



Rejoice,

Give Thanks

and

SING!

Music Sunday – 16 May 2010
The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Welcome to this Service of Worship at The First Congregational Church as we celebrate Music Sunday. On this special day we celebrate and give thanks for all the wonderful gifts of music which enrich and nurture our worship life. May the prayers and praise, the meditation and music of this service inspire in you a deeper faith and commitment to God. Blessings for the journey!

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*All who are able, please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

*from La Flûte de Pan
Pan and the Shepherds*

*Mary Fike, flute; John Stansell, piano; The Palmer Handbells
Jules Mouquet*

Declare the Maker's Praise

Joseph D. Daniel, arranged by Tammy Waldrop

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. Dr David D. Young

PRAISING GOD

INTROIT

Sing, Rejoice, Clap Your Hands
Sing, rejoice, clap your hands,
sing a song of praise to the Lord.

Sing, rejoice, clap your hands,
sing a song of praise,
let your voice be raised,
sing a song of praise to the Lord.

Shout from the mountaintops,
whisper through the trees,
come everyone now rejoice and sing.

*The Cherub Choir; Lisa Flanagan, director; Debbie Berner, piano
Mark Patterson*

CALL TO WORSHIP

*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION

Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing

New Century (black) Hymnal 303

OPENING PRAYER

Great God of Life,
Set a note of joy in our hearts
and a song of praise on our lips
as we gather to worship you.

We seek your presence
both in our speaking and in the music
that we might hear your voice and respond with
faithful living through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

God of Rhythm, we confess our inability to keep in step
with your plan and purpose for our lives,
choosing to follow the casual leadings of the near-at-hand.
God of Rest, we confess our absorption in the frantic pace
of endless activity frantically embraced,
forgetting our need for inner solitude and renewal.
God of Harmony, we confess our captivity
to discordant patterns of action and involvement,
fleeing the fullness of life and love Christ brings.
Forgive us on this day of song and praise
for neglecting the inner music which you have placed
at the center of all that is...
for we would be prompted toward that way of living
which senses the song at the heart of things.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray, 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

Psalm 30:4-5, 11-12

Yevgeniya Golodinskii

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.
For his anger is but for a moment;
his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.
You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have taken off my sackcloth
and clothed me with joy,
so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you for ever.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

*The Children's Choir
John Bertalot*

God of Grace and God of Laughter

God of grace and God of laughter, singing worlds from naught to be
Sun and stars and all thereafter joined in cosmic harmony:
Give us songs of joy and wonder, music making hearts rejoice;
Let our praises swell like thunder echoing our Maker's voice.

When our lives are torn by sadness, heal our wounds with tuneful balm;
When all seems discordant madness, help us find a measured calm.
Steady us with music's anchor when the storms of life increase;
In the midst of hurt and rancor, make us instruments of peace.

Turn our sighing into singing, music born of hope restored;
Set our souls and voices ringing, tune our hearts in true accord;
Till we form a mighty chorus joining angel choirs above,
With all those who went before us, in eternal hymns of love.

Text by Carl P. Daw, Jr.

SECOND LESSON

Vasil Golodinskii

Colossians 3:15-17

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

HYMN INTRODUCTION

My Life Flows on in Endless Song

*The Palmer Handbells
Ruth Elaine Schram*

*HYMN

My Life Flows on in Endless Song

New Century (black) Hymnal 476

SERMON

Rejoice, Give Thanks and SING!

Dr. David D. Young and Dr. John Stansell

ANTHEM OF AFFIRMATION

*The Youth Choir; Carolyn Paulus, director; Mary Fike, flute
Lyle Heck*

Make a Joyful Noise

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all you nations!
Serve the Lord with joy, come before him with a song!
Know the Lord is God, and it is he that has made us;
It is he that has made us, and we are his.
We are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter by his gates with thanksgiving!
Go into his courts with your praise.
For the Lord is good, his mercy is everlasting,
And his truth travels on from age to age.
(Psalm 100, paraphrased by Lyle Heck)

CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM and FEATURED WORK: *The Chancel Choir; Hanna Golodinskii, soprano; Sarah Bleasdale; mezzo-soprano, Terry Beaurline, tenor; Len Saari, bass*

Rejoice in the Lamb

Benjamin Britten

(Text from *JUBILATE AGNO* by Christopher Smart. See notes on page 8.)

