

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

## The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

28 August 2011

10 o'clock in the morning



*Simeon with the Christ Child in the Temple by Rembrandt*



Welcome to this service of worship at First Congregational Church of Greenwich.

No matter who you are  
or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here  
and we are glad that you are with us.

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### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

\*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

#### **PRELUDE**

*Deo Gratias*  
*Processional*

*Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ*  
Philip Moore  
Stanley Vann

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Dr. David D. Young*

### **PRAISING GOD**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

#### **\*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* New Century (black) Hymnal 439

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

*Leader: From the rising of the sun till its setting in the west,*

*People: God's holy name be praised!*

*Leader: At the banquet hall of heaven and at earthly tables  
where bread is shared,*

*People: God's holy name be praised!*

*Leader: With the memories of the past, the hopes of the yet to be,  
and dreams in between,*

*People: God's holy name be praised!*

*Leader: People of God, let all that has life and spirit praise the Lord.*

*All: God's holy name be praised!*

## CONFESSING TO GOD

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*In Unison*)

Gracious God,  
in our pride, we are too confident in our positions.  
In our blindness, we make assumptions about others.  
In our deafness, we fail to hear what is true.  
In our muteness, we fail to speak your truth aloud.  
Forgive us,  
release us from the bondage of sin,  
grant us zeal for the coming of your kingdom,  
And bring us to the truth that sets us free.  
We pray in the name and the presence of the cornerstone  
of the church, Christ Jesus, who taught us to pray...

#### 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

*Jean Watkins*

Luke 2:21-32

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. When the time came for their purification

according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

#### SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

*Jesu, Lead My Footsteps Ever*  
(from *The Christmas Oratorio*)

*The Summer Choir*  
J. S. Bach

Dedicated to Rev. Susan Murtha, as she follows the voice of God in new and exciting ways:

*Jesu, lead my footsteps ever. Ever all my senses guide.  
From all ills my doings sever. Put all else than thee aside.  
Jesu let thy grace attend me; from all evil e'er defend me.*

#### SECOND LESSON

**Matthew 4:1-11**

**T**hen Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread

alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

\*‡HYMN

*Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*

New Century (black) Hymnal 286  
(Verses 1, 2 & 4)

SERMON: “*In-Between*”

*Rev. Susan J. Murtha*

## RESPONDING TO GOD

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, let me sow pardon;  
where there is doubt, let me sow faith;  
where there is despair, let me sow hope;  
where there is darkness, let me sow light;  
and where there is sadness, let me sow joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

*St. Francis of Assisi*

**\*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 DUET** *Kim Rogers, alto; Katie Weatherseed, soprano*  
*By My Side* Stephen Schwartz

**\*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**  
*Of the Father's Love Begotten* Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 111

**\*CLOSING SENTENCES**

*Leader: He comes to us as One unknown, without a name, as of old, by  
the lakeside.*

*People: He speaks to us the same word: 'Follow thou me!' and sets  
us to the tasks which He has to fulfill for our time.*

*Leader: And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple,  
He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts, the sufferings  
which they shall pass through His fellowship,*

*People: And, as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience Who He is.*

Albert Schweitzer

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

*Make a Joyful Noise*

Alan Viner

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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](http://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*

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**TODAY**

**Sign-up begins today for the Homecoming picnic on Sunday, September 18!**

Plan to be here for great fun, delicious food and a "family" reunion. Our theme this year is "We Are Family." Signup on the easel during Coffee Hour or call the office during the week and let us know how many of you and your guests will be joining the festivities.

**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.

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## NEWS AND NOTICES

### Church School

Church School begins again on Homecoming Sunday, *September 18*. Online Registration is available now at [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org). Just click on the link on the homepage, complete the form and submit. This year's handbook will arrive in your mailbox soon.

### Summer Sings!

One of the newest programs in the music ministry is coming to a close. Our final *Summer Sings* will be this *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.

### FCCOG Meets Social Media!

Tell all your friends...FCCOG is now on Facebook! Please check out our page either by going through [fccog.org](http://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

*Monday, Aug. 29: The 47<sup>th</sup> Grand Reopening of The Rummage Room*

*Where:* 191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, CT 06870.

*When:* Doors open at 10:00 am and close at 5:00 pm.

*Why:* We have *all 'new' and 'gently used'* merchandise for sale.

*Purpose:* The Rummage Room was established so that all proceeds would go to help women's and children's organizations locally and nationally. Over 2 million dollars have been distributed in the past 15 years.

*Tuesday, August 30 – First day for donations:* Hours are 9:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Thursday. Donations accepted Friday and Saturday 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

*Wish List for September:* Jewelry, handbags, shoes, good bric-a-brac, musical instruments, and new and gently used clothing.

Please come shop, donate, and volunteer. The Rummage Room is a wonderful place to serve the Lord. Thank you for your continued support.

## 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](mailto: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.

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## *The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870

203-637-1791

[www.fccog.org](http://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