

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

## The Third Sunday of Easter

*Mother's Day*

8 May 2011

10 o'clock in the morning



We welcome you to worship today at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich. Today -- Mother's Day and Festival of the Christian Home -- we will reflect on mothers, women, families, and the mothering 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**

*Triptych of Tunes*

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

*Now Thank We All Our God*

*Dr. Craig Scott Symons, piano*

Arr. John Carter

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Dr. David D. Young*

### **PRAISING GOD**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

#### **\*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

*Now Thank We All Our God* New Century (black) Hymnal 419

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

*Leader: On this day, we pray for all mothers;*

*People: for expectant mothers, wondering and waiting;*

*Leader: for new mothers, discovering new joys and responsibility;*

*People: for mothers doing the daily work of raising children;*

*Leader: for mothers who are unable to feed their children due to poverty;*

*People: for mothers who raise children on their own;*

*Leader: for mothers who have lost a child;*

*People: and for those whose desire to be a mother has not been fulfilled.*

*All: We give thanks for the love and lives of all mothers – past and present and yet to be; and today especially for our own mothers. Amen.*

## CONFESSING TO GOD

### CALL TO CONFESSION

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

Forgive us, gracious God,  
that we have allowed our worries to dominate our faith;  
that we are so swift to act and so slow to contemplate;  
that we know our world better than we know your word;  
that we are selective with our indignation and uneven in  
expressing our compassion;  
that we harbor in our souls unspeakable jealousies and  
resentments;  
that our desire to be up-to-date has often put us out of touch  
with you.  
O God whose mercy is ever greater than our sin,  
grant us awareness of this truth  
and readiness to be nurtured in your grace  
so as to serve you more faithfully and fruitfully.  
Through Christ Jesus, 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.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Fill My Lake*

*Rev. Susan J. Murtha*

## SONG

*Jesus Loves Me (words below)*

(As the song 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.)

*Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong; they are weak, but He is strong.*

### *Chorus:*

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### FIRST LESSON

*Olivia Hartwell*

### Isaiah 66:10-13

**R**ejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her— that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast; that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious bosom. For thus says the Lord: I will extend prosperity to her like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm, and dandled on her knees. As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

### SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

*True Light*

*The Chancel Choir*  
Keith Hampton

## Matthew 11:28-12:8

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the sabbath; his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. When the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, “Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the sabbath.” He said to them, “Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him or his companions to eat, but only for the priests. Or have you not read in the law that on the sabbath the priests in the temple break the sabbath and yet are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. But if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the sabbath.”

## \*‡HYMN

*Be Still, My Soul*

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 77

## SERMON:

*“The Heartbeat of God”**Rev. Susan J. Murtha***RESPONDING TO GOD**

## \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are a community of faith.

We share a vision of God;

a God whose spirit is love,

the source of all being,

the way leading to wholeness,

the spirit which pervades everything.

We search for the meaning of God and our own experiences revealed in those sacred stories which have been passed down to us.

We tell them again and again:  
Of God the Creator, the Almighty,  
who made everything that is,  
and saw that it was good.

We are followers of the Way shown by Jesus and we are  
reborn in the Spirit, the Breath, the Wind of God, the Giver  
of Life, the Holy Wisdom, who inspires the people of God  
to seek justice and reconciliation for all,  
to see the presence of God in every created thing,  
and to respond with love.

adapted, St. John's-Grace Episcopal Church, Buffalo, NY

**\*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 PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*Christ is Risen, Alleluia*

*The Chancel Choir*  
Healey Willan

**\*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**

**GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD**

**\*CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

*Thank You, God, for Mother*

Sung to the tune *Hyfrodol* - New Century (black) Hymnal 355

*Primal Mother of all living,  
to the Garden Eve brought Love,  
wholeness to Creation giving  
flesh of flesh sent from above.  
Thank you, God, for Eve our Mother:  
faithful friend and faithful wife.  
First created then creating,  
with God's help she brought forth life.*

*Caring Mother, Levite woman  
in a basket put her babe,  
floating in Egyptian waters  
for his precious life to save.  
Thank you, God, for Moses' Mother  
and for Pharaoh's daughter's heart  
showing courage for the baby,  
not denying mercy's part.  
Jesus' Mother, Blessed Mary,  
magnified by Heaven's kiss;  
wonders for her heart to treasure,  
pondered with maternal bliss.  
Thank you God, for Mother Mary,  
nurturing your holy son  
from the manger to the temple  
to the cross and vict'ry won.*

