

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Third Sunday in Lent

27 March 2011

10 o'clock in the morning



WELCOME to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church on this third Sunday of Lent. Today we continue our Sermon Series: “Following Christ” as we seek to make that a deeper reality in our life journey. May these shared moments of prayer, meditation, music and praise expand for all of us the preparation and promise of these special Lenten days – that our lives will be lived out in love – because we do, indeed, follow Christ our Redeemer.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Two settings of *Von Gott will ich nicht lassen*

Dieterich Buxtehude

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. Susan J. Murtha

Please sign and pass the red book.

MOMENT OF OPPORTUNITY

Char Barnes

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

(words and music on next page)

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

1. Come, Chris-tians, join to sing: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 2. Come lift your hearts on high: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 3. Praise yet our Christ a - gain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Loud praise to Christ we bring: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Let prais - es fill the sky: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Life shall not end the strain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Let all with heart and voice, with hymns of thanks re - joice;
 Christ is our Guide and Friend on whom we can de - pend;
 On heav - en's bliss - ful shore Christ's good - ness we'll a - dore,

praise we with grate - ful choice: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 his love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

WORDS: Christian Henry Bateman, 1843, alt.

MUSIC: Traditional Spanish melody; harm. David Evans, *Revised Church Hymnary*, 1927

MADRID
66.66D

Originally a hymn titled 'Join now in praise, and sing' by William E. Hickson, this text was rewritten by Bateman, an English Congregational minister.

Harm. © 1927, by permission
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OPENING PRAYER

O God, of all our cherished yesterdays and of our hopeful tomorrows
walk with us on the Way marked by this hour of pause...
that we might feel the soft winds of your presence and be
equipped for the living of the gifted moment which is Now.
Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*In Unison*)

O God, who calls us into your future,
we admit that we lack a lively and
life-giving imagination.
... We are content with ourselves,
our lifestyles, our routines,
and our social structures and
often choose not to claim the newness you offer.
... Not imagining what we ourselves, our neighbors,
or the creation will need tomorrow,
we stand inactive and helpless before the future.
Forgive us for our short-sightedness.
Give us courage that we may be drawn into
the future toward the new world that you are creating.
Capture the imaginations of our hearts
and the work of our hands
and set them afire with the visions of
human life as you intend it, leading us into the
goodness of your reign. Hear us as we
offer the prayer Jesus taught,

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. Mark D. Montgomery
Rosemary Lamie*

(At the end of the Children's Message, 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

Olivia Hartwell

I Kings 17:17-24

After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill; his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. She then said to Elijah, "What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to cause the death of my son!" But he said to her, "Give me your son." He took him from her bosom, carried him up into the upper chamber where he was lodging, and laid him on his own bed. He cried out to the Lord, "O Lord my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I am staying, by killing her son?" Then he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried out to the Lord, "O Lord my God, let this child's life come into him again." The Lord listened to the voice of Elijah; the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. Elijah took the child, brought him down from the upper chamber into the house, and gave him to his mother; then Elijah said, "See, your son is alive." So the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth."

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Blessed Be the God and Father

The Chancel Choir

Hanna Golodinskii, soprano

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

SECOND LESSON

Mark 9:9-28

Phoebe Griffith

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean. Then they asked him, “Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?” He said to them, “Elijah is indeed coming first to restore all things. How then is it written about the Son of Man, that he is to go through many sufferings and be treated with contempt? But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written about him.”

When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and some scribes arguing with them. When the whole crowd saw him, they were immediately overcome with awe, and they ran forward to greet him. He asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” Someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought you my son; he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak; and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they could not do so.” He answered them, “You faithless generation, how much longer must I be among you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him to me.” And they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us.” Jesus said to him, “If you are able! —All things can be done for the one who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out, “I believe; help my unbelief!” When Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You spirit that

keeps this boy from speaking and hearing, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!” After crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he was able to stand. When he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?”

*‡HYMN

“Silence! Frenzied, Unclean Spirit”

New Century (black) Hymnal 176

SERMON

Pushing Past the Possible

Dr. David D. Young

(Third in a Sermon Series: “Following Christ”)

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, the eternal Spirit, who is made known to us
in Jesus, our brother, and to whose deeds we testify:

God calls the world into being, creates humankind
in the divine image

and sets before us the ways of life and death.

God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of
righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord,

God has come to us and shared our common lot conquering sin
and death and reconciling the whole creation to its creator.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the
Church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of
all ages, tongues, and races.

Blessing and honor, glory and power, be unto God. 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 PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

LENTEN OFFERING OPPORTUNITY

Christine Musso

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Our Salvation Has Come to Us

The Chancel Choir
Anonymous

*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

We Are a New Creation

1 We are a new cre - a - tion Of Christ, the liv - ing Word.
 2 We are a new cre - a - tion Of God for this new day.
 3 We are a new cre - a - tion For serv - ice here on earth.
 4 We are a new cre - a - tion By God's own gra - cious hand,

Our songs of ju - bi - la - tion Shall ev - ery - where be heard.
 As part - ners let us fol - low The life, the truth, the way.
 We live our faith in ac - tion To tell our Sav - ior's worth.
 Old bur - dens cast be - hind us, A dar - ing fu - ture planned.

(words and music continued on next page)

New life blooms fresh and glo - rious For those who heed the call
 Christ bids us work to - geth - er As col-leagues, old and young,
 Let love and jus - tice blend - ing Now show for all to see
 In min - is - try and mis - sion, U - nit - ed let us live,

Of Christ, who reigns vic - to - rious O'er sin and death and all.
 As wom - en, men, and na - tions, God's folk of ev - ery tongue.
 God's grace is nev - er - end - ing. It reach - es you and me.
 In Christ a shin - ing vi - sion To God's wide world to give.