CHORUS

*Rejoice in God, O ye Tongues; give the glory to the Lord, and the Lamb.
Nations, and languages, and every Creature, in which is the breath of Life.
Let man and beast appear before him, and magnify his name together.
Let Nimrod, the mighty hunter, bind a Leopard to the altar,
and consecrate his spear to the Lord.
Let Ishmael dedicate a Tyger, and give praise for the liberty
in which the Lord has let him at large.
Let Balaam appear with an Ass, and bless the Lord his people
and his creatures for a reward eternal.
Let Daniel come forth with a Lion, and praise God with all his might
through faith in Christ Jesus.
Let Ithamar minister with a Chamois, and bless the name of Him,
that cloatheth the naked.
Let Jakim with the Satyr bless God in the dance.
Let David bless with the Bear – The beginning of victory to the Lord –
to the Lord the perfection of excellence –
Hallelujah from the heart of God, and from the hand of the artist inimitable,
and from the echo of the heavenly harp in sweetness magnificent and mighty.*

SOPRANO SOLO

*For I will consider my Cat Jeoffry.
For he is the servant of the Living God, duly and daily serving him.
For at the first glance of the glory of God in the east he worships in his way.
For this is done by wreathing his body seven times round with elegant quickness.
For he knows that God is his Saviour.
For God has blessed him in the variety of his movements.
For there is nothing sweeter than his peace when at rest.
For I am possessed of a cat, surpassing in beauty,
from whom I take occasion to bless Almighty God.*

ALTO SOLO

*For the Mouse is a creature of great personal valour.
For – this a true case – Cat takes female mouse – male mouse will not depart,
but stands threat'ning and daring.
.....If you will let her go, I will engage you, as prodigious a creature as you are.
For the Mouse is a creature of great personal valour.
For the Mouse is of an hospitable disposition.*

TENOR SOLO

*For the flowers are great blessings.
For the flowers have their angels even the words of God's Creation.
For the flower glorifies God and the root parries the adversary.
For there is a language of flowers.
For flowers are peculiarly the poetry of Christ.*

CHORUS

*For I am under the same accusation with my Saviour –
For they said, he is besides himself.
For the officers of the peace are at variance with me,
and the watchman smites me with his staff.
For Silly fellow! Silly fellow! Is against me
and belongeth neither to me nor to my family.
For I am in twelve HARSHIPS, but he that was born of a virgin
shall deliver me out of all.*

RECITATIVE (BASS SOLO) AND CHORUS

*For H is a spirit and therefore he is God.
For K is king and therefore he is God.
For L is love and therefore he is God.
For M is musick and therefore he is God.

For the instruments are by their rhimes.
For the Shawm rhimes are lawn fawn moon boon and the like.
For the harp rhimes are sing ring string and the like.
For the cymbal rhimes are bell well toll soul and the like.
For the flute rhimes are tooth youth suit mute and the like.
For the Bassoon rhimes are pass class and the like.
For the dulcimer rhimes are grace place beat heat and the like.
For the Clarinet rhimes are clean seen and the like.
For the trumpet rhimes are sound bound soar more and the like.
For the TRUMPET of God is a blessed intelligence
and so are all the instruments in HEAVEN.
For GOD the father Almighty plays upon the HARP
of stupendous magnitude and melody.
For at that time malignity ceases and the devils themselves are at peace.
For this time is perceptible to man by a remarkable stillness and serenity of soul.*

CHORUS

*Hallelujah from the heart of God, and from the hand of the artist inimitable,
and from the echo of the heavenly harp in sweetness magnificent and mighty.*

***Doxology** (*New Century 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**

When the Morning Stars Together

New Century (black) Hymnal 453

CLOSING SENTENCES

Leader: Where words fail, music speaks.

