

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

21 August 2011

10 o'clock in the morning



A detail from the stained glass windows in the FCCOG Choir Room

Welcome to this service of worship at First Congregational Church on this summer Sunday. May our time together be spirit-filled and renewing, that we may go forth into the world to spread the love and light which came with the world so long ago through Jesus Christ and comes yet still.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Prelude on Resonet in Laudibus

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Colin Mawby

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Dr. David D. Young

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 130

OPENING PRAYER

O God, you who called the world
into being,
call us into being this day,
that our worship
may be joyful
and our spirits
reflective of the love
that came into the world
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

O God, whose mode of movement in our lives is through the honest obedience of those who are open to your Spirit, we confess that we have allowed the springs of our sensitivity to become dry and parched.

...You have taken form through the simplicity of Mary – we prefer the complexity of Caesar.

...You have accompanied your Incarnation by summoning humble shepherds – while we are so concerned with knowing the “right” people.

Forgive us for our fear of simple genuineness, that we might be restored to a right feeling about ourselves, because we have encountered you in the stable of the unexpected.

In the name of the Child of Bethlehem, we now pray the prayer he taught us, 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

Joe McBride

Hebrews 1:1-4; 4:14-16

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint

of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Ding, Dong, Merrily on High

The Summer Choir

Arr. Lois Fiftal

SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:1-12

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the

Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

*‡HYMN

What Child Is This

New Century (black) Hymnal 148

SERMON: “*Lowliness and Holiness*”

Dr. David D. Young

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel that began in Bethlehem.

We believe in Him whose spirit glorified a little town, of whose coming only shepherds saw the sign and for whom the crowded inn could find no room.

We believe in Him who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible, whose cradle was a mother’s arms, whose home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at people and made them see what his love saw in them, who by his love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

We acknowledge in Christ a faith in life redeemed, that looks beyond the present;

And we pray that this redemption may begin in us! Amen.

*GLORIA

New Century (black) Hymnal 125

(Refrain from *Angels We Have Heard on High*)

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Susan J. Murtha

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO

The Virgin's Slumber Song

Carolyn Paulus, soprano

Max Reger

*DOXOLOGY

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 119

(Verse 3 of *As With Gladness Men of Old*)

*As they offered gifts most rare,
At the manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ to thee, our heavenly King.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 107

*CLOSING SENTENCES

Leader: On the sad and the lonely, the wretched and poor,

People: The voice of the Christ-child shall fall;

*Leader: And to every blind wanderer open the door of hope that he
dared not to dream of before,*

People: With a sunshine and welcome for all.

Phillips Brooks – *Christmas Carol*

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Postlude on a Noel

Felix Alexandre Guilmant

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.

Special Organ Recital

Our Director of Music Emeritus, John Stansell, will be offering an organ recital today at 4:00 pm in the Meetinghouse. This recital is a practice run for his performance of the identical program the following Friday at Hauptkirche St. Petri, one of the five principal churches of Hamburg, Germany. He will play one more recital on his mini-tour in the little North-German town of Langenhorn.

- The program will begin and end with repertory standards, *Bach's Prelude and Fugue in A Minor* and Mendelssohn's *Sonata #4*, respectively.
- In keeping with the theme of the series in Hamburg, there will be a 20-minute segment of jazz-inspired organ works: *Gospel Fancy* by Henry Sexton, *Jerusalem, My Happy Home* by George Shearing, *Gospel Prelude: What a Friend We Have in Jesus* by William Bolcom, and *Bossa Nova-God Is in His Temple* by Johannes Matthias Michel.

- Rounding out the program will be *Saints' Days* by Daniel Pinkham, the piece commissioned in honor of John and Michael's 25th anniversary together.

We encourage you to attend this wonderfully diverse program with your friends and neighbors.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Summer Sings!

One of the newest programs in the music ministry comes to a close soon. Our final *Summer Sings* will be on **Wednesday August 31** from 7:30-9:30 pm. The featured work will be *Schubert Mass in G*, conducted by Jamie Hitel, Director of Music at Christ Church, Greenwich. Singers rehearse the choral work and then “perform” it for ourselves, all in the informal setting of our First Congregational Church building. Capping off the night will be a post-performance gathering with refreshing popsicles! And best of all, it's FREE! Share this chance to sing some great music with your friends and neighbors and invite them to come ---- or offer to bring them with you!

Beach Services

Beach services continue at 8:00 am each Sunday down at Greenwich Point (weather permitting). The last beach service will be Sunday, September 11. 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.

Homecoming Sunday is September 18!

Hold the date for great fun, delicious food and a “family” reunion. Our theme this year is “*We Are Family.*” Be sure to join us!

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!

Tai Chi

For the month of 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.

News from The Rummage Room

The Rummage Room will be *reopening on Monday, August 29 at 10 am*. Since we will be closed for another week, please do not leave donations either in front or in the back of the shop. There will be no one there to receive them and The Rummage Room must pay to have them carted away and that expense comes out of our mission funds! Donations may once again be dropped off beginning Tuesday, August 30 at 9:30 am.

The Rummage Room Committee and Manager, Maria, thank all of you shoppers, donors, and volunteers for the wonderful support you have always given to The Rummage Room. Our mission is to provide funds for Women's and Children's organizations and we are proud to have given \$200,000,000 in the past 15 years. We could not have done so without your help!

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 fccoghungermision@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