

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

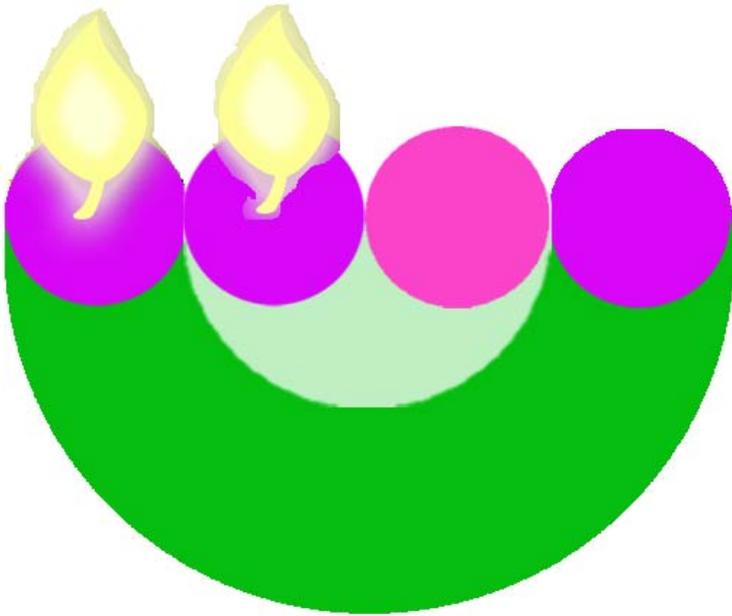
*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Second Sunday of Advent

4 December 2011

10 o'clock in the morning



Art Credit: Ted Mallory 2009

We welcome you to our church and this service of worship during Advent. We hope you will feel at home here very quickly and if there is anything we can help you with you will let us know. There is a Coffee Hour after the service and we would love to be able to greet you personally there. Any of the ushers can help you with questions about children. When you have a moment, please visit our website at www.fccog.org for all of the activities that are taking place during the Christmas season. We're glad you're here.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Wake, Awake, for Night is Calling

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

J. S. Bach

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Dr. David D. Young

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Creator of the Stars of Night

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 113

Verse 1: All

Verse 2: Women

Verse 3: Men

Verse 4: All

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

The Sykes Family

Scripture: John I: 3-5

Prayer (In Unison)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

‡Congregational Response (*Tune: Sussex Carol*)

New Century (black) Hymnal 143

*Then why should we on earth be sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad;
Then why should we on earth be sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin Christ set us free,
all for to gain our liberty.*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Kim Rogers

John 1: 1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Take My Voice and Let Me Sing

The Youth Choir

Steve Kupferschimd

I John 4: 1-3, 7-12

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. And this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming; and now it is already in the world.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

(At the end of the scripture reading, the Church School children and teachers will leave for their classrooms. Children in second grade and older will leave independently. Children in kindergarten and first grade will meet their teachers at the back of the Meetinghouse (narthex) and will go to their classrooms as a group.)

SERMON: “*Stacking Logs and Incarnation*” Rev. Daniel B. England

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, light from light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Nicene Creed (English Language Liturgical Commission translation)

***Advent Response** New Century (black) Hymnal 122 (*verse 3*)
Born all people to deliver,
born a child, you came to reign!
Born to rule on earth forever,
come, be known to us again.

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Offertoire

Alexandre Guilmant



Music Notes:

The Offertory Anthem is by the German composer Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847), written as part of his unfinished oratorio *Christus*, and is probably his most familiar choral work. The composition contains many of the ingredients of a "war-horse" anthem: lyrical, melodic phrases; drama and full-throated singing; and an ending with calm and peaceful harmonies. The piece closes with the chorale (hymn) tune *Wie schön leuchtet der morgenstern* (How brightly shines the morning star).

Tenor section leader, Christopher Pfund, shares a magnificent gem in the vocal repertoire from Vaughan Williams's *Five Mystical Songs* which employs a poem by George Herbert. The lyrics are apropos for the Advent season, and especially Communion Sunday, as we await the birth of the Christ Child:

*Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
Such a Way, as gives us breath:
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:
Such a Life, as killeth death.
Come, My Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a Light, as shows a feast:
Such a Feast, as mends in length:
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.
Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a Joy, as none can move:
Such a Love, as none can part:
Such a Heart, as joys in love.*

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in memory of Mario Morson, Colette's father, by the Rogers Family.

The flowers in the Narthax this morning are given in loving memory of Donald Swanson by his wife, Mary Ellyn, and his daughters, Dorothy, Ellyn and Julie.

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.

