

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

## **Confirmation/Youth Sunday**

**23 May 2010**

10 o'clock in the morning



**W**elcome to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church. Today, we celebrate Youth and Confirmation Sunday and are grateful for the leadership our young people will offer us in worship. Many parts of our liturgy are excerpts from the Faith Statements written by this year's confirmation class. We give thanks to God for all the milestones of life and especially for the two we celebrate today!

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### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

\*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

#### **PRELUDE**

*John Stansell, organ*

Sonata IV in B-flat Major

*Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy*

*Allegro con brio - Andante religioso - Allegretto -*

*Allegro maestoso e vivace*

### **PRAISING GOD**

**CALL TO WORSHIP AND FIRST LESSON:** *Charlie Baird, Liz Morris*

Acts 2:1-12

**W**hen the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."

All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”

**\*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Come. O Spirit, Dwell among Us *Sung to the tune of Joyful, Joyful*

Come, O Spirit, dwell among us,  
Come with Pentecostal power;  
Give the church a stronger vision,  
Help us face each crucial hour.  
Built upon a firm foundation,  
Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone,  
Still the church is called to mission  
That God’s love shall be made known.

We would raise our alleluias  
For the grace of former years;  
For tomorrow’s unknown pathway,  
Hear, O God, our humble prayers.  
In the church’s pilgrim journey  
You have led us all the way,  
Still in presence move before us,  
Fire by night and cloud by day.

Come, O Spirit, dwell among us;  
Give us words of fire and flame.  
Help our struggling voices praise you,  
Glorify your holy name.  
Good Creator, Savior, Spirit,  
Three in One: what mystery!  
We would sing our loud hosannas  
Now and through eternity.

**CALL TO PRAYER**

*Olivia Thalheim*

This is the place where we expect God to listen to our prayers and where we come to share our faith with one another. Let us join responsively in the prayer which is printed in our bulletins.

**OPENING PRAYER**

*Avery Welch: God, through the Holy Spirit we sense Your presence within us. We know that You are with all of your children, at our greatest triumphs and during our deepest struggles. We have come to this place, because, I believe, we have a greater connection with You here.*

People: O God, be with us now.

*Will Graham: The church is where people connect with God through prayer, song, and worship. The church teaches us about God and allows us to start on the path of God. The church allows us to “grow our seeds of faith” and blossom into what God wants us to become. God, we gather in your name; strengthen our faith.*

People: O God, be with us now.

*Jenna Hascher: You are an omniscient God. You know us. You know our names and out of love, You have created us. Even at times when we doubt You are with us, You are. You are always with us, teaching us, loving us, guiding us.*

People: O God, be with us now.

*Caroline Kelly: We are here because we know that we can overcome our differences in faith and be united by our common beliefs in the goodness of God and Jesus. We are here so that we can convene and work together through reflection and prayer to build our relationships with God. Throughout our history we have been advocates of diversity, justice, equality, aid and support to all people. You, O God, have taught us Your ways and been with us through all time.*

People: O God, be with us now.

## **CONFESSING TO GOD**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

*Margo Teeters*

I think that God and I have a love/hate relationship. I do things that God doesn't like and He does things that I don't like. On the other hand, I do things that God does like and He does things that I like. But, whenever I do something bad He always forgives me. Let us come before God in a time of confession:

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

There are times when we don't live up to our own standards. There are times when our greatest goals go unrealized, not because of our potential, but because we lost our focus. Instead of focusing on what is right, just and loving, we focus on our own success. Rather than focusing on you, we focus on ourselves. Great loving, just and forgiving God, re-focus us so that we may

live in the way that Christ lived. In our times of struggle, remind us of the prayer that you have taught us....

### 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

Margo Teeters: Jesus is an important figure, the Messiah. He wasn't just human, He was divine. He is the Son of God. Jesus came to the world to help God's people. Jesus accepts everyone, even the people who have done bad things.

Liza Johnson: Jesus is very understanding. In His life on earth, He did not discriminate against the people because of their religion or beliefs. Instead, He preached His knowledge. Jesus, we believed you, we believe you now, we are Your disciples.

