

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Second Sunday in Lent
28 February 2010
10 o'clock in the morning



Welcome to this Service of Worship as we begin a Lenten Sermon Series: **Journeying with Christ**. Throughout these next several weeks we will explore the “I am” statements of Jesus.

I am the Way – Walk Me.

I am the Truth – Sing Me.

I am the Life – Live Me.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Herzliebster Jesu

Terence J. Flanagan, organ

Robert Hebble

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

PRAISING GOD

CHORAL INTROIT

*The Youth Choir; Carolyn Paulus, director;
Michael Lepoutre, Kim Rogers, Charlie Baird, and
Jenn Florence, soloists; Rich Zurkowski, Bass Guitar
and Shaw Speer, drums*

Light of the World (from *Godspell*)

Stephen Schwartz

You are the light of the world.

But if that light's under a bushel

It's lost something kind of crucial.

You've gotta stay bright to be the light of the world.

You are the salt of the earth.

But if that salt has lost its flavor,

it ain't got much in its favor.

You can't have that fault and be the salt of the earth.

So let your light so shine before men

so that they might know some kindness again.

We all need help to feel fine.

Let's have some wine.

You are the city of God.

But if that city's on a hill,

it's kind of hard to hide it well.

You gotta stay pretty in the City of God.

You are the light of the world.
But the tallest candlestick
ain't much good without a wick.
You gotta live right to be the light of the world.

CALL TO WORSHIP

*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION

Jesus the Christ Says *New Century (black) Hymnal 48*
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

God of the inner light,
come to us
on the golden rays of the morning,
warming moods
that are frosty,
enlightening minds
that are gloomy;
and as the sun swings higher,
so may our lives
rise to you
in the active praise
of this day's responsibilities,
through Jesus Christ
our risen light. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of truth, we confess that we have been less than honest with you and with ourselves about what really matters in life.
... You have called us in Christ to reflect his truth in all we do, but we have allowed the inner surfaces to become tarnished through neglect.

...You have told us that we are to be lights in a dark world, but we are convinced we must conserve our energy and so the spaces around us are dim indeed.

Forgive us in this time of inner reflection for being called to follow Christ and insisting that His way is obscure, for we would be restored to new faithfulness in our discipleship. In your spirit which is truth we pray our common prayer...

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

*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

Katie Weatherseed

Isaiah 60:1-3

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

The Children's Choir
Michael Bedford

The Lord is My Light

The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear, of whom shall I be afraid? For in times of trouble you hide me in your dwelling; you shelter me and comfort me, and set me high on a rock. Hear, O Lord, when I cry to you, give ear to me and answer; O hide not your face from me, your face, O Lord, do I seek.

(adapted from Psalm 27)

SECOND LESSON

Betsy Kreuter

John 1:3-9, 8:12-20

All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." Then the Pharisees said to him, "You are testifying on your own behalf; your testimony is not valid." Jesus answered, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid because I know where I have come from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. You judge by human standards; I judge no one. Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is valid; for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. In your law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is valid. I testify on my own behalf, and the Father who sent me testifies on my behalf." Then they said to him, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." He spoke these words while he was teaching in the treasury of the temple, but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

***‡HYMN**

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies *Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 43*
As the hymn 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.

SERMON “I Am the Light of the World” *Rev. Dr. David D. Young*

RESPONDING TO GOD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

I believe that we can live on earth according to the teachings of Jesus and that the greatest happiness will come in the world when persons obey his commandment:
“Love ye one another.”

I believe that every question between one person and another is a religious question and that every social wrong is a moral wrong.

I believe that we can live on earth according to the fulfillment of God’s will, and that when the will of God is done on earth as it is in heaven, all of us will love our fellow journeyers and act toward them as we desire they should act toward us.

I believe that life is given to us so that we may grow in love, and I believe that God is in me as the sun is in the colour and fragrance of a flower – the Light of my darkness, the Voice of my silence.

(Helen Keller from Midstream: My Later Life)

***Gloria Patri**

Pilgrim (red) 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

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*The Chancel Choir
Daniel Moe*

Arise, Shine

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the people.
But the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.
And the nations shall come to your light,
and Kings to the brightness of your rising,
Shine, Arise.

