

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Music and Friendship Sunday

15 May 2011

10 o'clock in the morning



Artwork by Catinka Knoth

This is Music Sunday and Friendship Sunday at The First Congregational Church. Welcome. The choirs, under the able direction of Dr. Craig Symons (pronounced Simmons if you want to greet him later), have been working hard to add their voices to this service of worship to our great and loving God. We also welcome those who will play bells and instruments. The friendship part of the day, well, we hope you do receive a friendly welcome and that you'll join us after the service in the Auditorium or Memory Garden (weather, you see, leads to whether) for strawberries, croissants and warm greetings. We're glad you're here.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
Declare the Maker's Praise*

The Palmer Handbells

Arr. Hart Morris
Joseph D. Daniel

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

PRAISING GOD

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Down in My Heart

The Cherub Choir

Mary Fike, guest director; Debbie Berner, pianist

George W. Cooke

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

When in Our Music God is Glorified

New Century (black) Hymnal 561

Verse 1: All

Verse 2: Men

Verse 3: Women

Verse 4: All

OPENING PRAYER

O God, whose love and goodness, grace and mercy are meant to turn our eyes heavenward and raise our voices in praise, we have come to give you thanks in words and song. Engage our minds and move our hearts in this hour that we may come away refreshed in spirit and in closer relation with one another. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*In Unison*)

Lord, who has called us to joy and to the enjoyment of your presence in our lives,
How often we lose the thread.
We lurch from thinking either too much or too little of our being and power
And our self concern shuts you out.
Teach us then in the means of joy, of music which bursts forth from a full heart
Of compassion and kindness to which we are called.
Help us to see that faith is humility and humility faith,
And thus to lose our lives that we might find them.
Help us grasp and hold the joy of our salvation
Which is through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray 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

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Anne Wachsman

Psalm 96

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.

For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

Say among the nations, "The Lord is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity."

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it.

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

*‡HYMN

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 16

ANTHEM

Sing to the Lord a New Song

The Youth Choir

Robert Benson

SERMON:

“Praise Be! Why?”

Rev. Daniel B. England

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that every good and perfect gift is from above
That you have graciously given us the capacity for music --
for singing and composing and playing and hearing with delight.
You have bestowed these gifts on human creatures alone for we
are made in your image.

Our hearts resonate with yours and we rejoice in your goodness.

We believe that you are worthy of our praise above every creature
or creation.

For you have not only loved us but redeemed us through the
death and glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ,
your Word and your Song.

And so it is that with angels and archangels and all the company
of heaven, we praise your holy name this day and forever.

Amen.

ANTHEM OF AFFIRMATION

Festival Alleluia

The Children's Choir

Matt Stolfi, piano

Allen Pote

CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Set Me as a Seal upon Your Arm

The Chancel Choir
Eric Peterson, French horn
Richard Nance

*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

When the Morning Stars Together

New Century (black) Hymnal 453

*CLOSING SENTENCES

Leader: Praise be to God on High because he has come near.

People: May the earth be full of the glory of the Lord.

Leader: May the heavens tell of his goodness and love.

All: Praise be to God the Almighty.

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Allegro from Concerto for Horn

Eric Peterson, French horn
Franz Strauss

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

There is no Church School today so we may worship as a church family for Music and Friendship Sunday.

Youth Choir

There is no Youth Choir rehearsal today.

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.

Bible Study

The Spiritual Gym (Bible Study) will meet in the Lounge immediately following the service. Please join us -- and if you are a visitor, you are especially welcome. Fear not, this is one study of the Gospel of Luke you will enjoy.

Annual Quilt Raffle Tickets On Sale!

Tickets for the 41st Annual Quilt Raffle can still be purchased today during coffee hour. Tickets are \$5 and the drawing will take place at the Women's Fellowship Spring Luncheon this 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 are also being sold 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 this Tuesday, May 17 or next 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.

THIS WEEK

Women's Fellowship Annual Meeting and Luncheon

The Women's Fellowship Annual Meeting and Luncheon will be held this *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 TODAY, Sunday, May 15. We regret we cannot accommodate reservations by phone, walk-ins, or reservations without payment.

Stephen's Ministries Retreat

The Stephen's Ministries retreat will be held this *Saturday, May 21* from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm in the Auditorium. It is open to all who are interested. Dr. Maureen Matthews, a nationally recognized leader in early memory loss and Alzheimer's, will guide us. She has written and produced a drama, *To Whom It May Concern*, involving early Alzheimer's which has been presented around the country. Dr. Matthews is a gifted and imaginative leader. If you can join us, please

call Angela Stevens at 914-522-6496 or Avery Manchester at 203-912-3392 or email averycoe@aol.com.

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 this Thursday, May 19. A luncheon will be held at Jean Watkin's house on *Thursday, May 26*.

News from The Rummage Room

Now that winter is officially over, The Rummage Room needs your help! All the 2011 packed up boxes for spring and summer have been brought up and displayed. Please go through your closets and bring in your donations. Your help is needed and as soon as possible. The Rummage Room accepts donations Monday through Friday 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, and on Saturdays from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. All proceeds go to help women and children's causes.

Manager Maria's Wish List: Father's Day items, brides, bridesmaid and mother-of-the-bride dresses; linens; jewelry; shoes; handbags; bric-a-brac; small furniture; bikes for all ages and genders; and everything summer.

Remember to buy your tickets by TODAY for the Women's Fellowship Luncheon and Rummage Room Fashion Show to be held this *Wednesday, May 18* at 11:30 am. Tickets for the 41st Annual Quilt Raffle may be purchased at the luncheon. Luncheon tickets are \$10 and are available today at coffee hour. Bring your friends and enjoy a fun day.

From the Cherokee Nation comes this wisdom: *When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life such that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice!*

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