

Welcome to this Palm Sunday Service of celebration and anticipation in the life of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich. The theme of this day is one of joy – tinged with sadness as we anticipate the events of Holy Week. May this hour help us to hail the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life even though the journey will be a struggle. In the words of P.T. Forsythe:

*“We can give God the glory
even when God does not increase our joy;
for our great object is not the delight of our soul
but the glory of God.”*

Palm Sunday

28 March 2010
10 o'clock in the morning

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*All who are able please stand
‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Processional

*Terence J. Flanagan, organ
Warren Martin*

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

PRAISING GOD

CHORAL INTROIT

Hosanna!

Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

*The Cherub Choir;
Lisa Flanagan, director; Debbie Berner, piano
Terence J. Flanagan*

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN INTRODUCTION
Palm Sunday Glory

The Palmer Handbells
Sharon Elery Rogers

*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing thee on high;
3 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
4 To thee be - fore thy pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;
5 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Repeat Refrain



1 who in the Lord's Name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One.
2 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.
3 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
4 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
5 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.



TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

OPENING PRAYER

O God of our journey in time,
who guides the steps of those

who seek to live
in your presence,
draw near the crowded roadways
of our coming and going
that we might be aware
of the one who travels with us this day,
even Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of caring,
we confess our easy drift
into care-less ways,
avoiding the demands of the moment
because we fear
where caring might lead.

O God of movement,
we confess our satisfaction
with staying put,
drawing back from our Jerusalem
because we are convinced
that goodness will be defeated.

O God of struggle,
we confess our willingness
to let things slide,
fearing the tough stand
because we know
that conviction involves cost.

Forgive us on this day of celebration
for all of those energies in our lives
which are unfocused
and therefore out of touch with you
for we would be recaptured by the wholeness of Christ
who cared
and moved
and struggled

in awareness of your will and way and so we dare
to pray the prayer he taught...

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 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.*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Charlie Baird

Luke 20:20-26

So they watched him and sent spies who pretended to be honest, in order to trap him by what he said, so as to hand him over to the jurisdiction and authority of the governor. So they asked him, "Teacher, we know that you are right in what you say and teach, and you show deference to no one, but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But he perceived their craftiness and said to them, "Show me a denarius. Whose head and whose title does it bear?" They said, "The emperor's." He said to them, "Then give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." And they were not able in the presence of the people to trap him by what he said; and being amazed by his answer, they became silent.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM *The Children's Choir; The Palmer Handbells*

He Comes!

Michael Jothan

He comes, sing loud hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

John 14:1-6a

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”

*‡HYMN

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

*New Century (black) Hymnal 213*SERMON *“I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life”**Rev. 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 rank of all;
That, at Jesus’ name every knee should bow and every tongue
should own that “Jesus Christ is Lord”.

(Phillippians 2:6-11)

*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

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

Ride On in Majesty

Craig Phillips

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;
thy humble beast pursues his road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
The angel armies of the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;
the Father on his sapphire throne
expects his own anointed Son.

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow thy meek head to mortal pain,
then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

***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

The Palms

Hymn printed on next page

The Palms



O'er all the way green palms and blos - soms gay
His word goes forth, and peo - ple by its might.
Sing and re - joice, O blest Je - ru - sa - lem...



Are strewn this day in fes - tal prep - a - ra - tion.
Once more re - gain free - dom from de - gra - da - tion.
Of all thy sons sing the e - man - ci - pa - tion.



Where Je - sus comes to wipe our tears a - way
Hu - man - i - ty doth give to each his right
Through bound - less love the Christ of Beth - le - hem



E'en now the throng to welcome him pre - pare, Join all and sing, His
While those in dark - ness are restored to light.
Brings faith and hope to thee for - ev - er - more.



name de - clare, Let ev' - ry voice re - sound with ac - cla - ma - tion, Ho



san - na! Praise to the Lord! Bless him who cometh to bring us sal



va - - - tion!

*CLOSING SENTENCES

Leader: We hail Him as King when he passes us by,

People: We scatter palms and sing praises on high,

Leader: Let praise be our mood and prayer be our friend,

People: That the way of the Cross may be crowded again.

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Marche Triomphale

Nicolas-Jacques Lemmens

The Calla Lilies in the Meetinghouse this Palm Sunday are in loving memory of our parents, Carleton and Margaret Gisborne, by Claire Henry and Ruth Reed and their families.

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

There are no Church School classes today as we will worship together in the Meetinghouse on this Palm Sunday. Next week we will worship together once again as we celebrate a joyous Easter in the Meetinghouse! 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

Today, our Bible Study will look at Romans 12 and 13. Chapter 13 is sure to raise a lively discussion. (If you don't normally participate, read the first few verses in the pew Bible. It will probably get you so riled up you'll want to come). We'll try to figure out why in the world Paul wrote what he did and then figure out what we do with these verses. It should be fun.

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.

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

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 to 11:30 am. Come join us.

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

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!

Interested in Learning about Joining the Church?

Our next New Member Class will be held on Sunday, April 18, 2010 at 11:15 am in the Lounge. It will last approximately two hours and will include lunch. During the class, prospective new members have the opportunity to hear about the history and faith of our denomination, the United Church of Christ, and to learn more about our church and meet the clergy as well as staff. Attending does not obligate you to join but we hope that this time together will strengthen you on the journey of faith. New members will be received the following Sunday, April 25. Child care will be provided at both times. Please feel welcome to join us. If you are planning to attend or you have questions, please contact Ginny Breismeister at ginnyb@fccog.org or 203-637-1791, extension 26.

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.

A big "Thank You!" to the 30 people who trained in CPR this past week. Your gift of time and commitment makes our church a safer place for all our members and visitors. And special thanks to Greenwich EMS, true GEMS, for offering the course at a reduced rate. Look for safety highlights in the Parish Nurse column in the April issue of Meetinghouse Monthly.

The Wellness Committee

Holy Week Schedule

April 1: **Maundy Thursday**

6:00 pm Supper and 7:00 pm Tenebrae Service.

April 10: **Good Friday**

10:00 am Family Service for preschool and school age children.

8:00 pm Service of Music featuring Maurice Duruflé's *Requiem*.

April 12: **Easter Day**

"I Am the Resurrection and the Life"

6:00 am Sunrise Service at Greenwich Point.

"I Am the Resurrection and the Life"

9:00 and 11:00 am Festive Services in the Meetinghouse with choirs, brass and timpani; child care available.

Junior Pilgrim Fellowship/Senior Pilgrim Fellowship Easter Sunrise Service rehearsal is on Good Friday, April 2 at 11:00 am followed by the Good Friday Cross walk.

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