

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

13 February 2011

10 o'clock in the morning



WELCOME to this Service of Worship and our life together at First Congregational Church on this mid-winter Sunday. May this hour of meditation, prayer, song, and celebration draw you closer to the truth of our faith which is made known to us through Christ our Lord.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Andante
Voluntary

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ
Dorothy Darlington, oboe
Rheinhold Gliere
Ronald Berg

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Dr. David D. Young

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

New Century (black) Hymnal 558

OPENING PRAYER

Ever-Caring God, whose eternal
word to us is love,
Grant that we may live
in the confidence of your love.
Ever-Faithful God, whose eternal
word to us is truth,
Grant that we may know
your truth and speak it.
Ever-Living God, whose eternal
word to us is life,

Grant that we may live
lives of love and truth.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*In Unison*)

All knowing God,
We open up the secret places of our lives to you,
the places that hold
All things we've said
and would like to retract
All the things we've done
and wish we had not
All the things we've thought
and were unable to share.
For we are convinced that the deep, dark, hidden
sides of our lives take on new meaning when
exposed to the light of your love.
And since there are so many parts of us that
others do not know, we share ourselves with
you in the silence of this moment.
Trusting that you will be with us in the future
As you have been in the past,
we give ourselves to you,
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray...

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

New Century (black) Hymnal 459 (verse 3)

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rosemary Lamie

SONG

Jesus Loves Me (words below)

(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.)

*Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong; they are weak, but He is strong.*

Chorus:

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Charlie Baird

Proverbs 12:15-23

Fools think their own way is right,
but the wise listen to advice.
Fools show their anger at once,
but the prudent ignore an insult.
Whoever speaks the truth gives honest evidence,
but a false witness speaks deceitfully.
Rash words are like sword thrusts,
but the tongue of the wise brings healing.
Truthful lips endure forever,
but a lying tongue lasts only a moment.

Deceit is in the mind of those who plan evil,
but those who counsel peace have joy.
No harm happens to the righteous,
but the wicked are filled with trouble.
Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord,
but those who act faithfully are his delight.
One who is clever conceals knowledge,
but the mind of a fool broadcasts folly.

SOLO

Allegro Assai (Sonata in G major)

Dorothy Darlington, oboe

Giovanni Sammartini

SECOND LESSON

Joe McBride

John 14:1-7

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

*‡HYMN

Send Down Thy Truth, O God

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 237

SERMON

Honesty is Still the Best Way

Dr. David D. Young

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In the beginning was the Word.

The Word was with God and the Word was God.

He was with God in the beginning.

In him was life,

and the life was the light of all,

a light that darkness could not overpower.

The Word was made flesh,

he lived among us and we saw his glory.

The glory that is his as the only son of the
father, full of grace and truth.

Indeed, from his fullness, we have, all of us,

received – yes, grace in return for grace,

since, though the law was given through Moses,
grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.

***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 PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Susan J. Murtha

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

Dorothy Darlington, oboe

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J. S. Bach

***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**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION

Once to Every Heart and Nation

Once to Every Heart and Nation

441

James Russell Lowell, 1819-1891, *alt.*

EBENEZER (TON-Y-BOTEL) 8.7.8.7.D.

Thomas J. Williams, 1869-1944

In unison

1 Once to ev - ery heart and na - tion Comes the mo - ment to de - cide,
2 By the light of burn - ing mar - tyrs, Je - sus' bleed - ing feet I track,
3 Though the cause of e - vil pros - per, Yet 'tis truth a - lone is strong,

In the strife of truth with false - hood, For the good or e - vil side;
Toil - ing up new Cal - varies ev - er With the cross that turns not back;
Truth for - ev - er on the scaf - fold, Wrong for - ev - er on the throne.

Some great cause, God's new mes - si - ah, Of - fering each the bloom or blight,
New oc - ca - sions teach new du - ties, Time makes an - cient good un - couth;
Yet that scaf - fold sways the fu - ture, And, be - hind the dim un - known,

And the choice goes by for - ev - er 'T'wixt that dark - ness and that light.
They must up - ward still and on - ward, Who would keep a - breast of truth.
Stand - eth God with - in the shad - ow Keep - ing watch above God's own. A - men.

