

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

## **The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**

**20 February 2011**

10 o'clock in the morning





**W**ELCOME to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church. May the mood and movement, the meditation and music of this hour renew the meaning of Christ's presence in our lives – such that all our tomorrows might be transformed into his will and way.

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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**

*Pastorale and Berceuse*

*Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ*

Louis Vierne

**CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Rev. Susan J. Murtha*

**PRAISING GOD**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

*Now Thank We All Our God*

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 29

**OPENING PRAYER**

Almighty God, who of your great mercy  
has gathered us into your Church,  
grant that we may always  
worship you with thankful hearts,  
and honor you both in  
spirit and in outward form,  
that your name may be  
glorified in us,  
and we may be true  
disciples of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**CONFESSING TO GOD**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

Almighty God: You call us to be your children  
and we half-listen, hearing only what we want to hear.

We are eager to accept -  
the gifts from your hand; the joy of a good life;  
the peace of your love.

We are so eager to receive.

We don't always hear and understand  
the responsibilities of using your gifts wisely;  
of bringing joy to those who do not know a life  
rooted in you;  
of sharing your peace through love of others;  
of working together through cooperation and giving.

We often resist rising to the challenge of really being  
your children.

Yet you continue to forgive; to call; to love.

Help us, O God – to know your forgiveness  
so that we can respond  
to your call and in love become your children  
in our daily living  
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.*

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### FIRST LESSON

*Olivia Hartwell*

II Corinthians 9:6-15

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

### SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

*O Love of Whom is Light and Truth*

*The Chancel Choir*

Finn Videro

### SECOND LESSON

*Betsy Kreuter*

Acts 20:32-35

And now I commend you to God and to the message of his grace, a message that is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or clothing. You know for yourselves that I worked with my own hands to support myself and my companions. In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

**\*‡HYMN**

*Awake, Awake to Love and Work*

New Century (black) Hymnal 89

(As the hymn begins, the children will go with Rosemary to the Daniels Center for a Big Event. Parents should meet their children in the Daniels Center after worship.)

**SERMON**

*The Two Sides of Gratitude*

*Dr. David D. Young*

**RESPONDING TO GOD**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Good News has come in Jesus Christ,  
He is the sign of the Father's love for us.  
He reveals to us who we are,  
children of God.  
He went about bringing joy to life.

He gave himself as he shared the fish with the poor  
and as he provided bread and wine for his friends.  
We, therefore, proclaim his death for us every time we gather.  
We profess his resurrection  
as we stand by our brothers and sisters.  
We expect his return  
as we work for the world of tomorrow.  
We know that we have received his gifts  
and that we are his church.

In newness of the spirit this day, and in great gratitude  
we will live as the church for others.  
May it ever be so!

**\*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**

# PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

## CALL TO OFFERING

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*O How Amiable*

*The Chancel Choir*  
R. V. Williams

### \*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

*Community of Christ*

*New Century (black) Hymnal 314*

### \*CLOSING SENTENCES

*Leader: The service we render to others  
is really the rent we pay for our room on earth.*

*People: It is obvious that we are travelers;  
that the purpose of this world is not  
“to have and to hold” but “to give and to serve.”*

*Leader: Human need in all its dimension is the swinging door  
into the innermost life of another.*

*People: They who come to do good knock at the gate;  
They who love find the door open.*

*Wilfred Grenfell/Howard Thurman/Rabindranath Tagore*

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

### POSTLUDE

*Prelude in C major*

J. S. Bach

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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**

There are no regular Church School classes today, but there is a Big Event which is a "one room schoolhouse" program for children of all ages. Older children are invited to join us and help the younger ones. Next week regular Church School classes will resume.

#### **Youth Choir**

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

#### **Bible Study**

This week we will be considering Luke 9:27 and beyond in figuring out what Jesus meant when he said, "In truth I tell you: there are some of those standing here who will not taste death before they have seen the kingdom of God." We will discuss the Transfiguration, the story of the good Samaritan and Luke's version of the Lord's prayer. Our numbers are swelling and we have ordered more chairs for the lounge -- so there's room for you this week. Please join us.

#### **Blood Pressure Screening**

A member of the Wellness Committee is available to check blood pressures in Room 203 following the Worship Service.

## Youth Ministry

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

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## THIS WEEK

### Nights Off

Nights Off will meet tomorrow, *Monday, February 21*, at the home of Rosemary Lamie for a Chocolate Extravaganza, and will be carpooling from the church. You may bring along a store-bought "sweet" for Neighbor to Neighbor's "extra" shelf. For details please contact Karen Young at (203) 637-7877 or [klyct1@aol.com](mailto:klyct1@aol.com).

### 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 just finished *The Autobiography of Eleanor Roosevelt* and will be starting *The Gospel According to Jesus Christ* by Jose Saramago this *Thursday, February 24*. Reverend Susan Murtha will be leading this book discussion. All are welcome. Please join us.

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## NEWS AND NOTICES

### Hospitalist Medicine: The Evolution of In-Patient Care – *March 6, 11:20 am*

Please join us as Dr. Franklin Loria, Director of the Hospitalist Program at Greenwich Hospital explains the national trend toward having dedicated hospital staff MDs, or hospitalists, available to patients and staff for consultation and care around the clock. Hospitalists work in close collaboration with the primary care physicians. Dr. Loria will explain the philosophy and structure of the program, highlight its benefits, and answer questions. RSVPs to Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse, at extension 21, are helpful for planning.

### 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 only on Thursdays at 9 am 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!

### **News from The Rummage Room:**

Monday, February 21 is Presidents’ Day and will be the start of a THREE Day 50% Off Sale on everything in the entire shop. The famous Rummage Room bag sales begin on Thursday, February 24, with everything you can stuff in a bag for \$12. Friday, February 25, the price drops to \$8 per bag, and Saturday, February 26, the price is \$1 per bag. It is an excellent chance to do some serious shopping. Everything in the shop must go by 1:00 pm on Saturday, February 26, at which time a crew of Rummage Room volunteers will come in, completely clean out the shop and begin stocking the shelves with Spring clothing and Spring merchandise for the shop’s opening on MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28 at 1:00 pm.

*Manager Maria’s Wish List for March:* Spring Clothing; Shoes; Handbags; Jewelry; Scarves; Small Furniture in good condition; Linens; Bedding; Pillows; Art Work and Sculptures; Books; Saint Patrick’s Day clothing and Themed Items; and Children’s Clothing, including shoes.

*Shop Hours:* 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, and 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturday. Donation hours are 9:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, and 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, on Saturday.

In honor of Presidents’ Day, John F. Kennedy once said, “*Our problems are man-made, therefore they may be solved by man. No problem of human destiny is beyond human beings.*” When you shop at and donate to The Rummage Room, you make it possible to solve some of the woes of others less fortunate. Thank you for making this possible.

### **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.

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# *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