Esther Hoekstra: Jesus, the son of God came to the world to help God's people. Jesus accepted everyone, even the people who have done bad things. Because of the way He lived, the life He sacrificed and the love He shared with us, we know, that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

### ‡Congregational Response

Jesus Loves Me! This I Know

*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.*

### HEARING GOD'S WORD

Robert Morris: As others have mentioned, as a church, we pray for forgiveness, we worship, we reassure others that we support them. But what lets us know that this is how we are to live? We learn this through the teachings of Christ. We learn this as we

read His stories and the stories of God's faithful people. Hear the second portion of the story about some of the people with whom Jesus shared his ministry.

## SECOND LESSON

Phoebe Griffith, Youth Advisor

Acts 2:14-18

**B**ut Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
and they shall prophesy.

## SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

*The Youth Choir;*

*Carolyn Paulus, director; Mary Fike, flute*

*Richard Proulx*

Christ Sends His Spirit

*The congregation is invited to join in repeating the refrain, printed below, at the end of each verse.*

The Christ is throned as lord of all the worlds, the name above all names, at God's right hand, his praise the pulse that shakes the universe: the gale of God, the singing fire of life, the gale of God, the singing fire of life.

He led his brethren to the mountaintop and, blessing them with lifted, nail-scarred hands, commanded them to wait his promised gift: the gale of God, the singing fire of life.

"Go out to all the world and tell my news. You are witnesses, for you have seen; my heralds, for Yahweh will breathe on you!" The gale of God, the singing fire of life.

Above, around the hurricane unleashed bore down upon the roof, a storm of sound, vast beating wings of wind that rocked the house: the gale of God, the singing fire of life.



People: The Holy Spirit is with us, even now. We believe in the transforming presence of the Holy Spirit.

*Brandt Hipp: I believe the church is a safe and comforting place to go every week to get energized for the week ahead. The function of the church in our world is to be a place for people to come together, worship and connect. There is a lot of value in being a part of something that is bigger than your immediate family. It is a place where we can all share in the same morals and values.*

People: Together, we are the church. We believe that the church has the capacity to change the world.

*Virginia Stewart: I believe that Discipleship is to be caring towards others. Discipleship is to love and help people you know and those that you don't. For me, I cook food for soup kitchens and for Kids in Crisis. This teaches me how to support and help people who are different. I believe that being a disciple means to learn and follow God and Jesus' ways.*

People: We are Christ's disciples. We believe that we are called to be light in the world.

**\*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.*

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

### PRESENTATION OF CONFIRMATION LEADERS

### SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION

#### Roll Call of Candidates

*Lesley Schless*

*(Candidates will stand 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.

### **Owning of the Covenant**

*Leader: We believe in the freedom and responsibility of the individual soul and the right of private judgment. We join with the fellowship of the United Church of Christ in declaring our steadfast allegiance to the faith 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.*

### **Congregation with Candidates** *(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.

### **Prayer of Confirmation** *(seated)*

## Laying on of Hands

Presentation of the Jerusalem Crosses *The Senior Pilgrim Fellowship*

CHARGE

*Rev. Dr. David D. Young*

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Combined Youth and Chancel Choirs*

Praise His Holy Name

*Keith Hampton*

Sing till the power of the Lord come down. Shout Hallelujah! Praise His Holy name! Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me; I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see. Jesus, how I love Thee! Shout Hallelujah! Praise His Holy Name! Must Jesus bear the cross alone and all the world go free? No, there's a cross for everyone and there's a cross for me.

\*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

*Debbie Crawford, Youth Advisor*

## GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

\*CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION

Now in the Days of Youth

*New Century (black hymnal) 350*

\*CLOSING SENTENCES

*Joey Claps: I believe God created this world, everyone and everything in it. God is always there no matter what you do.*

People: Let us go forth giving thanks to God.

*Emily Brash: God is very patient and a graceful listener. God is a symbol of hope for everyone, no matter what you need hope for.*

People: Let us go forth in hope for all that lies ahead, trusting that God is always with us.

*Emily Harris: I believe that God loves everyone, but the more involved you are with Him, the better relationship you have with God.*

*What makes a friend close is talking to them and being with them – so it is with God.*

People: Let us go forth in our relationship with God knowing that we are loved and never alone.

