

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

First Sunday after Epiphany

8 January 2012

10 o'clock in the morning



Magi 1 by Della Conroy, www.dellaconroy.com

WELCOME on this Epiphany Sunday to our Service of Worship at First Congregational Church. Today we celebrate the light that came into the world in Christ along with the gift and newness of Baptism. May our journeys of faith in the New Year lead us in fresh and wonderful ways.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE *Mary Fike, flute; Dr. Craig Scott Symons, harpsichord*
Sonata for Flute and Harpsichord G. F. Telemann

CALL TO COMMUNITY *Dr. David D. Young*
Please sign and pass the red book.

CALL TO THE 341ST ANNUAL MEETING *Lesley Schless*

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 143

OPENING PRAYER

O God, by the leading of a star you showed to all peoples
of the earth that your love takes form in our human lives.

Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence that
we may see your glory face to face.

May the light of your Son kindle kindness in our hearts
and shine forth through faith-filled lives,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Leader: We were heavy with sorrow, but joy interrupted.
We were deep in the night, but a star appeared.
We were silent with sadness, but the heavens rang.*

*People: And the splendor shone around them when the time
had fully come.*

*Leader: We were hardened by conflict, but love intervened.
We were frightened by shadows, but light took them away.
We were haunted by fears, but a child brought us hope.*

*People: And she laid him in a manger when the time had
fully come.*

*Leader: We were dismal and defeated, but faith set us on fire.
We were weary and complaining, but our hearts
discovered praise.
We were doubtful and confused, but a door to life was opened.*

*People: And the guiding star went before them when the time
had fully come.*

*Leader: We were arrogant and angry, but his innocence disarmed us.
We were cruel, crude, and clumsy, but his grace made all
things new.
We were selfish, narrow, greedy, but his joy we had to share.*

*People: And they offered him their treasured gifts when the time
had fully come.*

*Leader: We were sheep who had lost their way, but the shepherd knew
our names.*

*We were strangers without a country but our kingdom came
to us.*

We were children far from home, but God sent his Son to guide

*People: And the Word was flesh among us when the time had
fully come. Amen.*

Kenneth L. Morse

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** New Century (black) Hymnal 32
*Jesus! The name that calms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
Is music in the sinner's ears, is life, is health, and peace!*

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Reed Hathaway Sedlock, son of Diane H. and J. Greg Sedlock

BAPTISMAL RESPONSE

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise (verse 1)
New Century (black) Hymnal 325
*Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit's sign;
With this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace divine.*

(As the song begins, 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.)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Olivia Hartwell

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to

shepherd my people Israel.” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Arise, Shine

The Chancel Choir
Richard Shepherd

SECOND LESSON

Jean Watkins

Mark 1:4-11

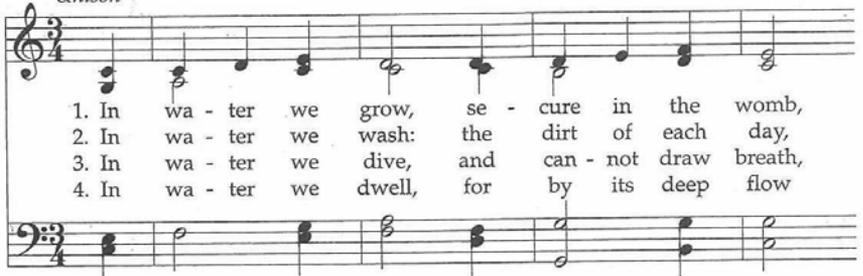
John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

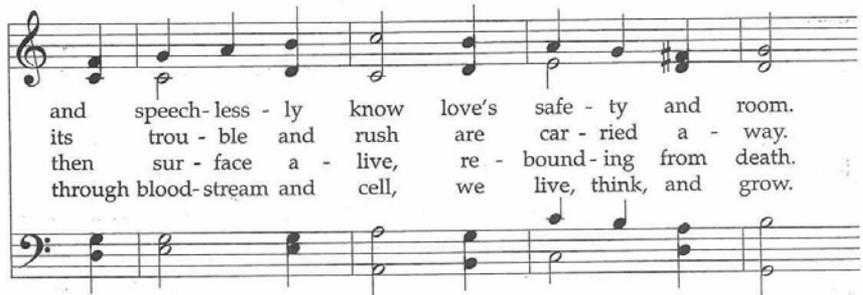
*‡HYMN

In Water We Grow

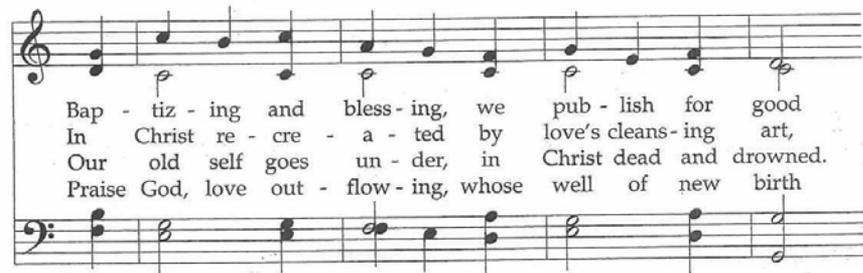
Unison



1. In wa - ter we grow, se - cure in the womb,
2. In wa - ter we wash: the dirt of each day,
3. In wa - ter we dive, and can - not draw breath,
4. In wa - ter we dwell, for by its deep flow



