

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

## The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

29 August 2010

10 o'clock in the morning



**W**ELCOME. The reason for your being here this morning is not as important as the fact that you are. Perhaps you have come to seek an answer, perhaps just to ask a silent question. Perhaps you have come out of habit or have felt the need to be part of community of faith. Whatever the motivation, we hope that you will open your mind and heart to the leading of God's Spirit and in some way hear his voice and know of his presence. We are glad you're here.

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### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

\*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

**PRELUDE**  
Scherzo

*Mark Swicegood, organ*  
*Pierre Cochereau*

**CALL TO COMMUNITY**  
*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Rev. Daniel B. England*

### **PRAISING GOD**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Now Thank We All Our God    *Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 29*

**OPENING PRAYER** *(In Unison)*

Our great God and heavenly Father,  
you draw us to yourself and to this faith community.  
Thank you for not giving up on us.  
Rather, you come to find us even when we are lost.

We come seeking you and the love  
and encouragement of each other.  
Grant us your blessing and the assurance of your grace,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **CONFESSING TO GOD**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

You would think we could will our way to not sinning.  
But our will is the problem.  
We want our own way, we honestly believe we know best.  
So we fail to ask you into our lives each day,  
And blunder off as if you did not exist.

But if we are to be good:  
to be compassionate and loving and kind hearted,  
we need you in our lives.  
Forgive us when we ignore you.  
Forgive us when we take you for granted.  
Forgive us when we act arrogantly.  
Deliver us from evil.

In the name of the one who lived and died  
that we might know you in our lives,  
even Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### **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

*Peter Schay*

#### Jonah 1

**N**ow the word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, 'Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me.' But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.

But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and such a mighty storm came upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up. Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried to his god. They threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten it for them. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold of the ship and had lain down, and was fast asleep. The captain came and said to him, 'What are you doing sound asleep? Get up, call on your god! Perhaps the god will spare us a thought so that we do not perish.'

The sailors said to one another, 'Come, let us cast lots, so that we may know on whose account this calamity has come upon us.' So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. Then they said to him, 'Tell us why this calamity has come upon us. What is your occupation? Where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?' 'I am a Hebrew,' he replied. 'I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.' Then the men were even more afraid, and said to him,

‘What is this that you have done!’ For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them so.

Then they said to him, ‘What shall we do to you, that the sea may quieten down for us?’ For the sea was growing more and more tempestuous. He said to them, ‘Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will quieten down for you; for I know it is because of me that this great storm has come upon you.’ Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to bring the ship back to land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy against them. Then they cried out to the Lord, ‘Please, O Lord, we pray, do not let us perish on account of this man’s life. Do not make us guilty of innocent blood; for you, O Lord, have done as it pleased you.’ So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the Lord even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.

But the Lord provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights.

## SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

All Things Bright and Beautiful

*The Summer Choir*  
*John Rutter*

All things bright and beautiful  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,  
Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colours,  
He made their tiny wings.

The purple-headed mountain,  
The river running by,  
The sunset and the morning,  
That brightens up the sky.

The cold wind in the weather,  
The pleasant summer sun,  
The ripe fruits in the garden-  
He made them every one.

He gave us eyes to see them,  
And lips that we might tell  
How great is God Almighty,  
Who has made all things well.

## SECOND LESSON

*Peter Schay*

### Jonah 2

Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God  
from the belly of the fish, saying,  
'I called to the Lord out of my distress,  
and he answered me;  
out of the belly of Sheol I cried,  
and you heard my voice.  
You cast me into the deep,  
into the heart of the seas,  
and the flood surrounded me;  
all your waves and your billows  
passed over me.  
Then I said, "I am driven away  
from your sight;  
how shall I look again  
upon your holy temple?"  
The waters closed in over me;  
the deep surrounded me;  
weeds were wrapped around my head  
at the roots of the mountains.  
I went down to the land  
whose bars closed upon me for ever;  
yet you brought up my life from the Pit,  
O Lord my God.  
As my life was ebbing away,  
I remembered the Lord;

and my prayer came to you,  
into your holy temple.  
Those who worship vain idols  
forsake their true loyalty.  
But I with the voice of thanksgiving  
will sacrifice to you;  
what I have vowed I will pay.  
Deliverance belongs to the Lord!  
Then the Lord spoke to the fish,  
and it spewed Jonah out upon the dry land.

\*‡HYMN

Awake, My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve  
*New Century (black) Hymnal 491*

SERMON      Running from God      *Rev. Daniel B. England*

**RESPONDING TO GOD**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

As members of the Christian Church, we confess that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the Living God, and proclaim Him Lord and Savior of the world.

In Christ's name and by His grace, we accept our mission of witness and service to all people.

We rejoice in God, maker of heaven and earth, and in the covenant of love which binds us to God and one another.

Through baptism into Christ, we enter into the newness of life and are made one with the whole people of God.

In the communion of the Holy Spirit, we are joined together in discipleship and in obedience to Christ.