People: Music is to be praised as second only to the Word of God because by it are all the emotions swayed.

Leader: The "tune is in the tree," the skeptic showeth me; "No Sir! In Thee!"

People: The aim and final reason for all music should be nothing else but the glory of God and the refreshment of the spirit.

Hans Christian Andersen, Martin Luther, Emily Dickinson, J. S. Bach

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Let Us Go In Peace

*The Chancel & Youth Choirs
John Rutter*

Let us go in peace and serve the Lord; Let us praise his holy Name.

May the blessings of the Holy Spirit rest on those we love now and always.

In the name of Christ our Savior and Redeemer, And the Holy Spirit, blessed Trinity;

In the name of God our Father and our Maker; in the highest heaven he reigns in majesty.

Let us go... GO IN PEACE AND SERVE THE LORD.

POSTLUDE

Praise the Lord with the Drums and Cymbals

*Terence J. Flanagan, organ
Siegfried Karg-Elert*

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.

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 may be found there as well as a link to the live broadcast. Previous sermons can be found there as well.

About Christopher Smart and “Jubilate AGNO”

The words of the Cantata “Rejoice in the Lamb” are taken from a long poem of the same name. The writer was Christopher Smart, an eighteenth century poet, deeply religious, but of a strange and unbalanced mind.

“Rejoice in the Lamb” was written while Smart was in an asylum, and is chaotic in form but contains many flashes of genius.

It is a few of the finest passages that Benjamin Britten has chosen to set to music. The main theme of the poem, and that of the Cantata, is the worship of God, by all created beings and things, each in its own way.

The Cantata is made up of ten short sections. The first sets the theme. The second gives a few examples of one person after another being summoned from the pages of the Old Testament to join with some creature in praising and rejoicing in God. The third is a quiet and ecstatic Hallelujah. In the fourth section Smart takes his beloved cat as an example of nature praising God by being simply what the Creator intended it to be. The same thought is carried on in the fifth section with the illustration of the mouse. The sixth section speaks of the flowers – “the poetry of Christ.” In the seventh section Smart refers to his troubles and suffering, but even these are an occasion for praising God, for it is through Christ that he will find his deliverance. The eighth section gives four letters from an alphabet, leading to a full chorus in section nine which speaks of musical instruments and music’s praise of God. The final section repeats the Hallelujah.

Walter Hussey

Calendar

TODAY

There is no **Church School** today. Childcare for Babies and Toddlers is available in the Undercroft. See an usher if you need directions. Church School Recognition Sunday is June 6 and it is a Communion Sunday. Our children and young people will be leading and participating in the Worship Service. Everyone is invited to bring a flower from your garden for the Flower Cross. Our third graders will receive their Bibles and then we celebrate them, our teachers and the congregation during the Coffee Hour with special cakes! We hope to see you then!

At Coffee Hour and beyond, join us on the lawn for croissants, strawberries and whipped cream and our traditional Maypole Dance.

Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, RN, is available today in Room 203 after the Worship Service. Stop in to have your blood pressure checked or discuss any health concerns.

Bible Study

There will be no Bible Study today or Tuesday. We had a great time last week though. If you see people with a slightly anxious look on their face, it is because they are wondering what is going to happen when the seventh seal is opened. If you wonder too, join us next week in our study of Revelation.

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

Confirmation rehearsal

In preparation for Youth and Confirmation Sunday next week, the Confirmands will rehearse in the Meetinghouse on Monday, May 17 at 6:00 pm. Preachers will rehearse in the Meetinghouse on Wednesday, May 19 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. All other speakers will rehearse in the Meetinghouse on Saturday, May 22 from 10:30 am to 12 Noon.

Nights Off, the women's evening fellowship group, will meet at Greenwich Point on Monday, May 17 at 6:00 pm in our usual location... the picnic area beyond the first parking lot past the Chimes Building. In the event of inclement weather, our venue will be the home of Lucy Hedrick. For further information, contact Karen Young at 203-637-7877 or klyct1@aol.com.