and speech - less - ly know love's safe - ty and room.
its trou - ble and rush are car - ried a - way.
then sur - face a - live, re - bound - ing from death.
through blood - stream and cell, we live, think, and grow.



Bap - tiz - ing and bless - ing, we pub - lish for good
In Christ re - cre - a - ted by love's cleans - ing art,
Our old self goes un - der, in Christ dead and drowned.
Praise God, love out - flow - ing, whose well of new birth



the free - ing, ca - res - sing safe - keep - ing of God.
self - will and self - ha - tred dis - solve and de - part.
We rise, washed in won - der, by love clad and crowned.
bap - tiz - es our know - ing, and wa - ters the earth.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1989
MUSIC: Carl F. Schalk, 1987

STANLEY BEACH
10 10.11 11

RESPONDING TO GOD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the
Gospel that began in Bethlehem.
I believe in Him whom the kings of the earth ignored
and the proud could never understand,
whose paths were among the common people,
whose welcome came from people of hungry hearts.
I acknowledge the glory of all that is like Christ.
The steadfastness of friends,
the blessedness of homes,
the beauty of compassion,
the miracle of many hearts made kind at Christmas,
the courage of those who dare to resist all
passion, war, and hate.
I believe that only by love expressed shall the
earth at length be purified,
and I acknowledge in Christ
a faith that sees beyond the partial face,
a trust in life redeemed that looks beyond
our present evil;
And I pray that this redemption may begin in us who
make this declaration of faith at Epiphany.

***Gloria**

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 513

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without
end. Amen. Amen.*

CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Magnum Mysterium

The Chancel Choir
Francis Poulenc

*O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in a manger!
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear
Christ the Lord. Alleluia!*

*Doxology

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 515

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures
here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son,
and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION

The Church's One Foundation

New Century (black) Hymnal 386

*CLOSING SENTENCES

*Leader: Lord, loosen in me the hold of visible things;
Help me to walk by faith and not by sight;*

*People: I would, through thickset veils and coverings,
See into the chambers of the living light.*

*Leader: Lord, in the land of things that swell and seem,
Help me to walk by the other light supreme,*

People: Which shows the facts behind my vaguely hinting dream.
George MacDonald

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

March

G. F. Handel

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in loving memory of Cyrus Edward "Bill" Ridenour III, a wonderful husband, father and grandfather.

There was an additional Christmas Memory Flowers and Dedication donation given in joyful and loving memory of Michel A. Scrivan by his family.

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

Today in Church School

All classes, except the 3rd and 6th Grades, will be learning about Jesus at 12 years old. The 3rd Graders will begin their study of the New Testament. The 6th Graders will learn about Jesus' baptism. Next Sunday, January 15, there will be a Big Event in the Daniels Center when we will learn how the Church School can support the Youth Mission Trip to Panama.

Come to the Cabaret! Buy Your Tickets Today!

That's right! The First Congregational Church's Cabaret is returning! Come see fabulous performances by some of our church members on *Friday, January 20 and Saturday, January 21*, 7:00 pm

both evenings. To get tickets, come to Coffee Hour *today* or next *Sunday, January 15*, or call the Church Office. Tickets are \$25 and include a delicious pasta dinner. There is no auction this year, but there will be other fun opportunities for you to support this project. Full proceeds from this event will benefit the Youth Outreach and Music Programs. Don't miss it!

Contribution Envelopes

For those who requested them, a set of contribution envelopes for the year 2012 will be available in the Auditorium during Coffee Hour every Sunday in January, starting *today*. If you neglected to ask previously, but still would like a set, please contact Kirk Young at kirky@fccog.org or ext. 32; we still have a few left that have not yet been spoken for.

Youth and Cherub Choir Rehearsals

Youth Choir will rehearse today from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm in the Choir Room. Cherub Choir will rehearse from 11:15 to 11:45 am in Room 104.

Bible Study

Bible Study resumes *today* beginning at 11:20 am in the Lounge. This time we're going to take a look at passages that have to do with eternal life. We're going to supplement our imagination and Biblical passages with two books (*The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis and *Heaven is for Real* by Todd Burpo), as well as a Movie Night in February to which all are invited. But get the year off to a great start by joining Dan England and the entire class right after church (you still have time to get coffee).

