leader: The spiritually-minded person does not differ from the materially-minded person chiefly in thinking about different things, but in thinking about the same things... differently.*

People: I think every natural thing which is not in itself a sin can become the servant of the spiritual life, but none is automatically so.

*(John Updike/Charles Ping/C.S. Lewis/William Temple)*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

Allabreve, BWV 589

*Johann Sebastian Bach*

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The flowers for this morning's worship are given by Rosemary Lamie in memory of her father, Bristo Hogue, and in thanksgiving for members of the congregation of First Church whose support, meals and prayers have been so important during her time of recovery.

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 Preschool area. 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*

**TODAY**

**Church School**

There is regular Church School today.

**Bible Study to begin today...**

Join us today as we begin a study on the book of Romans led by Dan England at 11:15 am in the Lounge. (repeat class on Tuesday at 7:30 pm) This is part of a grand tour of the Bible series which included Genesis (sorry, it's over), Romans (you're just in time) and Revelation (which if you don't do Romans, you'll never get Revelation). So here's the deal: you

make the effort to come, we'll make it worth your while. Winter in Rome – it's what all the best people are doing.

### **Blood Pressure Screening**

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

**Cherub Choir** rehearses today in Room 104 from 11:15 to 11:45 am.

**Youth Choir** rehearses today in the Choir Room from 11:20 am to 12:20 pm.

**JPF / Junior Pilgrim Fellowship**, 6-8 grades, meets in Room 103 from 5:00 to 6:00 pm.

**SPF / Senior Pilgrim Fellowship**, 9-12 grades, meets in Room 103 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm.

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## **THIS WEEK**

### **Tai Chi**

February classes will resume on the 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00 am and the 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. The fee is once again \$28.00. Our newest members are greatly enjoying the classes. We urge others to join this month. Each class is different and catching up is easy to do. For any questions, please call Prill Meyer at 203-637-4214.

The **Children's Choir** rehearses on Wednesday from 5:00 to 6:00 pm in the Choir Room followed by pizza in Room 303.

Join our **Hats Off!** book discussion group Thursdays at 10:00 am in the Lounge. We are reading *Olive Kitteridge*, a 2009 Pulitzer Prize winner by Elizabeth Strout. The discussion group meets until 11:30 am.

The **Palmer Handbells** rehearse on Thursday evening from 6:15 to 7:15 pm in the Meetinghouse.

**Chancel Choir** rehearses on Thursday evening from 7:30 to 9:00 pm in the Choir Room.

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## NEWS AND NOTICES

### **Red Cross Blood Drive** – Saturday, February 13

This community blood drive, sponsored by Women's Ministries and the Wellness Committee, runs from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. Please donate the *Gift of Life* or donate some prepared food. Devilled eggs and finger sandwiches are particularly appreciated. Blood donation appointments can be made by calling 1-800-GIVE LIFE. Food contributions can be planned by calling Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse, at extension 21 or look for the sign-up sheet at today's Coffee Hour and in the Church Office on weekdays.

The **International Mission Team** is traveling to Guatemala from March 13 through March 21 to build a home for, and with, a family with [commonhope.org](http://commonhope.org) near the city of Antigua in Guatemala. Anyone age 14 and over is welcome. Call Judy Goodchild if you have questions or sign up with Bobbie Hopkins today. See the International Mission Team website for details: <http://sites.google.com/site/internationalmissionteam/>.

### **Would you like to be an Usher?**

Has it ever crossed your mind that you might like to join the Usher Team? Maybe you have thought about ushering, but never committed by signing up. Well, here is your opportunity to make that commitment to serve First Church. Ushering is a great way to meet new people and to be an important part of each service. There is going to be a supper at the end of February to recognize current ushers and orient new ones. You can be a part of that happening by contacting Bobby Littlefield at 967-3341 or [bobbylitt@aol.com](mailto:bobbylitt@aol.com). You will be warmly welcomed!

Boxed sets of **Contribution Envelopes** for 2010 will be available in the Auditorium during Coffee Hour each Sunday in January. If you requested a set on your 2010 Pledge Card, please stop by and help the church save on postage.

**Earthquake devastates Haiti**, up to 3 million affected. Our help is desperately needed and if you would like to reach out with a financial gift in support of our brothers and sisters there, please consider going to the national United Church of Christ website: [www.ucc.org/disaster/international-alerts.html](http://www.ucc.org/disaster/international-alerts.html) and then click on *Haiti earthquake appeal*. Or if you prefer, you can donate directly through our church with a check marked *Haiti earthquake appeal* on the memo line left in the Offering plate or delivered to the Church Office. Thank You!

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**Sunday Afternoons Live** is a series of chamber music, vocal, piano and jazz concerts held in the Auditorium during the months of January and February. The audience is seated at candlelit tables, creating a comfortable atmosphere. Hot chocolate, tea and cookies are served from 3:30 pm and the performances begin at 4:00, concluding between 5:15 and 5:30 pm. There is no admission charge, but a donation of \$15.00 per person or \$25.00 per family is requested from those who are able to contribute.

### 2010 Schedule

*TODAY*

February 7

February 14

February 21

February 28

**Mauro Bertoli**, piano

No performance

**Susan Hytken**, violin, **Rheagan Osteen**,  
horn, **Christine Diwyk**, piano

**Donald Vega Jazz Trio**

**Melissa Westgate**, cello, **Amaryllis Glass**,  
piano

## *The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870

203-637-1791

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

Ministers: Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. David D. Young

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

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

Minister of Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester

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