

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Second Sunday of Easter
11 April 2010
10 o'clock in the morning



Welcome to this Service of Worship at The First Congregational Church. We welcome our guest preacher, Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree. Davida is a Connecticut native long associated with the churches of this Conference. She has served as Conference Minister since 1996 and will retire this spring. Under her leadership, our Conference has had a renewed focus on justice, growth at Silver Lake (our Camp and Conference Center) and a new emphasis on the youth and young adult programming of our Conference. Davida has a passion for mission, justice advocacy, and acts of mercy - indeed, to put it briefly, she has a passion for following in the way of Jesus Christ.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Sonata VI in D

John Stansell, organ

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

Chorale and Variations "Vater unser im Himmelreich"

Fuga sostenuto e legato, Finale-andante

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Dr. David D. Young

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

We Offer Christ

New Century (black) Hymnal 527

OPENING PRAYER

O God, because of the Risen Christ,
we are grateful that you walk among us on earth,
bringing life and hope.

Help us recognize you;
help us to be aware of your presence
in our time of worship.

Enable us to stand alongside you
in your ministry of healing
on the crowded roads of our world
through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, you have called us to be a risen community,
enlivened by the Spirit of the victorious Christ.
But we have been a sluggish people, lazy in our prayers,
lukewarm in our faith, careless in our ministries,
self-centered in our love.
Fearful of the future, we have embraced the tried and the true,
and so we have missed our Lord
who goes ahead of us to Galilee.
O God, who by raising Christ would raise us to new life,
forgive our doubts and hesitations,
our excuses and our stubborn resistance.
Bring us into your new age, leaping for joy rather than dragging
our heels, for the sake of the One who makes all things new,
and who taught us to 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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Phoebe Griffith

Acts 5:27-32

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

O Sons and Daughters

15th century French melody

arranged by Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

O sons and daughters, let us sing!
The King of Heaven, the glorious King,
Over death today rose triumphing.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

When Thomas first the tidings heard,
How they had seen the risen Lord,
He doubted the disciples' word.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

"My pierced side, O Thomas, see:
My hands, my feet, I show to thee;
Not faithless but believing be."
Alleluia! Alleluia!

No longer Thomas then denied,
He saw the feet, the hands, the side:
"Thou art my Lord and God," he cried.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

SECOND LESSON

Lynn O'Gorman

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met

were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

*‡HYMN

I Love to Tell the Story

New Century (black) Hymnal 522

SERMON

We are Witnesses

Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I celebrate the church of Jesus Christ,
where two or three or thousands can gather together
in the Lord's name
and touch this world
with the amazing good news that somebody cares,

that God joins us in community so that someday
this world will be loved to wholeness.

I celebrate the church,
where every child of God is hailed as unique and valuable,
where arms are opened to the world's outcasts,
where the tired, beaten, disillusioned world is invited
and surprised
by the life-giving word
that Christ accepts the children,
all the children of the world.

I celebrate this way of life
that takes me and mine from the center of things
and focuses on ours and theirs.

I celebrate the trust we hold,
the spirit we share,
the attitude of partnership.

I celebrate that love lives among us,
that God's spirit pervades our being, our community.
We as God's celebrants dance through this world together
listening for God's music,
responding to God's word,
praising God with clapping hands and moving feet,
praising God with justice and mercy and humbleness,
praising God with changed lives.

(Ann Weems)

***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. Daniel B. England

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

We Come, O Christ

The Chancel Choir

Russell Schulz-Widmar

(based on the tune *RATHERVUE* by Alfred V. Fedak)

We come, O Christ, as people seeking
Some sign of blessing on our lives,
Yet scarcely pause to hear you speaking
Or wait until your time arrives:
Help us let go, help us be still,
In patience may we learn your will.

To taste the cross within the chalice,
To hear the music born of grief,
To feel the hurt concealed by malice,
To sense in doubt unripe belief:
Give us, O God, new hearts, new eyes;
Wake us to love and make us wise.

Renewing Spirit, come breathe through us
With hope that heals, with faith that thrills;
Burn off the sins still clinging to us,
Transform our minds, convert our wills:
So may your gifts of grace increase
To send us forth in love and peace.