Sunday Afternoons Live

After a short hiatus, the ever-popular *Sunday Afternoons Live* returns to FCCOG *today* from 2:00-4:00 pm in the Auditorium with the familiar face of Tod Hedrick. Tod will be bringing his jazz ensemble with him for an enjoyable afternoon of jazz. Other fabulous programs will follow on January 22, February 12 and February 26. Please see the January Meetinghouse Monthly for more details about upcoming programs.

linc

Join us today at 5:00 pm in the Auditorium for our linc worship service. The theme today will be *The Feast of Welcome – Prodigal Son*. Dan England will be preaching, and Kim and Joe Rogers will be acting the scripture. Come as you are and invite your friends to join you!

Y! - Youth Ministry

The Christmas parties are over, the New Year came in with a blast and now it's just back to a normal routine! Blah! If only there was something fun to do! :o(WHAT ARE YOU THINKING? Don't be gloomy, come to JPF! It resumes *tonight* and will be a great time to hang out with your friends and be reminded of just what a wonderful creation God made you to be! Woohoo! See you at 6:00 pm!

NEXT WEEK

Nights Off

Nights Off, the Women's Fellowship evening group, will gather on *Monday, January 16* at 6:30 pm at the home of Irene Savage. We will be making soup for the Annual "Souper Bowl Sunday" Soup Sale which will take place at the church on February 5 and is sponsored by the Women's Fellowship to support their projects. Any questions, please call Shirley Flierl at 203-629-4930 or email her at fbtworld@aol.com. All are welcome!

Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration

An annual Interfaith Service celebrating the life of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. sponsored by the Greenwich Fellowship of Clergy will take place *Tuesday, January 17* at 7:00 pm at Christ Church, 254 East Putnam Avenue. Call 203-869-6600 for more information.

Organ and Oboe Concert

Many times, choir and congregation members are disappointed when I neglect to tell them about a recital I'm involved in, so here's an opportunity to hear some great works for oboe and organ in one of the most splendid churches in the country. On *Sunday, January 15*

Craig Symons and Dorothy Darlington will be in concert at St. Mary the Virgin on 46th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues in New York City. The recital, at 4:40 pm, precedes the weekly Evensong Service at 5:00 pm. Following the service, there is a small reception in the Church Hall. Since it's a worship service, there is no admission. The organ was built by the pre-eminent American organ building firm of Aeolian-Skinner in 1932, which has been expanded and updated several times. The Evensong Service will feature their organist, James Kennealy, and you will hear him improvise at several points during the service so you can fully experience the tonal resources of the organ in all its glory.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Call to the 341st Annual Meeting

The 341st Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, is hereby called for *Sunday, January 29, 2012*, immediately following the worship service. The meeting will be held in the Meetinghouse:

- To hear and act upon the annual reports of the pastors, officers and committees;
- To hear and act upon the report of the Nominating Committee, and to elect officers for the coming year;
- To adopt the budget for 2012;
- To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Phoebe Griffith, Church Clerk

Neighbor to Neighbor

FCCOG goes to Neighbor to Neighbor on *Saturday, January 28* from 8:30 am-12:30 pm. We will be filling the volunteer spots for both the Food Pantry and the Clothing Room so several volunteers are needed. There are two time slots available: 8:30 - 10:30 am and 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Everyone is invited to help - family groups, couples, individuals. Please contact Rosemary Lamie (at ext. 20 or RosemaryL@fccog.org) to sign up for a time slot.

Tai Chi Fitness 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!**

News from The Rummage Room

Good winter clothing is still available for our shoppers. Donations have been steady since we reopened after the holidays. New merchandise goes on the floor every day. Ski clothing will be on the racks beginning Monday, January 9. Manager, Maria, will have 50% off several categories of goods this coming week. She decides on Monday morning and the sale will continue through Saturday, January 14.

Manager’s Wish List: Valentine clothing and other related items.

Donations are accepted Monday through Thursday from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, and on Friday and Saturday from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm.

Volunteering: Please consider volunteering any day and any amount of time ... from 1 hour to 4 hours. We have a wonderful group of people from our community at The Rummage Room. You not only have the opportunity to assist with our mission objective of helping women’s and children’s organizations, but it is also a great opportunity to enjoy a fun and productive time with others. In a world rife with mute hopes, dim visions, and dark fears, doing God’s work allows His light to shine! Call Maria at 203-637-1875 to volunteer.

Food Collection

The Food Collection barrel remains in the back of the Meetinghouse. When you’re doing your grocery 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
Dr. David D. Young, preaching

5:00 pm linc worship service - Auditorium
Home by Another Way
The Magi's Return from Bethlehem
Mark Montgomery, preaching
Come as you are and bring all your friends!

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