

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Fifth Sunday of Easter

2 May 2010

10 o'clock in the morning



Welcome to this Service of Worship at The First Congregational Church. Today, we will continue to explore the Lord's Prayer.

*"It can be said in less
than thirty seconds
but it takes a lifetime
to really live it."*

Meditate upon "give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors" as you prepare for worship.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Terence J. Flanagan, organ
Prélude Pastoral (from *Second Suite, Op. 27*) *Léon Boëllmann*

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. Dr. David D. Young
Please sign and pass the red book.

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

O My Soul, Bless Your Creator *New Century (black) Hymnal 13*

OPENING PRAYER

We rejoice, O God,
that you have brought us into fellowship with you,
that you have given us direction in our daily living,
that no matter where we are, near or far,
we are never absent from you.

Through our worship may we enter into your fullness of life,
and may our hearts be warmed by the joy of knowing that
you are with us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we know how often our world is torn by hatred and misunderstanding, and we know how much this pains you.

We know that we are not personally responsible for all of this tornness, but we also know we stand guilty for some of it.

There have been times when we have been quick to accuse and slow to forgive.

There have been times when we have let small differences mushroom into vast difficulties while at the same time we have ignored important understandings that should have drawn us together in love.

For our tendency to push hate before love and angry accusation before patient understanding, forgive us God. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

‡Congregational Response

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Liz Morris

Luke 24:28-35

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on

the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Lord, for Thy Tender Mercies' Sake

The Chancel Choir

Richard Farrant

Lord, for thy tender mercies' sake, lay not our sins to our charge, but forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives, to decline from sin and incline to virtue, that we may walk with a perfect heart before Thee now and evermore.

SECOND LESSON

Sue McCalley

Ephesians 4:25-32

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

***‡HYMN**

Let Us Break Bread Together *New Century (black) Hymnal 330*
As the hymn begins, the Church School children and teachers will leave for their classrooms. Children in second grade and their parents will remain in Worship to participate in the Sacrament of Communion. 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.

SERMON

Bread and Forgiveness

Rev. Dr. David D. Young

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a continually creating God
who calls us to costly love that goes
beyond seventy times seven and even
the infinity of modern computers.

We believe in a continually healing
Holy Spirit who calls us always to
open our lives to the renewing power
of love.

We believe in the continually caring
community called the Church
which is the physical presence of
Christ in our world.

We believe in a continually growing
relationship between ourselves and God
which is not even ended by death. 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 OFFERING

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*The Chancel Choir
William H. Harris*

Fear not, O Land

Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice:
for the Lord will do great things.
Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field.
Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice:
for the pastures of the wilderness do spring,
for the tree beareth her fruit,
the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength.
Be glad then, ye children of Zion,
and rejoice in the Lord your God.
The floors shall be full of wheat,
And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the Lord your God,
that hath dealt so wondrously with you.

(Joel 2:21-26)

***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**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (*seated*)

Prayer of Consecration

Serving of the Bread and Cup

In the tradition of our church, let us partake of the bread as it is served, remembering our individual uniqueness in the eyes of God and our diversity within the Body of Christ. Let us hold the cup until all have been served, remembering our oneness with God and our unity in the Body of Christ.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of you Son, Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit and singing together the prayer that Jesus 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.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

***CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

New Century (black) Hymnal 23

*CLOSING SENTENCES

*Leader: When one has great gifts,
what answer to the meaning of existence
should one require
beyond the right to exercise them?*

People: If we Christians lived as we should,
non-believers would be more astonished
at our lives than at miracles.

*Leader: Friends, let us love one another,
for love is of God;
and everyone that lives is born of God,
and knows God.*

People: It is love alone
whereby we are turned to God,
and changed into the form of God,
whereby we cleave to God
and are made one with God.

(St. John/Martin Luther/W.H. Auden/John Chrysostom)

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

A WORD ABOUT HOSPITALITY AND INVITATION

POSTLUDE

Final - Marche (from *Second Suite, Op. 27*)

Boëllmann

The flowers in the Meetinghouse are given in loving memory of Catherine Penrose Lewis by her husband, Miller, and her children: Robert, Susan and Laurel.

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

As we begin the last segment of this year's curriculum, we are learning about Pentecost today. Although it is a few weeks early, we will be prepared when the time arrives. Confirmands are on retreat this weekend as they prepare for Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday! The second graders and a few older children are in Worship today with their families to participate in the Sacrament of Communion. The Pastors' Class will meet in Room 104 today.

Bible Study

There will be NO Bible Study this week. Classes resume next week.

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 11:15 am to 12:15 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

Dates and times for May classes are as follows: Wednesdays at 8:00-9:00 am on May 5, 12, 19, and 26; Thursdays at 9:00-10:00 am on May 6, 13, 20, and 27. The fee is \$28. Come and bring a friend. Every session is different.

Music Sunday Maypole

Dr. Stansell is still looking for a few more youngsters, grades 3 through 5, to participate in the Music Sunday Maypole. There will be two rehearsals, Wednesdays, May 5 and 12, from 5:00 to 5:40 pm, time stolen from Children's Choir rehearsal. See him after church or call him at the Church Office if your child is interested.

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.

NEXT SUNDAY

Have You Left a Coat Here?

There are approximately 10 jackets, down vests and other outerwear that have been hanging on the coat hooks opposite the upstairs kitchen for quite some time - in some cases for months. Please take a look there today; you might find one of your missing treasures! If they are not claimed by Sunday, May 9, they will be making the trip to The Rummage Room.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Women's Ministries Annual Meeting and Luncheon

All women at FCCOG are invited to the Women's Ministries Annual Meeting and Luncheon on Wednesday, May 12, 2010 at 11:30 am in the Auditorium. Come enjoy a Catered Luncheon! Business to be conducted: Election of Officers, Vote on The Rummage Room Allocations and Vote on Changes to the Women's Ministries By-laws.* The 40th Annual Quilt Raffle is at 12 Noon and back by popular demand... The Rummage Room Fashion Show. The cost is \$10 payable at the door. Call the Church Office or sign up at Coffee Hour. RSVP by May 7!

*A copy of the proposed by-law amendments is available in the church office.

Women's Ministries 40th Annual Quilt Raffle

Quilt raffle tickets are being sold today during Coffee Hour. Each ticket costs \$5.00 and the drawing will be held at the Women's Ministries Luncheon on Wednesday, May 12 at 12 Noon. You need not be present to win. The grand prize is a queen-size quilt hand made by our own Kettle Quilters in a white on white textured pattern. This is a priceless heirloom that could be yours... so don't forget to buy a ticket! All proceeds are donated to local charities.

CROP Walk a Success

Last Sunday's CROP Walk saw a great turnout of about 100 people and we raised as well as met our goal of \$10,000! Contributions are still coming in, showing we will exceed our goal. We wish to thank those who contributed and walked for their support.

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