*Modern mother in all people,  
think of Eve and Mary kind,  
Moses' mother, Pharaoh's daughter:  
love your own and those you find.  
Thank you, God, our Heav'nly Mother  
For your nurture and your care.  
Teach us love for all your children  
in our homes and ev'rywhere.*

**\*CLOSING SENTENCES**

*Leader: God beyond all names,  
You have made us your image.*

*People: We are like you, we reflect you.  
We are woman, we are man.*

*Leader: God of tender care,  
You have cradled us in goodness.*

*People: You have mothered us in wholeness.  
You have loved us into birth.*

*Leader: All around us we have know You;  
all creation lives to hold You.*

*People: In our living and our dying,  
we are bringing You to birth.*

*God Beyond All Names, Bernadette Farrell*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

*Petite Trumpet Processional*

James Kimball

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The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given by Linda Dowling in loving memory of her mother and father, Dorothy and Frank Crabill.

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**

Today our children will continue to hear the stories of the risen Christ, specifically "Breakfast on the Beach" as told in John 21:1-14. There will be no Church School next week so we may worship as a church family for Music and Friendship Sunday.

#### **Youth Choir**

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

#### **Cherub Choir**

Cherub Choir members will be meeting today in Room 104 from 11:15-11:45 am. We are also welcoming NEW children (ages 4-8) to rehearse today and to sing next week at our Music Sunday service. Come and be part of our joyful group!

#### **Blood Pressure Screening**

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

#### **Bible Study**

Our study in the Gospel of Luke continues today at 11:30 am in the Lounge (just a little later than usual to allow for Dan's travel time). Please note there are no Tuesday studies in this series. This week we are going to look at Chapter 17 about forgiveness, faith and leprosy (yuk).

#### **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.

### **Youth Ministry**

There is no JPF or SPF today.

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## **THIS WEEK**

### **Book Discussion Group**

Novelist Peter Cimini (*The Secret Sin of Opti*) will speak about human trafficking to the Hats Off! book discussion group this *Thursday, May 12* from 10:00 am -11:30 am in the Lounge. All are welcome to attend.

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## **NEXT WEEK**

### **Women's Fellowship Annual Meeting and Luncheon**

The Women's Fellowship Annual Meeting and Luncheon will be held *Wednesday May 18* at 11:30 am in the Auditorium. There will be the quilt raffle, election of officers, a vote on The Rummage Room Allocations, a catered luncheon and The Rummage Room Fashion Show. Ticket price is \$10. Please make checks payable to Women's Fellowship and send or leave at the Church Office (Attn: Irene

Savage) by Sunday, May 15. We regret we cannot accommodate reservations by phone, walk-ins, or reservations without payment.

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## NEWS AND NOTICES

### **Book Discussion Group**

Hats Off!, the popular women's book discussion group is just finishing their current book, *Half the Sky*. Their last meeting for the season will be on Thursday, May 19. A luncheon will be held at Jean Watkin's house on *Thursday, May 26*.

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

The Rummage Room Committee and Volunteers, The Allocations Committee, The Women's Fellowship Board and Members, The Rummage Room Manager and Assistant Managers wish a very Happy Mother's Day to all the Mothers in the congregation today. Have a wonderful day and if you are not going to be with any of your children, or you, children, cannot be with your mothers, perhaps you will have the joy of speaking with them on the telephone. To those whose mothers are no longer with them, may your thoughts be ones of joyous memories!!!

**Manager Maria's Wish List:** Items for Father's Day; Bridal clothing and gifts for new brides; shoes; handbags; jewelry; small furniture; outdoor furniture; boating items; bric-a-brac; clean, neat clothing for all seasons. Remember that we are closed the month of August for repairs and vacations. Do not miss the *Grand Reopening on Monday, August 29*. Everything in the shop will be either new or newly used. The occasion will be our 47th Grand Reopening and it all begins at 10:00 am. It is definitely an EVENT! The Rummage Room's mission is to donate funds in order to improve the lives of women and children in our community, nationally and internationally. Donations may be dropped off Monday through Friday 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, and on Saturday 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Please do not leave donations when the shop is closed.

Today, Sunday, May 8, is also in honor of our Veterans. In honor of all the men and women who have always served our country so valiantly, remember to fly the flag of the United States of America today. Peace be with us and throughout the World. Amen

## 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](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