

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

## The First Sunday in Lent

13 March 2011

10 o'clock in the morning



# LENT



**W**ELCOME to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church on this first Sunday of Lent as we praise God and seek to follow Christ in our space and time. May these words of Ann Weems continue to prompt us as we journey through this Holy Season...

*Lent is a time to take the time  
to let the power of our faith story take hold of us  
a time to let the events  
get up and walk around in us  
a time to intensify our living unto Christ,  
a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,  
a time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem  
or to walk along the sea and listen to his word,  
a time to touch his robe  
and feel the healing surge through us,  
a time to ponder and a time to wonder...*

*Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!*

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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 and Fugue in F Minor*

*Mark Swicegood, Guest Director/Organist*

Marcel Dupre

**CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Dr. David D. Young*

**MOMENT OF OPPORTUNITY**

*Paul Pacent*

### **PRAISING GOD**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

*O Jesus, I Have Promised*

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 218

## OPENING PRAYER

O God of the crowded roadways of our coming and going,  
draw near to us during this Lenten Season that we might be  
drawn to the Cross of Christ and discover again in its  
strange power, the source of renewal for uncrowding the  
hours, making way for your presence among us. Amen.

## CONFESSING TO GOD

### CALL TO CONFESSION

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

Oh God of the searching heart, we confess that we have  
been drawn to journeys in life which lead to empty spaces.  
...Created by you to be stalkers of meaning,  
we have been captive to small purposes  
and temporary conquests.  
...Directed by you to lose our life in the service  
of others, we have held tightly to our prerogatives  
and wandered from your way in the process.  
Forgive us our willingness to compromise with the  
pattern you have shared with us in Jesus Christ.  
Equip us for faithful living in the days ahead,  
that we might direct our searching toward your  
will and way, even as we 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

New Century (black) Hymnal 170 (verse 4)

*How shall we show your love, your pardon to believe?*

*You bid us share as we are blessed and give as we receive.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Rev. Susan J. Murtha*

*(As the end of the Children's Message, the children will go with Rosemary and Susan to the Daniels Center for a Big Event. Parents should meet their children in the Daniels Center after worship.)*

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### FIRST LESSON

*Jean Watkins*

Isaiah 51:1-6

**L**isten to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

### SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

*Seek Ye the Lord*

*The Chancel Choir  
Terry Beurline, tenor  
J. Varley Roberts*

### SECOND LESSON

John 6:53-71

**S**o Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in

you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.” Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.” Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve? Yet one of you is a devil.” He was speaking of Judas son of Simon Iscariot, for he, though one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

\*‡HYMN

*Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts* New Century (black) Hymnal 329

SERMON

*What Will It Be?*

*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. Mark D. Montgomery*

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** *Organ solo*  
*O Man Bewail Thy Grievous Sin* Johann Sebastian 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**

*Here I Am, Lord*

*(words and music on next page)*

## Here I Am, Lord

*Unison*

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo-ple cry.  
I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo-ple's pain.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a-lone.

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,  
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat-is-fied.

1. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
Who will bear my light to them? I have wept for love of them. They turn a-way.  
I will speak my word to them. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
I will give my life to them.

2. Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord.  
Whom shall I send?  
Whom shall I send?

*Refrain (Harmony)*

Is it I, Lord? I have heard you call-ing in the  
 night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
 I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

**\*CLOSING SENTENCES**

*Leader: The value of a religious or, more generally, a spiritual way of life is appreciated by the amount of illuminations thrown upon the things of this world.*

*People: There is a Spirit within and about us that breathes through the waiting moment cradling all that is.*

*Leader: How generously does the divine display His good. We look for Him, but do not see Him.*

*People: We listen to Him, but do not hear Him. Yet He enters into all, and without Him there is nothing.*

Simone Weil / Howard Thurman / Confucius

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

*Prelude in B Minor*

Johann Sebastian Bach

The flowers in the Meetinghouse today are given in loving memory of Arnold and Sally Anderson by their daughter, Sandra Anderson Boles, and family.