Giving Opportunities for the Season

Sharing Christmas Blessings - Giving Tree

This is the last Sunday to pick up your gift tags for gifts to give to our friends at Pilgrim Towers and H.O.M.E. Co-op in Orland, Maine. There are still several available. The deadline for wrapping and delivering your gift(s) back to the church is this *Wednesday, December 7*.

Mitten Tree

Throughout Advent the Mitten Tree is available in the Auditorium to accept gifts of mittens, hats, gloves and socks that will be delivered to St Luke's Lifeworks to help warm the hands and hearts of those St. Luke's serves.

White Gifts

White Gifts are offerings of new clothing, toys, books or other useful items wrapped in white paper that are offered during our 10 am and 4 pm services on Christmas Eve. The white paper gives the illusion of snow under the trees in the Meetinghouse. The gifts will be sent to Covenant to Care for Children, which provides advocacy, mentoring, and direct assistance to children and youth who are neglected, abused or at risk. Warm clothes, coats, educational toys, family board games, and gift cards (for Target or Walmart for teens) are particularly appreciated. Ribbon and bows are not necessary but **please attach a tag listing the contents including age, gender & size.** (Hint: If you find yourself without white paper, some patterned papers reverse to white, or use white tissue paper.)

Christmas Tree Sale

After a delay in tree delivery due to a Nova Scotia snowstorm, the trees are here! Our annual Christmas Tree Sale is one of the ways that we increase the amount we are able to share through the Outreach Budget of FCCOG. Be sure to stop by this weekend or next to **BUY TREES AND OTHER ITEMS FROM US!!** Also, we need tons of volunteers to pull off this effort. There are still shifts available. If you are able to help out, please contact the Church Office or email Clem Lepoutre (clem@lepoutre.us) or Mark Montgomery (mmontgomery@fccog.org).

Calendar

TODAY

Church School

Today our classes will hear some of the Old Testament prophecies of the coming of the Christ child. The third grade will learn about the Psalms, highlighting 23 and 100. The Pastor's Class will be in worship and participate in Communion. There are regular Church School classes for the next two weeks. If any of your children would like to participate in either the 10:00 am or 4:00 pm nativity pageants on Christmas Eve, please let Rosemary know ASAP.

Bible Study

There is no Bible Study today.

Youth and Cherub Choir Rehearsals

There is no Youth Choir rehearsal today. Cherub Choir will rehearse from 11:15 to 11:45 am in Room 104.

Wellness Program - Greenwich Senior Services... Good to Know

Please join us *today* at 11:30 am in the Lounge for a very special Wellness Program – *Greenwich Senior Services... Good to Know*, presented by Sam Deibler, Director of Greenwich Commission on Aging. “I didn’t know that” is often the response when people hear of the many helpful services available to seniors in Greenwich. Like it or not, the Town Senior Services now considers people 50 years and older to be eligible for their services! There are many exercise and enrichment programs, as well as programs to assist those finding it difficult leaving the house. From transportation to recreation, from meals-on-wheels to insurance counseling, our town has much to offer. Sam Deibler will touch upon the many services offered and answer questions. Sam will also offer an update on the 2012 Medicare Part D prescription drug plan, which has an earlier enrollment deadline this year.

linc

Join us today at 5:00 pm in the Auditorium for our new linc worship service. Come in your jeans and t-shirt and experience something completely new. During the service, we will take a look at the Angel's visit to Joseph as told in the Gospel of Matthew! David Young will be leading the service. Donald Haviland will serve as the vocal lead.

Y! - Youth Ministry

Middle school youth, stick around after linc this Sunday and join the fun for 'Minute to Win It!!! Fun games, fabulous prizes, what more could you want???? See you Sunday at 5:00 for linc and 6:00 for JPF!

THIS WEEK

Festival Chorus Gathers for 45th Annual *Messiah* Performances

If you wish to sing in the Festival Chorus for our 45th annual *Messiah*, rehearsals begin this *Tuesday, December 6* from 7:30-9:00 in the sanctuary. Subsequent rehearsals will be *Wednesday, December*

7, *Tuesday, December 13* and a final rehearsal with orchestra on *Wednesday, December 14*. There is no fee to sing, except a refundable score deposit of \$20. The performances take place on Saturday and Sunday, *December 17 and 18*, both at 4:00 p.m.

NEXT WEEK

Christmas Carol Sing and Dinner

The annual Christmas Carol Sing and Dinner is next *Sunday, December 11* at 6:00 pm. The Parish Life Committee will provide everything for an elegant dinner EXCEPT for the side dishes you are asked to bring to share with 8-10 people. Please sign up on the easel at Coffee Hour or call the office ... BUT even if you forget you may still come. Also, since this event will follow the linc service, you may want to come to that first and "warm-up" for the dinner and carol sing!