Tai Chi

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

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.

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

NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday, May 23, is **Youth and Confirmation Sunday**. In addition, we celebrate Pentecost and invite everyone to wear red.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Church School Teachers wanted by our children! There are still many opportunities for anyone who is interested in teaching Church School to do so. Perhaps you taught years ago and would like to revisit that ministry; perhaps you do not have children, but would enjoy being in community with our youngest members; or perhaps you do have a child in Church School and would like to share the experience with them. Please prayerfully consider this ministry and let either the pastors or Rosemary help you decide! See the sign-up board at Coffee Hour.

Summer Choir - The Chancel Choir suspends Thursday night rehearsals starting this week, but invites all who would like to join them to come on Sunday mornings for a 9:00 am warm-up and rehearsal in the Meetinghouse. Adults and youth are welcome. It's a great time to see if choir is right for you. You can even come just to the rehearsal, if you feel you're not quite "ready for prime time." To help newcomers learn the music, the parts of each week's anthems will be found on the website, www.fccog.org under Music/Choir Learning Files.

Beach Services will begin Sunday June 13 at 8:00 am, weather permitting. There is a need for a few volunteers to help with hospitality and coffee. If you are interested in helping, please contact Betsy Kreuter at 203-698-3016.

We want to offer special thanks...

to Pam Grunow for arranging the flowers in the Meetinghouse today.

to the members of the Chancel Choir and Music Committee who prepared the strawberries and croissants for our celebration on the lawn.

to Mary Fike, and the Maypole Dancers.

to Mariann Ekernas, Chair, and all the members of the Music Committee who worked in so many ways to make today a success, and for their help during the year – Charlie Baird, Marty Berlin, Glen Canner, Marilyn Derr, Anders Ekernas, Maxine Gaddis, Nancy McLarnan, Michael Pugh, Bill Sandberg, Bob Small, Mark Swicegood, Anne Wachsmann and Barry Wentworth.

to all the members of the Chancel Choir, Youth Choir, Children's Choir, Cherub Choir and their accompanist Debbie Berner, and the Palmer Handbells, all of whom contribute their time and talents so selflessly, not only today, but throughout the year.

to our music staff: John Stansell, Terence J. Flanagan,
Carolyn Paulus and Lisa Flanagan.

All of us who participate in the music program at First Church consider it a very important ministry. We are the rehearsed voice of the congregation, preparing music for worship, and we lead the congregation in song. We thank God for this privilege.

First Congregational Church of Greenwich Church School Teaching Teams 2010-2011

<p>BABY NURSERY</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mary Helen Morris 2. 3. 4. 5. (HS) 6. (HS) 	<p>KINDERGARTEN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. (HS) 6. (HS) 	<p>FOURTH GRADE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. (HS) 6. (HS)
<p>TODDLER NURSERY</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. (HS) 6. (HS) 	<p>FIRST GRADE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lindy and Randy Freeman 2. Cindy Fong 3. Christina & Michael Russell 4. 5. (HS) 6. (HS) Gwen Pfetsch 	<p>FIFTH GRADE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Peter Thalheim 2. 3. 4. 5. (HS) 6. (HS)
<p>THREE-YEAR-OLDS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chris Schoen 2. Peg Wentworth 3. Lori Romano 4. 5. (HS) 6. (HS) 	<p>SECOND GRADE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bonny Edwards 2. 3. 4. 5. (HS) 6. (HS) 	<p>PASTORS' CLASS (6th, 7th, 8th)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anne Pfetsch 2. Fred Lorthioir 3. 4. 5. (HS) 6. (HS)
<p>FOUR-YEAR-OLDS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cara Olmsted 2. Jane Finch 3. Dianne Shrier 4. 5. (HS) 6. (HS) Jenna Hascher 	<p>THIRD GRADE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kristin Taylor 2. Beth Press & Mark Mohn 3. Kellie Norrgard 4. 5. (HS) 6. (HS) Lindsey Hascher 	
<p>As of May 12, 2010</p>		<p>(HS) High School Student</p>

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