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

*Leader: God offers to every mind
its choice between truth and repose.
Take which you please---
you can never have both.*

*People: In religion the truth shines ahead
as a beacon showing us the path;
we do not ask to attain it,
it is better that we be permitted to seek.*

*Leader: This coming to know Christ is
what makes Christian truth
redemptive truth,
the truth that transforms,
not just the truth that informs.*

*People: And Jesus said:
"If you make my word your home you will
indeed be my disciples, you will learn
the truth and the truth shall make you free."*

Harold C. Phillips/Ralph W. Emerson/Sir A. Eddington/John the Disciple

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

March

Felix Alexandre Guilmant

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

Today most of our classes will be learning about the message in Matthew 6:25-33 - the birds in the air and the lilies of the field - and the many lessons to be learned from this passage. The 3rd graders will begin their review of the Old and New Testament stories and people in preparation for their Bible Jeopardy match with their parents on March 6. As this week is vacation week for many of our families, we wish you rest, fun and maybe even warmth. Next Sunday we will have a Big Event for those children who remain in town with the rest of us! Also, thank you to everyone who contributed supplies for the children in Belize.

Youth Choir

Youth Choir will rehearse today from 11:15 am – 12:15 pm in the Choir Room.

Bible Study

Luke is back! Join us today in the lounge at 11:15 or Tuesday evening at 7:30.

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.

Youth Ministry

There is no JPF or SPF today or next Sunday, February 20. Youth Ministry programs will resume on Sunday, February 27.

THIS WEEK

Confirmation Class

Confirmation class will not be meeting this Tuesday, February 15 due to school vacation week.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Blood Drive

Thanks to all who made food to nourish the blood donors for yesterday's Red Cross Blood Drive here at church. Your replenishing, care-filled goodies were very appreciated. And a "Bravo!" to our piano players...and, of course, THANK YOU to our blood donors for the "Gift of Life."

Book Discussion Group

Hats Off!, the popular women's book discussion group, meets Thursday mornings from 9:45 to 11:30 in the church lounge. We are just finishing *The Autobiography of Eleanor Roosevelt* and will start *The Gospel According to Jesus Christ* by Jose Saramago on February 24. Reverend Susan Murtha will be leading this book discussion. All are welcome. Please 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 will be held on Thursdays at 9 am only during the month of February. Classes will resume on Wednesdays at 8 am in March. The cost is only \$7/class if paid by the month and \$8/class for "drop ins." Join us! You'll love it!

Rummage Room News

FEBRUARY CALENDAR:

- Monday, February 14 is Valentine's Day and in honor of Cupid and his arrows of love, Manager Maria has announced a store-wide 50% off day for everyone wearing something RED!

- Tuesday, February 15 through Saturday, February 18 will be 50% off selected items for the week.
- Monday, February 21 will be the start of a three day Presidents' Day sale with 50% off everything in the shop.
- The famous Rummage Room bag sales begin on Thursday, February 24 with everything you can pack in a bag for \$12. Friday, February 25 the price drops to \$8 per bag, and Saturday, February 26 the price is down to \$1 per bag. EVERYTHING in the shop must go by 1:00 pm on Saturday, as the shop will be completely emptied and restocked with spring items by our volunteers.
- On Monday, February 28, The Rummage Room will open at 1:00 pm with all 'new' spring clothing, shoes, handbags, scarves, hats, bric-a-brac, linens, and bedding. You will want to be there.

WISH LIST FOR FEBRUARY: Saint Patrick's Day clothing and other items; Easter clothing and other items; handbags; shoes; jewelry; bric-a-brac; bedding; linens; a sewing machine and Legos, and small furniture.

RUMMAGE ROOM SHOP HOURS: Monday through Friday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Saturday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Donation hours: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday, and 9:30 am to 12:30 pm on Saturday.

THE RUMMAGE ROOM MISSION STATEMENT: Proceeds from The Rummage Room go to help support women's and children's organizations in Connecticut, nationally, and world-wide. We have appreciated your generous support for the past 47 years...let's get started on the next 47!

And, remember, as you celebrate this Valentine's Day: *"The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved ... loved not for ourselves, rather, loved in spite of ourselves."* - Victor Hugo

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: *(continued on back cover)*

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

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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