

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Second Sunday of Easter

1 May 2011

10 o'clock in the morning



WELCOME to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church as we gather on this first Sunday after Easter to continue the celebration of life. May Christ's joy and love sustain us as we reflect on these words of Ross Snyder:

*“Celebration is a people setting out through time toward a destiny.
There’s a journey to be made. A song to be sung.
A narrow pass to be found toward a horizon.
Time and space to be made fit for human beings.”*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Cantique

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Edward Elgar

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Dr. David D. Young

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name (First Tune)

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 195

OPENING PRAYER

O God, because of the Risen Christ,
we are grateful that you walk among us on earth,
bringing life and hope.

Help us to recognize you;
help us to be aware of your presence
in our time of worship.

Enable us to stand alongside you

in your ministry of healing
on the crowded roads of our world
through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*In Unison*)

God of birth,
God of joy,
God of wonder,
we come to you as a people
hungry for good news.
We have been so dead to
miracles that we have
missed the world's rebirth.
We have preoccupied ourselves
with pleasure and have overlooked
the joy you offer us.
We have been so concerned with making
a living that we have missed the Life you
set among us.
Forgive us, gracious God,
Open our eyes and our hearts
to receive your gift;
open our lips and our hands
to share it with all humanity,
in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ,
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

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Rev. Susan J. Murtha and Dr. David D. Young

Roll Call of Candidates

(Candidates will come forward as their names are called)

Commitment of Candidates

Leader: We are called of God to be disciples through Christ Jesus. Do you here affirm your consecration in God through Jesus Christ?

Candidates: I do.

Leader: Friends in Christ, we bid you welcome. We greet you as fellow disciples of one Master in the Church Universal. Our purpose is to promote the increase of the love of God and neighbor. Will you now unite yourself with The First Congregational Church of Greenwich, accepting its responsibilities, praying and working for its usefulness, sustaining its worship, supporting its wider mission, and living with us in the bonds of Christian fellowship?

Candidates: I will.

Clergy: We believe in the freedom and responsibility of the individual soul and the right of private judgment. We join in fellowship with other congregations of the United Church of Christ in declaring our steadfast allegiance to the faith which our forebears confessed, which from age to age has found its expression in the historic creeds of the Church Universal and of our Communion, and in affirming our loyalty to the basic principles of our representative democracy. We hereby set forth the things most surely believed among us concerning faith, polity and fellowship.

Owning of the Covenant (*all, standing*)

We believe in God, infinite in wisdom, goodness and love; and in Jesus Christ His Son, our Lord and Savior, who for us and our salvation lived and died and rose again, and liveth evermore; and in the Holy Spirit, who renews, comforts and inspires us. We are united in striving to know the will of God as taught in the Holy Scriptures and in our purpose to walk in the ways of the Lord, made known or to be made known to us. As Jesus accepted, welcomed, included and embraced all people without exception, so do we accept all who join with us in our search to walk in the ways of the Lord. We hold it to be the mission of the Church of Christ to proclaim the gospel to all people, exalting the worship of God and laboring for the promotion of justice, the reign of peace and the realization of human understanding. Depending upon the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth, we work and pray for the transformation of the world into the Kingdom of God, and we look with faith for the triumph of righteousness and the life everlasting.

***SONG OF AFFIRMATION**

*Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The sharing of a common life is like to that above.*

(As the music 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 Schay

Romans 6:5-11

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe

that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM
Go Not Far From Me

The Chancel Choir
Luigi Zingerelli

SECOND LESSON

Peter Schay

Luke 24:36-53

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

*‡HYMN

Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers (to the tune Pleading Savior)
New Century (black) Hymnal 397

SERMON: “*Is Easter Over?*”

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
for in Christ all things were created,
in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions
or principalities or authorities - - -
all things were created through Christ and for Christ.
Christ is before all things,
and in Christ all things hold together.
Christ is the head of the body, the church;
Christ is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
that in everything Christ might be preeminent.
For in Christ
all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through Christ
all things are reconciled to God,
whether on earth or in heaven,
making peace by the blood of Christ’s cross.

Colossians 1:15-20 (adapted)

*GLORIA

New Century (black) Hymnal 759

*Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three-in-One; as it
was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.*

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Andante

Organ

Louis Lefebure-Wely

***DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (*seated*)

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SERVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

In the tradition of our church, we will partake of the bread as it is served, thanking God for Christ's death for each one of us. We will hold the cup and drink of it together, affirming our oneness as the Body of Christ.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

***CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

New Century (black) Hymnal 347

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

*Leader: God has raised this very Jesus from death
and we are all witness to this fact. (Acts 2:32)*

*People: Even in our disbelief, you extend to us
the challenge to go throughout the whole
world and preach the gospel.*

*Leader: O Christ, help us to hear anew the Resurrection
call to follow you.*

*People: May we accept the freedom and responsibility
that the Resurrection brings.*

Paula Crosby

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

March

John Marsh

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in loving memory of Bob Curtis by his wife, Marge.

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.

