

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

24 July 2011

10 o'clock in the morning



Cover Artwork - "Solomon" by Ernst Fuchs

Welcome to this service of worship at First Congregational Church of Greenwich. We will spend some time this morning “Assessing Value,” so we ask, “What is it that you value?” and “What does it mean to value something?” May our time together strengthen us for our faith journey.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Priere

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Joseph Jongen

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Susan J. Murtha

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Let Me Enter God's Own Dwelling (verses 1-4)

New Century (black) Hymnal 67

OPENING PRAYER

We have gathered to be renewed,

To be refocused,

To be strengthened,

To have a revelation.

To understand something new,

To take a break,

To be restored,

To share the journey.

God, we come simply to worship you. Be our focus, our strength, our revelation and our restoration.

Open our eyes and help us understand.

Be with us now. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*In Unison*)

God, we lower our heads before you and we confess that we have too often forgotten that we are yours. Sometimes we carry on our lives as if there was no God at all and we fall short of being the people you have called us to be. For these things we ask your forgiveness and we also ask for your strength. Give us clear minds and open hearts so we may witness to You in our world. Remind us to be who You would have us to be regardless of what we are doing or who we are with. Hold us to You and build our relationship with You and with those You have given us on earth. When we find ourselves in struggle, remind us of your prayer...

From the Book of Common Worship

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

FIRST LESSON

Dick Peebles

I Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You

have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

SCRIPTURE SOLO

The Heart Worships

Kim Rogers, alto

Gustav Holst

*Silence in Heav'n, Silence on Earth
Silence within! Thy hush, O Lord,
O'er all the world covers the din.
I do not fear to speak of thee in mortal kind
And yet to all thy namelessness I am not blind.
Only I need and kneel again thy touch to win;
Silence in Heav'n; Silence on Earth; Silence within!*

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 13:44-46

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."

***‡HYMN**

Children of God

New Century (black) Hymnal 533

(As the hymn begins, the Church School children will leave for Summer Church School with Rosemary. Weather permitting we will go to the Memory Garden. Otherwise, we will go to Room 104.)

SERMON: “Assessing Value”

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

RESPONDING TO GOD

***STATEMENT OF FAITH**

God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

God promises to all who trust in the gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God. Amen.

From the United Church of Christ Statement of Faith

***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.
Amen.*

CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Praise God in His Holiness
(text paraphrased from *Psalm 150*)

The Chancel Choir
Dudley Buck

***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**

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart (verses 1-4) Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 345

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

Leader: We go from this place seeking treasure.

People: May we find our treasure in the living God.

Leader: Let Wisdom be our guide.

People: And may our journey be filled with what is good and right.

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

March in G

William Rowan

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in memory of Judy Carey by Bob Carey, Libby Calloway and the Carey children: Matt, Leah, Ann and Martha.

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

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.

NEWS AND NOTICES

FCCOG Meets Social Media!

FCCOG now has a new Facebook page. To check out the page, you can go through fccog.org or search for First Congregational Church of Greenwich in Facebook. Be sure to "like" us!

New Visioning Blog!

The response to the Visioning sessions has been encouraging. The auditorium was packed, the comments were thoughtful and heartfelt, the ideas were fertile. If you were not able to participate or if you have had further thoughts about the vision for our Church, you can make comments or have further conversation on our new Visioning Blog (a blog is a web-log). Just go to <http://fccog.wordpress.com> (note the change of address from the MHM). Click on "Comment" to join the conversation!

Beach Services

Beach services continue at 8:00 am each Sunday down at Greenwich Point (weather permitting). If the beach service is cancelled due to inclement weather, a notice in red will be posted on our website by 7:30 am and a white piece of paper will be taped to the sermon sign on the church lawn. (**Note:** There will be no beach service on *Sunday, August 7* due to the Greenwich Cup Triathlon. Please join us, instead, in the Meetinghouse that Sunday.)

Tai Chi

For the months of July and August Tai Chi classes will be held on Wednesday mornings only at 8:00 am in the Memory Garden, weather permitting. Come join us to enjoy the beauty of nature while you spend a relaxing, healthful hour with our wonderful instructor, Luis Duarte. You'll feel calm and energized and you'll be glad you did! The cost is \$10 per session for drop-ins.

Summer Work

Need summer help? Need summer work? Do you have opportunities for yard work, child care, tutoring, errands, etc? Are you a high school or college student or even a recent graduate looking for work? Just contact Rosemary at 203-637-1791 ext. 20 or RosemaryL@fccog.org to be connected.

Become a Member of a Committee

Where is your place at The First Congregational Church? Everyone has a gift for something. Everyone has a talent that can be shared. Please consider volunteering for a committee starting in January 2012. The nominating committee is searching for a "few good men, and women" to become an integral part of the fabric of our church. Contact one of the pastors or Lynn O'Gorman, chair of the Nominating Committee, at 203-921-9247 or laogorman@yahoo.com, to express your interest.

Flower Donations

Flowers in the Meetinghouse on Sunday mornings are something we have all come to enjoy. These flowers not only beautify our sanctuary, but are given to honor very special people and occasions in our lives. The reasons for donating flowers are many. In addition to remembering a loved one, you can give flowers in celebration of marriages, anniversaries, baptisms, birthdays, congratulations, and

thank you's. Donors can be an individual or a group. After the morning worship has concluded, the blooms are often delivered to shut-ins, hospitals or other facilities bringing beauty and community to those who cannot be physically present in church. If, however, you prefer to keep the flowers you have donated, please let us know and we will make arrangements for that. Please consider a Sunday when you would like to thank God and honor a special person or a special moment with a gift of flowers. For more information, please contact: Pat Geismar at 203-637-3597; pat.geismar@gmail.com or Susan Murtha at 203-637-1791 x38; smurtha@fccog.org

Summer Choir

Each Sunday morning from now until Labor Day, everyone is welcome to join The Summer Choir! Gathering at 9:00 am in the choir loft of the Meetinghouse, we will lift our voices in song as we learn new music that helps lead and inspire worship. No previous experience is necessary, but reading music certainly helps. And if you have college-age or other family members who are in town that have instrumental talents, we can certainly put them to work as well. Don't let your talents sit idle...use them to praise God on Sunday morning!

News from The Rummage Room

- Monday, July 25 through Wednesday, July 27 – Storewide 50% Off Sale.
- Thursday, July 28 through Saturday, July 30 – Bag Sales.
 - Thursday, July 28 – all you can get in a bag for \$12
 - Friday, July 29 – all you can get in a bag for \$8
 - Saturday, July 30 – all you can get in a bag for \$1
 - Everything must go!!!
- The Rummage Room closes Saturday, July 30, 1:00 pm for the month of August.
- Reopening Day is Monday, August 29 at 10:00 am.
- **Please – no more donations accepted until Tuesday, August 30 at 9:30 am.**

God didn't promise days without pain, laughter without sorrow, nor sun without rain. But He did promise strength for the day, comfort for the tears and light for the way!

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.

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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