

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Third Sunday of Easter
18 April 2010
10 o'clock in the morning



Welcome to this Service of Worship at The First Congregational Church as we begin a spring sermon series in which we will be exploring together the great themes at work in the Lord's Prayer. May what we share together in this time of worship be a source of strength and encouragement to you in the unfolding of your life in Christ. In the words of the English theologian, F. D. Maurice:

*"The Lord's Prayer may be
committed to memory quickly,
but it's slowly
learnt in the ways of the heart."*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*All who are able please stand
‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Epigrammes 7, 5 and 3

*Terence J. Flanagan, organ
Zoltán Kodály*

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Daniel B. England

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 251

OPENING PRAYER

As journeyers in time and space,
we stand in your presence,
O God of heaven and earth.

We are grateful that you
accompany us through all the spaces
and paces of our living,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are involved in the mystery of our origins,
O God of Creation, and so we wonder why we are here
and what we bring to enhance the common good.

We are immersed in the mystery of the journey itself,
O God of Movement, and so we search for some sign of
meaning along the way which will help us to see and
to celebrate.

We are puzzled by the mystery of destination,
O God of Futures, and so we stretch our very being toward
new possibilities and new ways of seeking your plan in our
lives.

Forgive us on this day of reflection and renewal
for avoiding our past, denying our present, fearing our future,
for we would claim the companionship of Christ
in whom all things hold together
and 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

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Jackson Charles Shaw, *son of Justin C. and Jennifer M. Shaw*

BAPTISMAL RESPONSE *Sung to the tune of Morning Has Broken*
Water has touched us, fresh on our foreheads,
showing an inward, spiritual grace.
Into God's family we have been welcomed,
as sons and daughters, we take our place.

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

Olivia Hartwell

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Pater noster (The Lord's Prayer)

Pater noster qui es in coelis,
sanctificetur nomen tuum:
adveniat regnum tuum:
fiat voluntas tua, sicut in coelo et in terra:
panem nostrum quotidianum da nobis hodie:
et dimitte nobis debita nostra,
sicut et nos dimittimus debitoribus nostris:
et ne nos inducas in tentationem:
sed libera nos a malo. Amen.

*The Chancel Choir
Igor Stravinsky*

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 6:5-15

“**A**nd whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

“Pray then in this way:
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And do not bring us to the time of trial,
but rescue us from the evil one.
For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father
will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will
your Father forgive your trespasses.”

*‡HYMN

Father Almighty, Bless Us With Thy Blessing

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 333

SERMON

Address Still Known

Rev. Dr. David D. Young

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that we are never alone. God is with us,
is our father, and has made everything, including us.

We believe that the world is kept in God’s hands.
God has sent his only son, Jesus Christ, into the world.

We believe that he was crucified and died to free us
from evil and guilt. He is risen and is our brother.

We believe that we are not alone among people. Around us are
the large fellowship of the Church, the people,
whom God loves.

They live everywhere, in all countries of the world, on all
continents and among all races. We are part of them.

We believe that we can never go so far from God that return
would not be possible, and we can never go astray so much
that God will not draw us back again.

We believe that God wants life for us and not death, joy and
not sadness, and that God is with us today and always!
Amen.

*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

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*The Chancel Choir
Eric Thiman*

Lord of the Worlds Above

Lord of the worlds above,
How pleasant and how fair
The dwellings of thy love,
Thy earthly temples are!
To thine abode
My heart aspires
With warm desires
To see my God.

O happy souls that pray
Where God appoints to hear!
O happy men that pay
Their constant service there!
They praise thee still:
And happy they
That love the way
To Zion's hill.

They go from strength to strength
Through this dark vale of tears,
Till each arrives at length,
Till each in heaven appears:
O glorious seat;
When God, our King,
Shall thither bring
Our willing feet!

God is our Sun and Shield,
Our Light and our Defence;
With gifts his hands are filled,
We draw our blessings thence.
Thrice happy he,
O God of hosts,
Whose spirit trusts
Alone in Thee! Amen.

***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**

Now Thank We All Our God

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 29

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

*Leader: The glory of the star
the glory of the sun --
we must not lose either
in the other.*

People: We must not be so full
of the hope of heaven
that we cannot do our work on earth;
we must not be so lost
in the work of the earth
that we shall not be inspired
by the hope of heaven.

*Leader: I never saw a moor,
I never saw the sea;
Yet know I how the heather looks,
And what a wave must be.*

People: I never spoke with God,
nor visited in heaven;
Yet certain am I of the spot
As if the chart were given.

(Phillips Brooks, Emily Dickinson)

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Postlude (from *24 Pièces en style libre, Op.31*)

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

Church School resumes today. We will hear about spreading the good news and the story of Philip and the Ethiopian. You might want to ask your children to tell you one thing they learned in Church School today. You may learn something too! Also today, the sixth graders will be visiting Pilgrim Towers to help them begin their spring planting. All Church School families will be challenged to join with their classes and come to the CROP Walk next Sunday and to raise money to fight hunger and support Neighbor to Neighbor's Food Bank.

Interested in Learning about Joining the Church?

Our next New Member Class will be held today following Worship 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 next Sunday, April 25. Child care will be provided at both times. Please feel welcome to join us.

Bible Study

Today we begin 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. Join us in the Meetinghouse.

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.

THIS WEEK

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.

Tai Chi

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

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 meets every Thursday morning in the Lounge from 10:00 to 11:30 am. We welcome new faces! For more information, call Marcia Livingston at 203-625-0772.

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.

Organ Concert

This Saturday, April 24, at 8:00 pm, come to hear international organ virtuoso HECTOR OLIVERA in a concert of classical favorites played on his Roland Atelier orchestra organ. Hector will be joined by John Stansell for the concluding piece, *Symphony I for organ and orchestra* by Alexandre Guilmant.

NEXT SUNDAY

International Mission Team

Next Sunday after Worship, the International Mission Team will give a brief overview and slide show of their recent trip to Guatemala with Project Common Hope. Come hear about how the work of the mission team and our congregation's generous contribution of over 300 pounds of donations helped make a difference in the lives of children and their families.

CROP Walk comes to Greenwich

We need you! Next week 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. You may contribute directly to our walk online at www.cropwalkonline.org/greenwichct.

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870

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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