

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Eighth Sunday after Epiphany

27 February 2011

10 o'clock in the morning



WELCOME to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church. Of all the things you could have done this morning, we're glad you chose to be with us. We are truly glad you're here. We hope you will find the service of great value to you and that you'll feel the warmth of our welcome. Please join us for light refreshments right after the service (out the back of the Meetinghouse and up the stairs – just follow the crowd). And please make yourself known to us if you're visiting with us today.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Processional

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

William Mathias

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

INTROIT

This Little Light of Mine

The Cherub Choir

Traditional

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Holy, Holy, Holy

New Century (black) Hymnal 277

OPENING PRAYER

O God of our lives and of our living,
We have come here because we need to be here
To remind ourselves of who we are;
People of your creation, not gods.

We have come to be with each other
Seeking friendship, wanting encouragement

but more than anything, wanting a word from you,
O Lord of clarity, of direction, of truth.

So meet us in this place, we pray
and in this hour, grant us wisdom and peace. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*In Unison*)

Lord, it is seductive to be exalted,
to have admiring glances come our way.
By some luck, many of us have much to bolster our self esteem;
we have no reason to envy others.

And yet we are met daily by Jesus who did not count equality
with God a thing to be grasped
But emptied himself, taking the form of a slave
being born in human likeness
And found in human form he humbled himself and became
obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Help us, we pray, to not get above ourselves
but to remember that the one we name bore a cross for us,
that we might bear one another's burdens,
and he taught us to pray together, 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

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.

(As the response 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.)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Peter Russell

2 Kings 5:1-14

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel." He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy." When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me." But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel."

So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean?'" So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Jesu, the Very Thought of Thee

(Words to this anthem can be found in the New Century (black) Hymnal #507)

The Chancel Choir
Mark Swicegood, organ
Paul Halley

SECOND LESSON

Luke 18: 9-14

Dick Peebles

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

***‡HYMN**

We Offer Christ

New Century (black) Hymnal 527

SERMON *Tyrants, Captains and Lepers* Rev. Daniel D. England

RESPONDING TO GOD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Lord is just in all his ways
and kind in all his doings
The Lord is near to all who call on him
to all who call on him in truth
He fulfills the desire of all who fear him
he also hears their cry and saves them
The Lord watches over all who love him
but all the wicked he will destroy
My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord
and all flesh will bless his holy name
for ever and ever.

Psalm 145

***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. Avery C. Manchester

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Impromptu

*Mark Swicegood, organ
Louis Vierne*

***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

Lead On Eternal Sovereign New Century (black) Hymnal 573

*CLOSING SENTENCES

Leader: Fear God and walk humbly in his way.

People: For God is good and his mercy endures forever.

Leader: The proud he does not regard, but the humble he hears.

People: So send us into the world with your blessing, O Lord.

All: Sustain us and keep us. Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Psalm 19

Benedetto Marcello

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning have been given in memory of Nancy and Chuck McConnell's parents, Jim and Mildred Hackler, and Jack and Madeline McConnell.

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 The Greatest Commandment as found in Matthew 22:34-40. The 3rd graders will finish their preparation for next Sunday's Bible Jeopardy match with their parents. The 2nd graders and their parents are making their Family Communion banners in preparation of their participating in next Sunday's communion service.

Youth Choir

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

Come Hear About Our Trip to Belize!

Our youth and adults are back safely from Belize and WOW, do we have stories to tell!!! Join us in the auditorium today following the worship service to hear some stories, see some photos, and learn about our service in Belize! See you there!

Bible Study

Our study in the Gospel of Luke continues today with more unique material that only Luke tells us. It gives us insight into Jesus and Luke – and, of course, ourselves. So join us. *(Please note, there will only be Bible Study today and not on Tuesday evening this week).*

Blood Pressure Screening

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

Youth Ministry

Our Y! programs resume tonight with grades 6-8 (JPF) meeting from 5:00-6:00 pm and grades 9-12 (SPF) meeting from 7:00-8:00.

Cabaret DVDs for Sale

Come to the cabaret again and again! DVD copies of the January 29 performance will be available at coffee hour today. The DVDs are \$25 (the cost covers the expense of producing and duplicating the DVDs). Enjoy!

THIS WEEK

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.

NEXT WEEK

Hospitalist Medicine: The Evolution of In-Patient Care - *Sunday, March 6 after Worship Service*

For this special Wellness presentation we will welcome Dr. Franklin Loria to speak here at FCCOG. Attendees will learn valuable insights, such as how to utilize the most efficient path of communication with the medical team when we or a loved one are hospitalized. Dr. Loria, the director of the Hospitalist Program at Greenwich Hospital, will help us understand the structure and advantages of this patient care model. The Wellness Committee looks forward to hearing Dr. Loria and hopes that many of you can join us. Sue Asselin, our Parish Nurse, personally attests to the caring nature of Dr. Loria with his patients, and would appreciate RSVPs to her at extension 21 to help us plan our room assignments for that Sunday at our very busy church.

NEWS AND NOTICES

CPR Skills Refresher -

Saturday March 12, 9:00 am or 10:30 am

Two one-hour refresher courses will be offered here at church for individuals who are currently certified in CPR. This non-mandatory

class provides participants an opportunity to gain hands-on experience with our AED (defibrillator) and participate in a practice drill. Greenwich EMS has significantly reduced the cost, enabling the church to offer it at no charge to participants. Space is limited, so please register with Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse, at extension 21.

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 once again being held on Wednesdays at 8 am as well as Thursdays at 9 am. 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

March Calendar:

- March 9, Ash Wednesday –The Beginning of Lent
- March 13, Daylight Savings Time begins
- March 17, St. Patrick’s Day
- March 20, The First Day of Spring

Winter doesn’t last forever as all things are temporary. God has spoken and said, “Rejoice my children, it was just a bend, and not the end!” The Rummage Room is celebrating the coming new season by inviting you to join us at 191 Sound Beach Avenue to view a bountiful array of beautiful spring clothing and accessories that you can add to your wardrobe at affordable prices.

The Rummage Room Hours: Shopping hours are Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Saturday, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. To keep attractive spring clothing and seasonal items flowing through The Rummage Room, we need your donations. Donation hours are 9:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, and Saturday 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Manager Maria’s Wish List for March: Everything for spring shopping, including shoes, handbags, jewelry, hats, St. Patrick’s Day items and clothing, small furniture, pictures and other art work, linens and bedding, and bric-a-brac in good condition.

When we rejoice because God has spoken to us, let us remember that our donating and shopping at The Rummage Room helps provide the funds for women and children’s organizations who give to those

who have far less than we do. Everyone should be entitled to rejoice this coming season. Thank you for your support.

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.

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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