

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

7 August 2011

10 o'clock in the morning



Sermon: "Boom! The Will of God?"

We welcome you to this service of worship and communion at First Congregational Church. And while our gathering together in the Meetinghouse is a staple of our life together, much more happens in the fellowship of the deep and abiding friendships that take place here. If you're visiting with us, we hope you will make yourself known to us and join us for some light refreshments after the service. Welcome in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Canzona

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ
Johann Pachelbel

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Daniel B. England

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 16

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Bearer of humanity's burdens, Comforter of the sorrowful, we would bring to you all whose hearts are sad. Help us to mediate your strengthening sympathy to others, but grant that we may be so continually refreshed by our companionship with you that we may not be crushed by the world's burdens. In this faith, teach us to do our duty day by day as we see it to be your will, and save us from the depression of those who try to carry more than man was made to bear, and ever to look to thee, O Lamb of God, who bears the sins of the world.

Adapted from Leslie D. Weatherhead

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*In Unison*)

O God of grace and God of glory,

Forgive us, we pray, when we go through most of a day with little thought of you.

Forgive us, too, when we take each other for granted, focused on the schemes and troubles of our own little universe of self.

Remind us that we do not live to ourselves, nor die to ourselves, but are called to be part of that great and eternal community of the church, temporal and universal.

Help us to find your will in our lives through wisdom and humility, seeking to know what you would have us do, and then finding the courage to do it.

We pray in the name of the one 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

FIRST LESSON

Peter Schay

Matthew 18: 10-14

“Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

God Omnipotent Reigneth

The Summer Choir

Charles Wood

SECOND LESSON

Mark 14: 32-42

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.” And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, “Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.” He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

*‡HYMN

God is Working His Purpose Out

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 298

SERMON: *“Boom! The Will of God?”*

Rev. Daniel B. England

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Susan J. Murtha

As members of the Christian Church, we confess that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the Living God, and proclaim Him Lord and Savior of the world.

In Christ's name and by His grace, we accept our mission of witness and service to all people.

We rejoice in God, maker of heaven and earth, and in the covenant of love which binds us to God and one another.

Through baptism into Christ, we enter into the newness of life and are made one with the whole people of God.

In the communion of the Holy Spirit, we are joined together in discipleship and in obedience to Christ.

At the table of the Lord, we celebrate with thanksgiving the saving acts and presence of Christ.

Within the universal church, we receive the gift of ministry and the light of scripture.

In the bonds of Christian faith, we yield ourselves to God that we may serve the One whose kingdom has no end.

Blessings, glory, and honor be to God forever. Amen.

*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 OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO

Quia Respexit from *Magnificat*

Amanda D'Onofrio, soprano

J.S. Bach

(Translation: Because he hath regarded the humility of his handmaid; for behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.)

*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

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

Be Thou My Vision

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 391

*CLOSING SENTENCES

Leader: God, we would seek and know your will in our lives.

People: Grant us your Holy Spirit to guide and direct our paths.

Leader: God, we would want to help our brothers and sisters in Christ to know your will.

People: Help us to watch, listen and pray with them in this quest.

All: Thanks be to God.

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

All Creatures of Our God and King

Emma Lou Diemer

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 are no Church School classes from now until Homecoming Sunday, September 18. However, there is Child Care every Sunday in the Preschool. Usually we use the Blue Door Classroom but today

we will be in Room 104. Please ask the Ushers or Greeters for directions.

Blood Pressure Screening

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

NEXT WEEK

Worship Service

Reverend England will be preaching again next week on the sermon titled, *Shadow Effect*.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Bible Study in the Fall

Bible Study will begin on September 25.

FCCOG Meets Social Media!

Tell all your friends...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 to stay up to date with all the exciting happenings here at FCCOG!

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.

Tai Chi

For the month 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!

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 needed 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