Nights Off Christmas Celebration

Join us for the Nights Off Christmas get-together next *Monday, December 12* at 6:30 pm at the home of Kathy Riley. It will be a time for friendship, holiday cheer and celebration; an evening to relax with friends. Bring a favorite hors d'oeuvre and beverage of your choice. Feel free to also bring along a friend to join us and a recycled/regifted gift for a "Chinese Auction." For more information and/or directions, please contact Shirley Flierl at 203-629-4939 or fbtworld@aol.com.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Tai Chi Classes with Luis Duarte

Improve your balance, health and well being. Come and experience the many wonderful benefits of Tai Chi and Qi Gong exercises. Classes are held on **Wednesdays** at 8:00 am and **Thursdays** at 9:00 am. Only \$7 per class if paid by the month, and \$8 per class for "drop ins." Join us! You'll love it! **All are welcome!**

Have You Joined Us on Facebook Yet?

Please check out the FCCOG Facebook page either by going through fccog.org or searching 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!

News from The Rummage Room

The Christmas Shop is open and filled with goodies for your delight. You need Christmas gifts? We have Christmas gifts! You need Christmas decorations? We have decorations! You need Holiday clothing? You will be pleased. There are Christmas cards, wrapping paper, spools of ribbon, toys and stuffed animals, china and pottery, crystal for ever occasion, Christmas trees, wreaths, ornaments, Christmas stockings, music boxes ... the list is endless!

December Calendar:

- *December 5:* All Christmas clothing and Christmas items will be 25% off throughout the week.
- *December 12:* Everything in the shop will be 50% off through Friday, December 16.
- *December 16:* The Rummage Room will host its annual Holiday Party throughout the day. You are invited!
- *December 16:* The Rummage Room closes for the Holidays at 5:00 pm and reopens on *Monday, January 2* at 10:00 am. December 3 was the last day for accepting donations until we reopen on January 2. Please do not leave donations over the Holiday closing as they will not survive the weather and will be thrown away ... at The Rummage Room’s expense.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our customers, donors and volunteers. May your Holiday happiness equal the appreciation we feel for your amazing support. Because of you The Women’s Fellowship, The Allocations Committee, The Rummage Room Committee and Manager, Maria, and her staff are able to help so many. Thank you.

Food Collection

The Food Collection barrel will remain in the back of the Meetinghouse during this Christmas season. When you’re doing your holiday shopping, adding a few items will make a significant difference at Neighbor to Neighbor. They continue to need: cereal, oatmeal, pasta sauce, dried beans (kidney and black), 100% juice, canned tomatoes, peanut butter (no larger than 28 oz.) and jelly.

Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse
The Third Sunday in Advent

Music by:

The Chancel Choir:

Bogoroditse Devo (Ave Maria) by Sergei Rachmaninoff

The Children's Choir:

There's a Baby Being Born in Bethlehem by John Horman

The Palmer Handbells:

Coventry Carol, arr. Hal Hopson

Dr. David D. Young, preaching

5:00 pm linc worship service – Auditorium

Book of Judges, Chapter 13

Come as you are and bring all your friends!

Leader: Mark Montgomery



Christmas Memorial/Honor Flowers and Decorations

The Chancel Committee invites contributions for decorations for the Meetinghouse this Christmas. Any amount is welcome. Please deliver the completed form with your check to the Church Office (payable to the First Congregational Church Flower Fund) on or before *Sunday, December 11*. Thank you.

In Memory/Honor of:

By:

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____

Please print names legibly to minimize spelling errors.

Celebrate Advent and Christmas at FCCOG

The Services of Advent

Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11 and 18

Christmas Carol Sing & Dinner

Sign up early for this favorite
Christmas event!

Join us for a night of food,
fellowship and a rousing
Christmas Carol sing-along.

Sunday, December 11, 6:00 pm

Part I of Handel's Messiah and Hallelujah Chorus

Our annual candlelight
performances of this masterpiece
will be held in the Meetinghouse
December 17 and 18 at 4:00 pm.

This year the soloists will be:

Bonnie Pepper, soprano;

Christopher Pfund, tenor;

Wanda Brister, mezzo soprano;

and Mark Kaczmarczyk, bass.

Christmas Eve Services

10:00 am - Children's Service

4:00 pm - Family Service:

Once in Royal David's City

5:00 pm - Community Carol
Sing

8:00 pm - Carols and
Communion

11:00 pm - Candlelight Service

Christmas Day Services

10:00 am - Worship *at First*

Presbyterian for
FCCOG and First
Baptist Churches

5:00 pm - "linc" Christmas

New Year's Day Services

10:00 am - Worship *at FCCOG*
with First Pres-
byterian and First
Baptist Churches

5:00 pm - "linc" Christmas



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

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