

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The First Sunday after Christmas

26 December 2010

10 o'clock in the morning



W elcome to this Service of Worship at The First
Congregational Church on this First Sunday after
Christmas. May this hour spent together in God's presence
integrate our minds, bodies, spirits, and hearts to the glory and
service of God.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Aria

*Jon Hunt, organ
Flor Peeters*

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Angels, From the Realms of Glory *Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 117*

OPENING PRAYER

Great God who would come to us as a vulnerable child...we ask
that you would be vulnerable to us now

Vulnerable, so that we may care for you

Vulnerable, so that you may share our joys and concerns

Vulnerable enough to receive our praise. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*In Unison*)

Now that the gifts have all been selected, wrapped and given
Now that the tree has been cut and lit and decorated
Now that we are on this side of Christmas Day
We recognize the times when the preparations
made us edgy.

We remember the frustration of selecting a hostess gift
We remember grumbling about an office party
We remember the feeling of anxiety and obligation
We remember the
Torture of tangled lights,
Lament of long lines,
Dysfunctional family dynamics.

Though these preparations may aid in the holiday spirit, forgive us when they overtake us and frustrate us. This day, may we be re-centered on you and celebrate, within ourselves, the peace that Christmas brings to the world. Let us pray together...

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

Phoebe Griffith

Isaiah 63:7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

*SCRIPTURE HYMN

Joy to the World! The Lord is Come *Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 130*

SECOND LESSON

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.

He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for
the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!

*‡HYMN

Sing a Different Song

New Century (black) Hymnal 150

SERMON

Prays, Praise and Preys

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

RESPONDING TO GOD

*SPEAKING OUR FAITH

God, we believe in you.

A God so eager to have connection with us
that you would come into this world as a child.

A God so concerned that we should understand how to live
That you would tell us your story through Jesus.

A God so loving that you would redeem us through
the sacrifice and resurrection of Christ the Messiah.

God, we believe in you. Amen.

SINGING OUR FAITH (Carol Sing)

CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER

Dr. David D. Young

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Litany

Charles Callahan

*Christmas Response *(verse 3 of As With Gladness Men of Old)*

*As they offered gifts most rare,
At the manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ to thee, our heavenly King.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 136

*CLOSING SENTENCES

Leader: We have greeted the Christ child.

People: We are a people who have seen a great light.

Leader: We go from this place to share God's light with the world.

People: May our lives bear witness to Christ's presence within and among us.

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

The Rejoicing

Charles Callahan

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.

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

There is no Church School today but there is child care in Room 104. Church School resumes next Sunday, January 2.

Youth Ministry

There is no JPF or SPF today.

Youth Choir

There is no Youth Choir rehearsal today.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Bible Study

Bible Study will start again on Wednesday, January 19. On that day, we are going to begin our exploration of the book of Luke. Our goal is to work out the meaning of the word "according," as in the Gospel according to Luke. What does that mean? Who is Luke and how does his "according" differ from Mark's and Matthew's and John's? If you can't join us that week, please know that there will be a recording of the class posted to the Web and on CD so that those who have to be away can catch up. Thanks to Harold Frost and Pat Larrabee for this invaluable work.

Tai Chi Classes with Luis Duarte

All are welcome! Improve your balance, health and well-being. Come and experience the many wonderful benefits of Tai Chi and Qi Gong. Classes are held on Wednesdays at 8 am and Thursdays at 9 am. Only \$7/class if paid by the month and \$8/class for “drop ins.” Join us! You’ll love it!

Book Discussion Group

Hats Off!, the popular women’s book discussion group, will be reading *The Autobiography of Eleanor Roosevelt* starting January 6. The group meets every Thursday from 9:45 to 11:30 am in the church lounge. All are welcome. For details, call Marcia Livingston at 203-625-0772.

Rummage Room News

- The Rummage Room is closed for the Christmas and New Year’s Holidays. The reopening date is ***Monday, January 3, 2011 at 10:00 am*** with a 50% off clearance sale on all winter clothing and Christmas items through Saturday, January 8, 2011. Come in and take advantage of this great sale!
- Donations will be accepted and greatly appreciated beginning Monday, January 3rd through Thursday, January 6th from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm ... and Friday, January 7th and Saturday January 8th, from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. **Please do not leave donations outside while The Rummage Room is closed for the holidays.** Because of the possibility of inclement weather, donations that are left can become unusable instead of going to support The Rummage Room’s mission of helping Women and Children’s Organizations.
- Thank you for your continued support throughout the past 46 years!
- George Bernard Shaw once said, *“Life is no brief candle. It is a splendid torch which I have a hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations!”* May your light burn brightly through this beautiful season, and may we always remember the brightest torch of all, which led the Wise Men to the Baby Jesus. Happy Holidays to one and all from The Rummage Room!

Food Collection

A reminder that the Food Collection Barrel will remain in the back of the Meetinghouse, so please contribute food each week. Adding a few items to your weekly grocery store visit will make a significant difference at Neighbor to Neighbor. Items currently in need at Neighbor to Neighbor:

Cereal
Oatmeal
Pasta Sauce
Dried Beans (Kidney and Black)
100% Juice
Canned Tomatoes
Peanut Butter (No larger than 28 oz., please)
Jelly

If you've forgotten your food items this morning, feel free to email fccoghungermission@gmail.com with your contact information and someone will pick up the food from your home and deliver to the Church for Neighbor to Neighbor.



The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870

203-637-1791

www.fccog.org

Ministers: The Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. David D. Young

Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry: Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

Associate Pastor for Christian Education: Rev. Susan J. Murtha

Minister of Communication and Adult Education: Rev. Daniel B. England

Minister of Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

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