***Doxology** *Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 514 with the following text:
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all
creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION

I Am the Light of the World *New Century (black) Hymnal 584*

*CLOSING SENTENCES

Leader: Light looked down and beheld darkness.

“Thither will I go,” said Light.

People: Peace looked down and beheld war.

“Thither will I go,” said Peace.

Leader: Love looked down and beheld hatred.

“Thither will I go,” said Love.

People: So came Light and shone

So came Peace and gave rest.

So came Love and brought Life.

Leader: And the Word was made flesh.

People: And dwelt among us.

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Toccata Festiva

Richard I. Purvis

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. A bulletin can be found there as well as a link to the live broadcast. Previous sermons may also be found there.

Calendar

TODAY

Church School

Today Church School classes will be held as usual and our children will continue to learn about Jesus' healing stories. In addition, we have begun our family Lenten Projects. Please be sure to pick up the materials either in the classroom or in the center of the Undercroft. The projects are designed to help families live through a meaningful and spiritual Lenten season.

No Bible Study Class this week - February 28 and March 2. The next class will be on March 7.

Youth Trip to Guatemala in Review

Please join us in the Auditorium following our Worship Service this morning. In addition to our regular coffee hour fellowship, you will also have the opportunity to hear about the Senior Pilgrim Fellowship (SPF) trip to Guatemala. The trip was absolutely amazing and we have some great stories, videos and pictures to share.

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 11:15 am to 11:45 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.

THIS WEEK

Tai Chi

March classes will be held each Wednesday at 8:00 am and each Thursday at 9:00 am in the Auditorium. The fifth Wednesday in March will be counted in April for fee purposes. March fees are once again \$28.00 for the month. These classes are wonderful for stretching and balance. Questions, 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.

Hats Off!, our stimulating book discussion group, meets every Thursday morning in the Lounge from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. We are now discussing Tracy Kidder's *Strength in What Remains*, a fascinating story of a young medical student who escaped the civil war and genocide in Burundi to find himself at JFK with \$200 and a dream. Come join us.

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.

NEXT SUNDAY

Wellness Lecture on Acupuncture

On Sunday, March 7, learn the many uses of acupuncture from our guest speaker, Dr. Janet Freedman. We look forward to the return of Dr. Freedman, who is an acupuncturist and a physiatrist with Greenwich

Hospital's Physical Medicine Department. Please gather in the Lounge as Coffee Hour winds down.

International Mission Team – Supplies needed by March 7.

Join the members of the International Mission Team in support of their Guatemala trip with your contributions of: tooth brushes and toothpaste, and these school supplies: black, blue and red pens, pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners, glue bottles, 12-pack colored pencils, children's scissors, rulers, watercolor paints, scientific calculators, compasses and protractors. (See the examples on display in Coffee Hour today!) Also, if any of you can provide SPANISH LANGUAGE non-fiction books for all ages, board games, 100 piece puzzles or fiction books for teenagers, those would be welcome as the team sets up a lending library for these. Our travelers will each be carrying suitcases full of your gifts and extending the goodwill of our congregation as they set out to share in the work experience with energy and enthusiasm.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Duke University Chorale

On Wednesday evening, March 10, at 8:00 pm, we will present the Duke University Chorale in concert. Join us for what promises to be an entertaining and uplifting musical experience.

March CPR Training including Defibrillator Use

Saturday, March 20, 9:00 am -12:00 Noon; Saturday, March 20, 1:00 - 4:00 pm; OR Saturday, March 27, 9:00 am - 12:00 Noon. This class is appropriate for first-time participants as well as those in need of recertification. Because of the generosity of GEMS and the church covering the balance of the reduced fees, there is no cost to the participants. The Wellness Committee thanks you for the gift of your time and willingness to help others. To register or get more information, speak to Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse at extension 21.

Don't miss our last Sunday Afternoons Live!

Melissa Westgate, cello, and Amaryllis Glass, piano will perform this afternoon at 4:00. Hot chocolate, tea and cookies are served from 3:30 pm. We conclude 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.

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870

203-637-1791

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