Unite our hearts and shape our living
To share the yolk that sets us free:
Great Triune God, joined by self-giving,
The life of true community,
Our many prayers at last make one:
“Your kingdom come, your will be done.”

(text by Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1992)

*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

Community of Christ

New Century (black) Hymnal 314

*CLOSING SENTENCES

Leader: God has raised this very Jesus from death and we are all witnesses to this fact. (Acts 2:32)

People: Even in our disbelief, you extend to us the challenge to go throughout the whole world and preach the gospel.

Leader: O Christ, help us to hear anew the Resurrection call to follow you.

People: May we accept the freedom and responsibility that the Resurrection brings.

(Paula Crosby)

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Divertissement (from *24 Pièces en style libre*)

Louis Vierne

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

There are no Church School classes today so we worship together in the Meetinghouse as the public schools are on vacation. Church School will resume next Sunday, April 18.

Program Fair During Coffee Hour

There will be a Program Fair today during Coffee Hour in the Auditorium following Worship giving you the opportunity to learn more about various programs and activities of the church.

Bible Study

This week we end our study of Romans with the last few chapters and we'll be discussing the "tyranny of the weaker brother." Next week: the start of a new Bible Study on the book of Revelation (note! Not Revelations). There are angels and horses and scrolls and lakes of fire and glass and other things that make reading the *Da Vinci Code* look like a Nancy Drew novel. The study will be accompanied by a video from world-renowned theologian Dr. Bruce Metzger who does a good job giving the newcomer to this book (the strangest thing you've ever read in your life and also the most inspiring) a chance to get through it without committal papers being drawn up. Oh yes, Dan England will be there as well. So fasten your seat belts and hold onto your hats: We're about to enter the world of Apocalypse, Then, Now and Yet to Come. Sign up in the Auditorium after Worship.

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 DOES NOT rehearse today.

Youth Choir DOES NOT rehearse today.

THIS WEEK

Tai Chi

April classes on Wednesday continue as follows: 14, 21 and 28 at 8:00 am. Thursday classes continue as follows: 15, 22, and 29 at 9:00 am. The fee is \$35. See you there!

The Children's Choir DOES NOT rehearse this week.

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.

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

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.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Organist/raconteur Hector Olivera will be joined by our own John Stansell for a very entertaining evening of MUSICAL FUN on Saturday, April 24, at 8:00 pm. The featured work will be Alexandre Guilmant's *Symphony I for organ and orchestra*, with John at the organ and Hector realizing the orchestra part on his Roland *Atelier* Orchestral Organ. That's very accessible music and beyond that, the entire program is guaranteed to delight. Go to www.hectorolivera.com to get a video preview of what to expect. Plan an evening with friends for dinner and the concert. You won't need a ticket, but we will ask for a \$ 25.00 per person contribution from those who are able.

Communion Class

Second graders and their parents begin their Communion exploration with a parents-only Communion 101 class on Monday, April 19 at 7:30 pm led by David Young. On the following Sunday, April 25, during Church School, the children and their parents will continue to learn together and make family Communion banners. On Sunday, May 2 the families will be in Worship to participate in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Any

family whose children, when in second grade, did not have this opportunity and would like to participate now should call Rosemary at extension 20 to explore this option further.

CROP Walk comes to Greenwich!

In two weeks, on April 25, members of churches and groups from Greenwich and Port Chester will walk here in Old Greenwich to raise awareness and funds to support hunger projects in Port Chester, Greenwich and throughout the world. Come to Coffee Hour and sign up to walk, to volunteer or just learn more about CROP. As hosts and the home base for the Walk, FCCOG needs many hands and feet!

Glass House Women's Ministries Bus Trip is fully booked for June 9 and June 10. Plans are all finalized and your reservation money is needed. *Please send a check for \$95.00, (new lower price), made out to Women's Ministries and sent to the church marked on the envelope "w-m bus trip" or leave it in the bus trip box in the Church Office as soon as possible, but no later than April 18.* Your money is needed to hold our place with a deposit. Details to follow by email. Note: if anyone would like to sign up for the wait list, they are welcome to do so. Contact Joyce Nye, joyceathome@sbcglobal.net or 203 637-3994.

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