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Allegro moderato maestoso

*Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy*

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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](http://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.

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## Confirmation Class 2010

Emily Brash

Joey Claps

Will Graham

Emily Harris

Jenna Hascher

Brandt Hipp

Esther Hoekstra

Liza Johnson

Caroline Kelly

Charles Khosla

Grant Khosla

Robert Morris

Virginia Stewart

Margo Teeters

Ingrid Thalheim

Olivia Thalheim

Avery Welch

## *Calendar*

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### **TODAY**

**Church School** classes for three year olds through fourth grade will be held as usual. Grades 5 through 8 will remain in Worship to celebrate the Youth and Confirmands on this special day. This is the last day of regular Church School until the summer begins on June 13. Next Sunday is Recognition Sunday. A newsletter will be emailed to all families early next week with all the details.

### **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**

Our Bible Study in the book of Revelation is getting behind itself but that's good news if you haven't been able to make it recently. Whether we're going to get through it all before the Second Coming is a good question, but we're going to try. Please join us in the Lounge at 11:15 am for more revelations about Revelation.

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### **THIS WEEK**

#### **Tai Chi**

The final dates and times for May classes are as follows: Wednesday at 8:00-9:00 am on May 26; Thursday at 9:00-10:00 am on May 27.

**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.

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### **NEXT SUNDAY**

**May 30 is Heritage Sunday.** Please join us as we recognize and honor those in our congregation who have been members of The First Congregational Church for 50 years and more. There will be no Church School, but childcare will be available.

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## NEWS AND NOTICES

**Summer Choir** - The Chancel Choir has suspended Thursday night rehearsals, 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](http://www.fccog.org) under Music/Choir Learning Files.

**Church School Recognition Sunday** is June 6. In addition, 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, their teachers and the congregation during Coffee Hour with special cakes! We hope to see you then!

**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.

**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. See a sign-up chart on the next page.

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

<p><b>BABY NURSERY</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mary Helen Morris</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> <li>4.</li> <li>5. (HS)</li> <li>6. (HS)</li> </ol>	<p><b>KINDERGARTEN</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> <li>4.</li> <li>5. (HS)</li> <li>6. (HS)</li> </ol>	<p><b>FOURTH GRADE</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Marjorie Glover</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> <li>4.</li> <li>5. (HS)</li> <li>6. (HS)</li> </ol>
<p><b>TODDLER NURSERY</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> <li>4.</li> <li>5. (HS)</li> <li>6. (HS)</li> </ol> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Duly Chiapetta - Supervisor</p>	<p><b>FIRST GRADE</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lindy and Randy Freeman</li> <li>2. Cindy Fong</li> <li>3. Christina &amp; Michael Russell</li> <li>4.</li> <li>5. (HS)</li> <li>6. (HS) Gwen Pfetsch</li> </ol>	<p><b>FIFTH GRADE</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Peter Thalheim</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> <li>4.</li> <li>5. (HS)</li> <li>6. (HS)</li> </ol>
<p><b>THREE-YEAR-OLDS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chris Schoen</li> <li>2. Peg Wentworth</li> <li>3. Lori Romano</li> <li>4.</li> <li>5. (HS)</li> <li>6. (HS)</li> </ol>	<p><b>SECOND GRADE</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bonny Edwards</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> <li>4.</li> <li>5. (HS)</li> <li>6. (HS)</li> </ol>	<p><b>PASTORS' CLASS (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Anne Pfetsch</li> <li>2. Fred Lorthioir</li> <li>3.</li> <li>4.</li> <li>5. (HS) Courtney Griffin</li> <li>6. (HS)</li> </ol>
<p><b>FOUR-YEAR-OLDS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cara Olmsted</li> <li>2. Jane Finch</li> <li>3. Dianne Shrier</li> <li>4.</li> <li>5. (HS)</li> <li>6. (HS) Jenna Hascher</li> </ol> <p>As of May 18, 2010</p>	<p><b>THIRD GRADE</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kristin Taylor</li> <li>2. Beth Press &amp; Mark Mohn</li> <li>3. Kellie Norrgard</li> <li>4.</li> <li>5. (HS)</li> <li>6. (HS) Lindsey Hascher</li> </ol>	<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](http://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