

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Fifth Sunday in Lent
21 March 2010
10 o'clock in the morning



Welcome to this Service of Worship as we continue the Lenten journey. These forty days leading us to Easter provide an opportunity to explore deeply the ponderings and possibilities of faith. May this hour enrich you and draw you closer to God – as together we journey with Christ.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Prelude in B Minor, BWV 544

In commemoration of Bach's 325th anniversary

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

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

Savior, like a shepherd lead us,

Much we need thy tender care;

In thy pleasant pastures feed us,

For our use thy folds prepared.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.

Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the prophets,

We are cautious about our own safety.

We are concerned about our own needs.

We are numb to the hurts of others.

And then we ask,

“Why does no one seem to care?”

Inclusive and loving Lord,

Help us to see

that to be cared for is

the other side of to care.

Open our eyes to your world,

your whole world,

your healthy world,

your hurting world,

So that we may see with the eyes of Jesus

the Christ, our great Shepherd, who taught us to pray...

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.

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

Liz Morris

Psalm 100 (from *The Message*, by *Eugene Peterson*)

On your feet now—applaud God! Bring a gift of laughter,
sing yourselves into his presence.

Know this: God is God, and God, God.

He made us; we didn't make him.

We're his people, his well-tended sheep.

Enter with the password: "Thank you!"

Make yourselves at home, talking praise.

Thank him. Worship him.

For God is sheer beauty,

all-generous in love,

loyal always and ever.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

Psalm 100

Heinz Werner Zimmerman

Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the Lord is God!

It is he that made us, and we are his!

Enter his gates with thanksgiving!

And his courts with praise!

For the Lord is good!

His steadfast love endures forever!

And his faithfulness to all generations! Hallelujah!

SECOND LESSON

Jean Watkins

John 10:1-18 (from *The Message*, by *Eugene Peterson*)

“Let me set this before you as plainly as I can. If a person climbs over or through the fence of a sheep pen instead of going through the gate, you know he's up to no good—a sheep rustler! The shepherd walks right up to the gate. The gatekeeper opens the gate to him and the sheep recognize his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he gets them all out, he leads them and they follow because they are familiar

with his voice. They won't follow a stranger's voice but will scatter because they aren't used to the sound of it.”

Jesus told this simple story, but they had no idea what he was talking about. So he tried again. “I’ll be explicit, then. I am the Gate for the sheep. All those others are up to no good—sheep stealers, every one of them. But the sheep didn't listen to them. I am the Gate. Anyone who goes through me will be cared for—will freely go in and out, and find pasture. A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.

“I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd puts the sheep before himself, sacrifices himself if necessary. A hired man is not a real shepherd. The sheep mean nothing to him. He sees a wolf come and runs for it, leaving the sheep to be ravaged and scattered by the wolf. He’s only in it for the money. The sheep don't matter to him.

“I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own sheep and my own sheep know me. In the same way, the Father knows me and I know the Father. I put the sheep before myself, sacrificing myself if necessary. You need to know that I have other sheep in addition to those in this pen. I need to gather and bring them, too. They’ll also recognize my voice. Then it will be one flock, one Shepherd. This is why the Father loves me: because I freely lay down my life. And so I am free to take it up again. No one takes it from me. I lay it down of my own free will. I have the right to lay it down; I also have the right to take it up again. I received this authority personally from my Father.”

*‡HYMN

My Shepherd Is the Living God

New Century (black) Hymnal 247

SERMON

Do You Get It?

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

For the Lord is a great God;

In his hands are all the corners of the earth;

And the strength of the hills is his also.
The sea is his and he made it;
And his hands prepared the dry land.

O come let us worship and kneel before the Lord our Master.
For he is the Lord our God;
and we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand.

***Gloria**

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

The King of Love My Shepherd Is *Edward C. Bairstow*
The text is found at Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 80.

***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**

Great is Your Faithfulness *New Century (black) Hymnal 423*

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

Leader: He does not say I was – the bread of life...

*People: the true and vital vine, shepherd and door
and light and resurrection.*

Leader: He was indeed but need not say I was.

People: Only I am and I am with you always.

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Fugue in B Minor, BWV 544

Bach

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. Next Sunday, March 28, we begin a three week "hiatus" due to Palm Sunday, Easter and the public school vacation. Church School will resume on April 18. Please remember to continue your Lenten Offering Projects and bring your offering to church on or before Easter! Also, check the online calendar at www.fccog.org for all of the Holy Week Services and events.

Bible Study

There is NO Bible study this week. Classes will resume next Sunday.

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.

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.

THIS WEEK

Women's Ministries goes Green in honor of St. Patrick on March 22

Celebrate the fun - and a green menu - with a potluck supper on Monday, March 22 at 6:00 pm to be held at the home of Irene Savage in Old Greenwich. All are welcome for this fellowship. Phone Joyce Nye at 203-637-3994 for details.

Tai Chi

Classes are held each Wednesday at 8:00 am and each Thursday at 9:00 am in the Auditorium and 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, the women's book discussion group is continuing its journey reading *Brava Valentine* by Adrianna Trigiani. We meet every Thursday morning in the Lounge from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. 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.

CPR Training including Defibrillator Use

Saturday, March 27, 9:00 am-12:00 Noon

Please consider taking this class to improve the safety of all who attend and visit our church. 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.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Good Friday

April 2 is the date, 8:00 pm, the time, for our Service of Music for Good Friday. Plan now to come to hear The Chancel Choir sing Maurice Duruflé's hauntingly beautiful *Requiem*. The choir will be joined by our friends Carol Woodman, mezzo-soprano, and Tom Woodman, baritone, for the solo passages. Terry Flanagan will provide the magnificent organ accompaniment.

Join the Fun! Our traditional "Egg Saturday" event will be held this year on the day before Easter, April 3, from 10:00 am until 12 Noon in the Daniels Center. Your family is invited to join the Church School Task Force for egg coloring, planting signs of new life and learning about the joy of Easter! Sign up during Coffee Hour!

CROP Walk comes to Greenwich!

What is CROP? Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty

What is a CROP Hunger Walk? Neighbors walking together to take a stand against hunger in our world - together we raise awareness and funds for international relief and development, as well as local hunger-fighting.

When and where is the CROP Walk? April 25, 2010, in Old Greenwich, starting at First Church

Why do we walk? We walk because they walk! We walk to raise awareness and raise money for hunger relief in our area and throughout the world. The money raised will support hunger projects in Port Chester, Greenwich and throughout the world.

Who walks? Families, single people, children in strollers, men, women, people with disabilities, people who are happy, people who want to make a difference, people with animals, children, absolutely anyone can be a part of the CROP walk - even if walking is not your thing, you can volunteer in many other ways! Walkers will come from churches and agencies in Greenwich and Port Chester, NY.

How can I sign up? Come by our table in the Auditorium following church, any Sunday between now and the event, to sign up, volunteer or just learn more about CROP.

Easter Memorial/Honor Flowers

The Chancel Committee invites contributions for flowers in the Meetinghouse 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 Sunday, March 28. Thank you.

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

By:

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____

Please print names legibly to minimize spelling errors.

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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