New Members Joining Today

Phillip Bradford and Dorothy Mueller, 38 Yale Court, Stamford, CT 06905, 203-588-9896: Dorothy and Phil come to First Congregational Church by Letter of Transfer from St. Mark's United

Methodist Church in Northport, AL. Phil is Application Architect in Finance IT with GE Asset Management. He is a computer scientist focused on both the practical and mathematical sides of the discipline and has a deep interest in entrepreneurial development. Dorothy is a psychologist and is Senior Consultant with CCA Inc. She enjoys reading and running. Their passion is raising their 8 year old daughter, Victoria.

Robert and Kristen Jacks, 176 Shore Road, Old Greenwich, CT 06870, 203-344-1961: Bob and Kristen come to First Congregational Church by Letter of Transfer from the Dutch Reformed Church in Bronxville, NY. Bob is a self employed Business Development Consultant to Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical companies. Kristen is formerly a Marketing Director in the magazine industry and is now a homemaker. Bob enjoys playing golf and ice hockey and Kristen is an active volunteer in the community. They have two daughters, Darin, 7 and Kristen, 3.

Mary Leinbach, 122 Byram Shore Road, Greenwich, CT, 06830, 203-531-9434: Mary is becoming a member of First Congregational Church after being a member of our choir for 42 years. She has been a College Consultant and donated her fee to the First Congregational Church Student Loan Fund. She is a Stephen Minister and says that she is “addicted” to duplicate bridge.

Calendar

TODAY

Church School

Welcome Back! After two weeks away, classes resume today. We will hear the story of Thomas who did not believe Jesus had risen until he could see for himself. The Bible passage is John 20:24-29. It is a wonderful message about faith and how so many believe in Jesus even though we have never seen Him. For the next few weeks, our children will hear more about Jesus' days after the Resurrection. Today, our 5th Graders return to Pilgrim Towers for fellowship and mission as they plant seeds and annuals to brighten the grounds of the residence. They will return around 1:00 pm.

Youth Choir

Youth Choir will have rehearsal today from 11:15 am - 12:15 pm in the Choir Room.

Blood Pressure Screening

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

Annual Quilt Raffle Tickets On Sale!

Tickets for the 41st Annual Quilt Raffle can be purchased today during coffee hour. Tickets are \$5 and the drawing will take place at the Women's Fellowship Spring Luncheon on Wednesday, May 18 at noon. You do not need to be present to win. The Kettle Quilters have created a beautiful queen size quilt in a colorful "Sampler" pattern this year. Tickets will be sold during coffee hour, on the church website, and at the church office prior to the drawing. An order form is also included in the Meetinghouse Monthly. All proceeds are donated to local charities that benefit women, children and families.

Calling all Gardeners!!! Help the Hunger Mission Team Revitalize a Community Garden.

We have secured a sizable plot at the Greenwich Community Garden this year and are building a team of gardeners to grow and donate food to Neighbor to Neighbor as part of our Hunger Mission. Work has already begun and we're looking for people who can help with the planting on Saturday, May 14, Tuesday May 17 or Saturday May 21. Positions are open for the watering and weeding detail this summer. Speak with Terri Browne Kutzen during Coffee Hour today to learn about this wonderful opportunity to grow fresh produce for the many families served by Neighbor to Neighbor.

Bible Study

Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke will resume today at 11:20 am in the lounge. We left off with the parable of the Prodigal Son and his brother. This week we will start with a perplexing story, the parable of the Dishonest Manager, in which the owner realizes that the

manager is squandering his property and prepares to fire him. So the manager goes to those who owe his boss money and tells them to tear up the bill they owe and put down an amount half that of what they truly owe. When the boss hears about this he commends the manager and keeps him on. Jesus' comment? "And I tell you make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes." Huh? And that's just the first passage we come to. So join us and find out what's going on. Led by Dan England.

Memorial Service

There will be a Memorial Service today for Eleanor Mawhinney at 1:30 pm.

Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry resumes today. JPF (grades 6-8) will meet from 5:00-6:00 pm and SPF (grades 9-12) from 7:00-8:00 pm.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Book Discussion Group

Hats Off!, the popular women's book discussion group meets Thursday mornings from 9:45-11:30 in the Lounge. Please join us!

News from The Rummage Room

At last, it appears May really will bring blossoms and warm weather! If you haven't been through your closets because you have been holding on to your winter clothing, maybe now is the time to clean out and make a donation to The Rummage Room. We are selling faster than we are collecting donations, so here is:

Manager Maria's Wish List for May: Clothing and gift type items for Mother's Day; June Bride's clothing and the new gifts you have been saving but don't know where to send them; Father's Day clothing, golf items, picture frames, and those items appropriate for Dads; jewelry for all occasions; shoes; handbags; bikes; strollers; beach items and outdoor furniture; small furniture for indoors; bric-a-brac and clothing for any time of the year.

The Rummage Room is thinking ahead to August 29 which is Opening Day. If you have never been to an Opening Day, mark your calendar it is an amazing experience!

Remember, if our church required perfection, we couldn't belong!! We were called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges. Enjoy the month of May!

Food Collection

A reminder that the Food Collection Barrel remains 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 are:

- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Pasta Sauce
- Dried Beans
- 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.



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