At the table of the Lord, we celebrate with thanksgiving the saving acts and presence of Christ.

Within the universal church, we receive the gift of ministry and the light of scripture.

In the bonds of Christian faith, we yield ourselves to God that we may serve the One whose kingdom has no end.

Blessings, glory, and honor be to God forever. 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**

*Rev. Mark D. Montgomery*

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*The Summer Choir*

Let This Mind Be In You

*Mrs. H. H. A. Beach*

*Hanna Golodinskii, soprano*

*Vasil Golodinskii, bass*

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:  
who, being in the form of God,  
thought it not robbery to be equal with God.

But made Himself of no reputation,  
and took upon Him the form of a servant,  
and was made in the likeness of men:  
and being found in fashion as a man,  
He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death,  
even the death of the Cross.

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him,  
and given Him a name which is above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus ev'ry knee should bow,  
of things in heaven, and things in earth,  
and things under the earth;  
and that ev'ry tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

**\*Doxology**     *Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 514*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen. Amen.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## **GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD**

**\*CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

O Jesus, I Have Promised     *Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 218*

**\*CLOSING SENTENCES**

*Leader: We cannot run fast enough or far enough to escape God's hand.*

*People: O God, be very present with us this week.*

*Leader: Remind us often that we are yours.*

*People: And if yours, then called to live in Christ's name.*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

Toccata

*Pierre Cochereau*

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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. Your children are always welcome for the entire service or for a respite time if needed. Please see an usher if you need directions. Child Care for August is in Room 104 while areas of the Preschool are being renovated.

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.

### *Calendar*

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TODAY

#### **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.

#### **Church School**

There will be **no** Church School classes until Homecoming Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Children are always welcome in worship and there is always Child Care for our youngest children. Early elementary children may also go to Child Care should they get restless in the Meetinghouse.

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### NEWS AND NOTICES

#### **Church Office Summer Hours**

First Church weekday office hours will be 9am to 3pm until September 7. Volunteer receptionists will be on duty during those hours. Of course, you can leave a voicemail message at any time of day or night.

#### **Summer Beach Services**

These services begin at 8 am at Tod's Point every Sunday through September 12. See our website, [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org), for more information.

## **Tai Chi Classes with Luis Duarte to Resume in September ALL ARE WELCOME**

Improve your health and well being. Come and experience the many wonderful benefits of Tai Chi and Qi Gong exercises. Beginner classes are on Thursdays at 9 a.m. starting September 2nd and Intermediate classes are on Wednesdays at 8 a.m. starting September 1st. Only \$7 per class.

## **Bible Study**

Several people have been asking about Bible Study this fall, led by Dan England. We will start the year with a study of the Book of Exodus, which will follow nicely from our study of Genesis last year. Bible Study will begin on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:15 a.m. in the lounge so it wouldn't kill you to start reading Exodus during September. But reading it isn't onerous since it is full of great stories and wonderful characters and situations. If you've never been to one of our Bible Studies, please consider joining the scores of people who show up each week (Sundays after church and Tuesday nights). We have an astonishingly good time together.

## **Rummage Room News**

**Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup> – The 46<sup>th</sup> Grand Opening takes place tomorrow at the Rummage Room.**

- **Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup>** – Hours are 10:00am - 5:00pm. All “New Merchandise” will be on the racks and shelves.
- **Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup> – First day for donations.** Hours are 9:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Thursday. Donations Friday and Saturday are 9:30 am to 1:00 pm.

**Wish List for September:** Jewelry, handbags, shoes, good bric-a-brac, DVDs, adult and children's bikes, single and double strollers, books, musical instruments, small furniture and new and gently used clothing.

**The Rummage Room Mission:** All proceeds go to help women's and children's organizations locally and nationally.

Please come shop, donate, and/or volunteer. The Rummage Room is a wonderful place to serve the Lord. Thank you.

## Hunger Mission Team

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED SEPTEMBER 18TH

The Hunger Mission Team is looking for 6-8 volunteers to help at Neighbor-to-Neighbor the morning of Saturday, September 18th. This is a wonderful way to get introduced to the work that is done there—and engage with members of the Hunger Mission Team. We need help from 8:30—12:30, and a 2 hour shift is fine if you are unable to give 4 hours: 8:30-10:30 or 10:30-12:30.

Please email Sheila Bennett at [fccoghungermission@gmail.com](mailto:fccoghungermission@gmail.com) if you can join the Team at Neighbor-to-Neighbor.

Volunteers are what make it possible for Neighbor-to-Neighbor to serve OUR neighbors.

### Food Collection

A reminder that the Food Collection Barrel will remain in the back of the Meetinghouse throughout each month, to encourage month-round contributions.

A Food Collection Bin will be available at the Beach Services as well to encourage our Beach Service Attendees to remember the hungry.

## *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

Interim Director of Music: Mark Swicegood

Director of Church School: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Director of Publications: Barbara Wilkov

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Stiers and Rev. Sally Colegrove

Director of Music Emeritus: Dr. John Stansell