

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

## The Second Sunday after Christmas

2 January 2011

10 o'clock in the morning





The year that was 2010 is over. Whatever happened cannot be undone and whatever we made of it, for good or ill, is now part of our individual and collective history. Now the year 2011 is before us, full of possibility, promise and danger. What will we do with this year? What will God do with us this year? As we gather for worship and communion, no answers may be immediately apparent, but we come in humility seeking the wisdom of God in our lives and the heart of Christ in our intentions. We also have each other, fellow Christians, to encourage and cheer us on the journey. Welcome.

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### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

\*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

#### **PRELUDE**

Prelude on “Greensleeves”

*Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ  
Richard Purvis*

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Rev. Susan J. Murtha*

### **PRAISING GOD**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

#### **\*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven     *Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 16*

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

O God of all our years,  
who has brought us safe to this moment  
and poured out mercy upon mercy,  
we gather here this morning to give you thanks.

We have also come to commune with you and each other,  
drawing strength from the knowledge that we are not alone,  
nor do we strive alone in the work you have given us to do.

Rather, the promise of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
never to leave us or forsake us,  
gives us courage for the unfolding of time ahead.

As your people and your church we, therefore,  
go boldly into the year before us,  
knowing that you will meet us there  
with all that we need. Amen.

## **CONFESSING TO GOD**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*In Unison*)

Our great God and heavenly father,  
We are fully aware that in the year just past,  
there are many thoughts and deeds we ought to have done  
differently.

Our actions did not always match our intentions,  
our words did not always reflect our better thoughts,  
our lives did not always show your love.

Forgive us and strengthen us for the year ahead.  
Give us the assurance that you are working in our hearts and  
minds and circumstances,  
that you are calling us to do better, to be more like the Christ we  
name.

And so we give you thanks for hope, for the promise that one year  
need not be like every other,  
that Christ does indeed make all things new.

This we pray in the name of Jesus, 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

*Peter Russell*

Psalm 100

**M**ake a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

### SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

New Year Carol

*The Chancel Choir  
Benjamin Britten*

### SECOND LESSON

*Pat Larrabee*

Luke 18: 18-30

**A**certain ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the

commandments: ‘You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honor your father and mother.’” He replied, “I have kept all these since my youth.” When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” But when he heard this, he became sad; for he was very rich. Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” Those who heard it said, “Then who can be saved?” He replied, “What is impossible for mortals is possible for God.” Then Peter said, “Look, we have left our homes and followed you.” And he said to them, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not get back very much more in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.”

\*‡HYMN

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

*New Century (black) Hymnal 543*

*As the song 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 grade will meet their teachers at the back of the Meetinghouse (narthex) and will go to their classrooms as a group.*

SERMON

*Stop Trying to be Good*

*Rev. Daniel B. England*

**RESPONDING TO GOD**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. 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.*

## CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM  
Carol Rhapsody

*Organ*  
*Richard Purvis*

**\*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

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (*seated*)

### Prayer of Consecration

### Serving of the Bread and Cup

*In the tradition of our church, we will partake of the bread as it is*  
*served, thanking God for Christ's death for each one of us. We will*

*hold the cup and drink of it together, affirming our oneness as the Body of Christ.*

**Music During Communion**  
Panis Angelicus

*Hanna Golodinski, soprano*  
*Cesar Franck*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Since, dear God, in this place, at this table, we have touched, we have tasted, and we have heard the signs of your love for us, grant that we may go away from this house filled with our love for you and overflowing with your love for those who are around us and who share our lives. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

**GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD**

**\*CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

*Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 93*

**\*CLOSING SENTENCES**

*Leader: There is much evil, sin and suffering in the world.*

*People: But we are called to good, to cast out sin and relieve suffering.*

*Leader: God, strengthen us in this work you have given us to do.*

*People: That we might live as people worthy of the name of Christ.*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

Noel

*Alexandre Guilmant*

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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.

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**

#### **Church School**

Happy New Year and welcome back to church school! Some classes may be combined due to a lower than usual attendance and fewer teachers, but our children will still learn about the Epiphany and the real story of the Three Wise Men!

#### **Youth Ministry**

There is no JPF or SPF today.

#### **Youth Choir**

There is no Youth Choir rehearsal today.

#### **2011 Contribution Envelope Sets**

2011 contribution envelope sets are available in the Auditorium during coffee hour today.

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#### **NEXT WEEK**

#### **Confirmation**

Confirmation Class resumes! Tuesday, January 4, 7:00 - 8:15 pm.

#### **Book Discussion Group**

Hats Off!, the popular women's book discussion group, starts this Thursday, January 6, and will be reading *The Autobiography of*

*Eleanor Roosevelt.* 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.

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## NEWS AND NOTICES

### Confirmands and Parents

Please join us for Pizza & Conversation with Susan & the teaching crew on *Tuesday, January 11, from 6:15 to 7:00 pm.* Let's talk about: our Outreach projects in February, our very special event in March, confirmands and worship sheets, and other god stuff! (Class will follow for confirmands only.) Please RSVP to [smurtha@fccog.org](mailto:smurtha@fccog.org) by January 9. Hope to see you there!

### Bible Study

A new study of the Gospel of Luke led by Dan England will commence on January 16, 2011 beginning at 11:15 a.m. in the lounge. The same class (sort of) will be held on Tuesday, January 18 at 7:30 p.m. Luke is a fascinating gospel with so many stories that are unique to his gospel. The question is where did these stories come from and why does Luke think they are important to our understanding of Jesus and Christian living. Last year, we had at least 60 regular attendees every Sunday and sometimes more. Isn't it time you found out what all the fuss is about? Join us.

### 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!

### Rummage Room News

- The Rummage Room is reopening tomorrow, *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 also beginning tomorrow, 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.
- Thank you for your continued support throughout the past 46 years!

### *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](mailto: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](http://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