

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Sixth Sunday of Easter
9 May 2010
10 o'clock in the morning



We extend a hearty and sincere welcome to you this morning. Everyone here was once a visitor who found the services and fellowship of this church meaningful to their lives. Today marks an end and a beginning: the end of the sermon series on the Lord's Prayer and the beginning of membership for several folks who are joining us today. We're glad you're here.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Terence J. Flanagan, organ

Two Chorale Preludes from the *Orgelbüchlein*

In Thee, Lord, Have I Put My Trust, BWV 640

I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ, BWV 639

Johann Sebastian Bach

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

Please sign and pass the red book.

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come let us worship God,

People: The God in whose image we are made.

Leader: Let us welcome one another in joy,

People: Recognizing that which binds us together.

Leader: Let us welcome one another in joy,

People: Recognizing our unique qualities.

Leader: Come let us worship God,

People: The God in whose image we are made.

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Jesus Shall Reign

New Century (black) Hymnal 300

OPENING PRAYER

Continue your creation within and among us, Gracious God,
as we gather to worship you.

Breathe into us the breath of life, so we may discover anew
your empowering gifts.

We want to use well the talents and resources you place in
our hands.

Open our eyes, attune our ears, and increase our awareness of
your presence with us, so we may be equipped to face
temptation and trial. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, there are times when we are afraid to love one another
because it makes us too vulnerable. There are times when we are
afraid to give to one another just in case there is not enough to go
around. There are times when we question too much and act too
little. There are times when our actions could have used a little
more planning. Forgive us and welcome us back to you. For
yours is the Kingdom, and, as your children, we offer the prayer
Jesus taught, saying...

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

Gwen Pfetsch

Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

For He Shall Give His Angels (from *Elijah*)

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

For he shall give his angels charge over thee, that they shall protect thee in all the ways thou goest; that their hands shall uphold and guide thee, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

SECOND LESSON

Pat Larrabee

Revelation 22:1-7

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

And he said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true, for the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.”

“See, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

***‡HYMN**

Shall We Gather at the River *New Century (black) Hymnal 597*
As the hymn 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.

SERMON *Lead Us Not Into Temptation... Thine is the Kingdom*
Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

RESPONDING TO GOD

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Roll Call of Candidates

(Candidates will come forward as their names are called)

Commitment of Candidates

Leader: We are called of God to be disciples through Christ Jesus. Do you here affirm your consecration in God through Jesus Christ?

Candidates: I do.

Leader: Friends in Christ, we bid you welcome. We greet you as fellow disciples of one Master in the Church Universal. Our purpose is to promote the increase of the love of God and neighbor. Will you now unite yourself with The First Congregational Church of Greenwich, accepting its responsibilities, praying and working for its usefulness, sustaining its worship, supporting its wider mission, and living with us in the bonds of Christian fellowship?

Candidates: I will.

Clergy: We believe in the freedom and responsibility of the individual soul and the right of private judgment. We join in fellowship with other congregations of the United Church of Christ

in declaring our steadfast allegiance to the faith which our forebears confessed, which from age to age has found its expression in the historic creeds of the Church Universal and of our Communion, and in affirming our loyalty to the basic principles of our representative democracy. We hereby set forth the things most surely believed among us concerning faith, polity and fellowship.

Owning of the Covenant (*all, standing*)

We believe in God, infinite in wisdom, goodness and love; and in Jesus Christ His Son, our Lord and Savior, who for us and our salvation lived and died and rose again, and liveth evermore; and in the Holy Spirit, who renews, comforts and inspires us. We are united in striving to know the will of God as taught in the Holy Scriptures and in our purpose to walk in the ways of the Lord, made known or to be made known to us. As Jesus accepted, welcomed, included and embraced all people without exception, so do we accept all who join with us in our search to walk in the ways of the Lord. We hold it to be the mission of the Church of Christ to proclaim the gospel to all people, exalting the worship of God and laboring for the promotion of justice, the reign of peace and the realization of human understanding. Depending upon the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth, we work and pray for the transformation of the world into the Kingdom of God, and we look with faith for the triumph of righteousness and the life everlasting.

***SONG OF AFFIRMATION**

*Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The sharing of a common life is like to that above.*

CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

Toccata of Praise

Joseph M. Martin

Jubilate. Sing to the Lord a new song. I will sing to the Lord most glorious. Fill the world with a joyful sound. I will sing to the Lord most glorious. Power and glory and blessing be unto the Lord. With every glad hosanna I praise the Lord of life. With every alleluia give praise to

God on high. Alleluia! I will sing the glory of the Lord! I pledge my voice to you, O God. I lift it up to you, O God. You are the Everlasting Song! Sing to the Lord a new song. Sing to the Lord of hosts a new song! Jubilate, people, sing and rejoice! Make a joyful noise. Nations now join as one, unified by peace and love. Proclaim the glory of the Lord. Alleluia. I will sing praise to God.

***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** *Rev. Daniel B. England*

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

***CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION**
He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought *Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 370*

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

Leader: God, we are a part of your Kingdom.

People: Draw us together.

Leader: God, we are a part of your Kingdom.

People: Send us forth from this place to share the best of who we are.

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

If You But Trust in God to Guide You, BWV 642
(from *Orgelbüchlein*)

J. S. Bach

The flowers in the Meetinghouse are given in loving memory of her mother and father, Dorothy and Frank Crabill by Linda Dowling.

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.

New Members Joining Today

Anne Castine, 14 Larkspur Lane, Greenwich, CT 06831, 203-629-1402. Anne comes to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. She is married with three children and grew up at FCCOG and is happy to be back.

Beverly Espinosa, 18 Bryon Road, Old Greenwich, CT 06870, 203-698-2268. Beverly comes to First Congregational Church by letter of transfer from St. Saviors Church. She is a Silversmith but is currently back in school studying Graphic Design. Beverly is interested in Latin America, recycling, reading and walking. She has two adult children, M.D. and Annie.

George and Alida Meyers, 253 Dolphin Cove Quay, Stamford, CT 06902, 203-323-1950. George and Alida come to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. George is retired and enjoys golf, travel, music and books. Alida is the owner of AM Designs. They have lived in the area for 36 years. They have two children and two grandchildren with two more on the way.

Calendar

TODAY

Church School

Today there is regular Church School.

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! Tickets will also be available at the luncheon prior to the drawing, *but please arrive promptly at 11:30 am to purchase*. All proceeds are donated to local charities.

Bible Study

More than 60 people are coming to learn about the increasingly less mysterious book of Revelation, which is as much about our current faith as it is about future events. Today, we'll finish off chapter 6 and move into chapters 7, 8 and 9. We'll talk about the great tribulation and the Lordship of the Lamb over history. As we have learned previously, this is a book that calls on all of our imagination to see and hear things we have never experienced before. The group is led by Dan England and today meets in the Lounge. There will be a brief review of where we are in case you haven't been able to come up to now. We will also meet on Tuesday evening at 7:30. Join us...

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 12, 19, and 26; Thursdays at 9:00-10:00 am on May 13, 20, and 27. The fee is \$28. Come and bring a friend. Every session is different.

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. (A copy of the proposed by-law amendments is available in the Church Office.) 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!

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.

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