

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

31 July 2011

10 o'clock in the morning



“Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters...”

Isaiah 55:1

Welcome to this service of worship at First Congregational Church! As we gather, we ask that you take some time to reflect on our scripture passages for today. In particular, you could reflect on water....the times where water is refreshing, the times when water is overwhelming, the times when water is quenching. May the living waters surround us this day and restore us for the journey.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Concerto in C Major

Mary Fike and Caroline Glover, flutes

Antonio Vivaldi

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

HYMN SING

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

New Century (black) Hymnal 22

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Susan J. Murtha

On the journey, we find ourselves thirsty

For knowledge

For strength

For companionship

For hope

For support

For new life

May this part of the journey quench these thirsts

And draw us closer to the living water that is found in you.

Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*In Unison*)

O God of such truth as sweeps away all lies,
Of such grace as shrivels all excuses,
Come now to find us for we have lost ourselves
In a shuffle of disguises and the rattle of empty words.

We find ourselves busy in self-seeking,
Lax in self-awareness.

We seek the comfort of belonging,
Shun the cost of responsibility.

We are long on easy generalities,
Short on hard specifics.

Our prayer is to change, O God,
Not out of despair of self
But for love of you,
And for the selves we long to become.

Let your mercy move in and through us now
as we pray together your prayer...

Adapted from Ted Loder

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

Anne Wachsman

Isaiah 55:1-5

Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM *The Summer Choir; Vance Briceland, piano*
Many Gifts, One Spirit Allen Pote

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 14:13-21

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken

pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

***‡HYMN**

You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore (verses 1 & 2)

New Century (black) Hymnal 173

(As the hymn begins, the Church School children will leave for Summer Church School with Rosemary.)

SERMON: “Quenching a Thirst”

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

RESPONDING TO GOD

***STATEMENT OF FAITH**

We believe in God, who has created
and is creating anew everyday.

We believe in Christ, who has redeemed and serves as a teacher,
a brother, and a reminder of God's love for us.

We believe in the Spirit that connects us to one another and
shows us at each moment on the journey that God is with us.

We know that, as God's created, redeemed and connected people,
we are called to do God's work in the world.

In the times that we rejoice, we know that we are with God.

In the times that we struggle, we know that we will be restored.

In the times that we love, we know that we see most clearly
the face of God.

***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

Mary Fike and Caroline Glover, flutes
Andante Moderato from Trio Sonata in C Minor Johann Quantz

***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**

God of Grace and God of Glory

New Century (black) Hymnal 436

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

Leader: We arrived thirsty

People: Seeking to quench our thirst and be strengthened for the journey.

Leader: Filled with your living waters, we move forward on our journey

People: Believing that you are with us, knowing that we are yours.

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Plein Chant du Agnus Dei

Francois Couperin

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 is now on Facebook! Please check out our page either by going through fccog.org or search for "First Congregational Church of Greenwich" on Facebook. Be sure to "like" us!

What is a Blog and What is it used for?

According to Merriam-Webster, a "blog" (originating from the term, "Web log") is "a Web site that contains an online personal journal with reflections and comments..." Basically, it's a place where the writer can post some thoughts and/or opinions and others can participate in a dialogue with the writer. Hence, our Visioning Blog...it's an opportunity for members of our church to make comments, further the conversation or ask questions concerning our Visioning process. Whether you were able to attend the first two sessions or not, this is a place for you to share your thoughts and opinions about this reflective process. Please visit the blog at <http://fccog.wordpress.com>, click on "Comment" and 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 next *Sunday, August 7* due to the Greenwich Cup Triathlon. Please join us, instead, in the Meetinghouse.)

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 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

The Rummage Room is closed for the next 4 weeks!

- *Reopening Day is Monday, August 29 at 10 am.*
- Please do **not** leave donations either in front or in the back during the month The Rummage Room is closed. There is no one there to receive them!
- Donations will resume on Tuesday, August 30 at 9:30 am.
- The Rummage Room Committee and Manager, Maria, thank all of you shoppers, donors, and volunteers for the support you give the eleven months of the year that we are open. Our mission is to provide funds for Women's and

Children's organizations and we are proud to have given over \$2,000,000 in the past 15 years. We could not have done so without your help!

- The Rummage Room will have an exciting and extensive assortment of clothing, shoes, handbags, bric-a-brac, and many other goods for sale during the Reopening Week. Come, shop and see for yourself!
- Stay safe and enjoy the summer!

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