The flowers in the Narthex this morning are given in loving memory of Stanley Rawn Jr. by his family.

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. Instead, Susan and Rosemary will do a Big Event to kick-off our Church School Lenten Project. This year the whole church school (and the whole church, we hope) will be participating and supporting the CROP Walk on April 10, 2011. Regular Church School classes resume next Sunday.

#### **Youth Choir**

There is no Youth Choir rehearsal today.

#### **Bible Study**

Our tour through the Gospel of Luke will pause after today and pick up again May 1. But we are into some really good material that is

unique to Luke. It is not always easy to understand what these chapters are talking about, but together we come pretty close to figuring them out. So join us today in the lounge for the next installment of this great book.

### **Crop Walk**

It's time to rally your team for this important event being held on *April 10!* Members of the Hunger Mission Team will be at Coffee Hour today to give you all the information and/or sign you up to walk, volunteer or sponsor a walker.

### **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**

JPF (grades 6-8) will meet tonight from 5:00-6:00 pm and SPF (grades 9-12) 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!

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## **THIS WEEK**

### **Men's Retreat – March 18 and 19**

If you would like to meet with other men from the church family, make new friends and share an active interest in our church life, our community and our world, then please join us as we expand our sense of being a caring Christian church, and together, build on our faith awareness. Join us this *Friday, March 18 and Saturday, March 19* at the North Greenwich Congregational Church, Riversville Road (across from the Audubon). The featured topic is UN/UNICEF with our own church member, Barry Wentworth, Deputy Director of UNICEF Finance as our presenter and discussion leader. More

details are available in the March Meetinghouse Monthly. Please RSVP by today to Chuck McConnell at [cmcconnell@stewartcoopercoon.com](mailto:cmcconnell@stewartcoopercoon.com) or Avery Manchester at [averycoe@aol.com](mailto:averycoe@aol.com). Voluntary contribution is \$10.

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## NEWS AND NOTICES

### **Soup Sale**

**Help!**...men and women of FCCOG we need your soup! Please consider making a few quarts for the Women's Fellowship fundraiser. Just email Pat Schay at [pat@schay.com](mailto:pat@schay.com) or call her at 203-698-1979 and let her know the name of the soup you plan to make and the ingredients. Containers and labels are supplied and are available in the church office.

### **Movie Night**

Please join us for Movie Night, *Friday April 1*, for *Toy Story 3*! All members and friends are welcome. Pizza will be served at 6:30 pm and the movie will begin at 7:00 pm. We will also have: raffle prizes, popcorn, fellowship, and fun! Wear your PJ's. Bring your blankets and pillows too; for this wonderful evening for "kids" of all ages. Bring your grandkids, neighbors, and friends from school. Sign up at coffee hour or church school. We hope to see you Friday, April 1st for Movie Night!

### **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 currently reading *The Gospel According to Jesus Christ* by Jose Saramago. Reverend Susan Murtha leads 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 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

Let's celebrate! Today we "spring forward" to start Daylight Savings Time and spring is only a week away! That means the crocus will soon be blooming, the grass will be turning green, and spring cleaning will commence! As you clean out those closets, garages, storerooms and dresser drawers, please stay alert for items that can be donated to The Rummage Room and turned into funds that will be distributed to organizations that support women's and children's causes. There is a special need for spring and Easter clothing so donate those garments that haven't been worn for a couple of years and would brighten someone else's day. Thank you.

**The Rummage Room Hours:** The Rummage Room is open for shopping 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.

**Manager Maria's Wish List for March:** Spring clothing, handbags, shoes, jewelry, a small china display cabinet, children's and adult's bikes, a boy's navy blue suit (size 8 to 10), small furniture (chests, tables and chairs, desks, footstools, etc), good bric-a-brac, baby strollers, a sewing machine, and art works.

And remember:

*The meek shall inherit the earth ... if it's alright with you.*

## 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