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

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LANCASHIRE 76 76 D

Henry Smart, c. 1835

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***CLOSING SENTENCES**

Leader: You never know how much you really believe anything until its truth or falsehood becomes a matter of life and death to you.

People: To the one who believes, no explanation is necessary; to the one who does not, no explanation suffices.

Leader: Believe that life is worth living, and your belief will create the fact. Be not afraid to live!

People: And Jesus said: the one who comes to me shall not hunger, and the one who believes in me shall never thirst.

C.S. Lewis, Franz Werfel, Jesus the Christ, William James

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Psalm 76

Emma Lou Diemer

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 our classes will hear about the Last Supper when Jesus gave us the symbols of bread and cup to remember Him always. He also gave the disciples a new commandment that night; and that was to love one another as Jesus loved them. After worship today, there will be a Teachers' Mini-Retreat with Reverend Susan Murtha in the Daniels Center from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Child care and lunch for teachers and their children are available.

Youth Choir

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

Bible Study

There is no Bible Study today or next week. Bible Study will resume again on May 1.

Women's Fellowship Soup Sale is Here!!!

Come buy some soup today during Coffee Hour until 1:00 pm and tomorrow and Tuesday, March 28 and 29 in the main church

kitchen from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, just in time for lunch! The cost is \$6 per quart to benefit Women's Fellowship programs. (Additional donations are welcome!) You have a great variety of soups to choose from! Please stop by.

CROP Walk is Just Two Weeks Away!

You've heard about CROP Walk but do you understand why we walk? CROP stands for "*Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty*," and our CROP Walk involves the communities of Greenwich and Port Chester walking to raise money for Church World Service (CWS). CWS then uses the money to drill wells, build schools, help people farm or start new businesses, and re-build communities devastated by war or natural disasters. CWS also puts a quarter of the money we raise back into our own neighborhood to help feed the hungry. You can be a **walker** even if you can't join us on **April 10**, by supporting a walker or making your donation online at www.cropwalkonline.org/greenwichtc. 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. To support a walker, make your check out to "CWS/CROP" and take it to the church office. Your contribution will join that of millions of other walkers across the country. We **do** make a difference. We're counting on you!

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!

THIS WEEK

Confirmation

This **Tuesday, March 29**, the Confirmation class will be going "off-campus" to attend the World Vision AIDS experience at Christ Church Greenwich. **Please note the special instructions for this**

evening:

6:45 pm: drop off your Confirmand at Christ Church

8:15 pm: pick up your Confirmand at Christ Church

Movie Night

Please join us for Movie Night this *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!

Environmental Mission Team - Energy Conscious Home Forum

The Environmental Mission Team invites you to attend the Energy Conscious Home Forum on *Saturday, April 2*, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at Greenwich High School. First Selectman Peter Tesei and Conservation Director, Denise Savageau will be on hand to open the forum and kick-off the Annual Earth Month Celebration in Greenwich. The forum is a day-long event with sessions about: Home Audits, Choosing an Electric Supplier, Sustainable Home Building, Energy Efficient Landscaping, Renewable Energy Options, and Legislation. If you are interested in volunteering for the event please contact Jessica Brockington at 347-647-0782.

NEXT WEEK

Can You Relate? Fostering Healthy Relationships - *Sunday, April 3*

Love – Honesty – Trust - Boundaries.....these are a just a few of the components of a healthy relationship we'll examine with FCCOG's own Enid Norris, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. Find out how we can nurture each other and have more fulfilling and meaningful connections with our family, friends, and loved ones. Explore the role spirituality plays in our interpersonal relationships. Enid will lead a discussion on these topics and give insights on how we can foster more meaningful connections. Please join us in the Lounge, shortly after the Worship Service next Sunday.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Interested in Learning about Joining the Church?

Our next New Member Class will be held on *Sunday, April 10, 2011* at 11:15 am in the Lounge. It will last approximately two hours and will include lunch. During the class, prospective new members have the opportunity to hear about the history and faith of our denomination, the United Church of Christ, and to learn more about our church and meet the clergy as well as staff. Attending does not obligate you to join but we hope that this time together will strengthen you on the journey of faith. New members will be received on Sunday, May 1. Child care will be provided at both times. Please feel welcome to join us. If you are planning to attend or you have questions please contact Ginny Breismeister at ginnyb@fccog.org or 203-637-1791 ext. 26.

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 8:00 am as well as Thursdays at 9:00 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

There is a special need for Spring and Easter donations so as you are cleaning out closets and other storage places, please remember The Rummage Room and bring us your donations as soon as possible. Donations hours are Monday through Friday, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, and on Saturday, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. January and February were tough months for sales and donations because of the harsh weather so please donate soon and often! Thank you for your generosity! Come in and shop with us when you bring your donations ... we have wonderful items for all your family. Judging from the quality of the recent donations, the economy seems to be improving. We sincerely hope this is the beginning of better times for all. Remember that the

funds generated from your donations and purchases go to organizations who help provide for women and children in need.

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.

Manager Maria's Wish List for March: Spring clothing; handbags; shoes; hats and jewelry; two child trikes with long handles (so the child can be pushed); musical instruments; small furniture; everything for Easter shopping including bric-a-brac, baskets and bunnies; and Mother's Day items.

Friday is April 1st and that means April Fool's Day! There will be live manikins in the windows all day and if you look hard you may actually see movement from a hand, a leg or a head. Bring your children and come have some fun!!!

People miss their share of happiness, not because they never found it, but because they didn't stop to enjoy it! ~ William Feather

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) 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.



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