

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

29 January 2012

10 o'clock in the morning



Christ and the Rich Young Ruler
by Heinrich Hofmann

WELCOME to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church as we celebrate God's presence and love in our midst. May this hour of praise to God equip you for living in the tensions and struggles of life as well as deepening your sense of gratitude to the giver of all gifts.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Cantique

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ
Edward Elgar

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Daniel B. England

CALL TO THE 341ST ANNUAL MEETING

Phoebe Griffith

MOMENT OF OPPORTUNITY

Shirley Flierl

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

It is Good to Give Thanks

The Children's Choir
Vance Briceland, piano
Michael Jothen

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Blessed Assurance

New Century (black) Hymnal 473

OPENING PRAYER

O God who knows us better than we know ourselves, and who has placed within us the very gift of life, grant to us an inner sense of integrity, identity and faithfulness, that we may know that it is you who is leading us on this journey called life, and that in so knowing, we may follow wherever you would have us go. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Creation,

we confess our casual handling
of our life's unfolding,
preferring to measure the shortfall
rather than acknowledge
the awesome richness of the gift itself.

God of Inward Formation,

we confess our easy attachment to things external,
ignoring your inner presence
which is the source of energy and self-renewal.

God of Integration,

we confess our accommodation
to living with fragments,
denying that wholeness which is our health
which comes from the unity of outward
and inward function.

Forgive us

on this day of new beginnings
for all those surrenders
which separate us

from who you would have us become,

for we would reclaim our lives
in the company of Christ in whom
everything holds together.

And now we pray as he has taught us ...

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 42
*Jesus! The name that calms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease; Is
music in the sinner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!*

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Jackson Kendall and Matthew Anderson Schenck,
sons of Kimberly A. and Charles E. Schenck*

BAPTISMAL RESPONSE Sung to the tune of *Morning Has Broken*
*Water has cleansed us, bathed with forgiveness, has with clear
blessings, washed sin away. Jordan's strong currents God's son
announcing, made a beginning, baptismal day.*

*(During the baptismal response, 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

Proverbs 13:5-9

The righteous hate falsehood,
but the wicked act shamefully and disgracefully.
Righteousness guards one whose way is upright,
but sin overthrows the wicked.
Some pretend to be rich, yet have nothing;
others pretend to be poor, yet have great wealth.
Wealth is a ransom for a person's life,
but the poor get no threats.
The light of the righteous rejoices,
but the lamp of the wicked goes out.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Simple Gifts

The Chancel Choir
Vance BriceLand, piano
Aaron Copland

SECOND LESSON

Pat Larrabee

Mark 10:17-22

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

*‡HYMN

Be Now My Vision

New Century (black) Hymnal 451

SERMON: “*A Look That Counts*”
(Identity vs. Image)

Dr. David D. Young

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Good News has come in Jesus Christ,

He is the sign of the Father’s love for us.

He reveals to us who we are, children of God.

He went about bringing joy to life.

He gave himself as he shared the fish with the poor and as he provided bread and wine for his friends.

We, therefore, proclaim his death for us every time we gather.

We profess his resurrection as we stand by our brothers and sisters.

We expect his return as we work for the world of tomorrow.
We know that we have received his gifts and that we
are his church.
In newness of the spirit this day, and in great gratitude,
we will live as the church for others.
May it ever be so!

***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 *The Chancel Choir*
Sing My Soul, His Wondrous Love Ned Rorem

***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**
Lord, I Want to Be a Christian *Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 353*

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

Leader: When wealth is lost, nothing is lost;
when health is lost, something is lost;
when character is lost, all is lost.

People: *Fame is what you have taken,
character's what you give;
when to this truth you waken,
then you begin to live.*

Leader: *I wish you then, a very rich, deep, true, straight and
simple growth in the love of God, accepted and willed
gently but greatly, at the daily and hourly cost of self.*

People: *My business is not to remain myself, but to make the
absolute best of what God has made.*

St. Augustine, Bayard Taylor, Baron Von Hugel, Robert Branning

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Gloria in Excelsis

Francois Couperin



Music Notes:

Our Offertory Anthem this morning is by the Pulitzer Prize winning composer, Ned Rorem. Born in Indiana in 1923, Rorem studied music at several famous music schools, including Northwestern, Curtis Institute, and Juilliard. His compositional output is extensive, writing music for piano, organ, voice, orchestra, and everything in between. In 1976 he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in music for his orchestral work, *Air Suite*. The anthem *Sing, My Soul, His Wondrous Love* is from a set of 7 anthems for the church year, and was composed in 1986.

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in celebration of the baptism of Jackson Kendall Schenck and Matthew Anderson Schenck by their 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

Most of our children will be learning about Jesus Calling the Disciples; the 3rd Graders will learn about Jesus' Baptism and the 6th Graders will consider Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount.

Some room assignments for today: the 6th Grade will continue to meet in the Pastor's Office next to David Young's; The Pastors' Class will meet in the Youth Room from now on; The 5th Grade will meet in Room 104; The 3rd Grade will go to Room 203. At 10:00 am, The 2nd Graders and their parents will have a lesson about communion in the Daniels Center and will not be in worship today. Next Sunday, they will participate in communion.

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.

Call to the 341st Annual Meeting

The 341st Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, is hereby called for *today, 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

Contribution Envelopes

For those who have not yet picked up their set of contribution envelopes for the year 2012, they will be available in the Narthex at the conclusion of this morning's service, and in the Church Office after today. If you are unable to pick them up and need to have them mailed, please contact Kirk Young at kirky@fccog.org or at ext. 32; however, if you can pick them up it will save the Church the postage expense.

Youth and Cherub Choir Rehearsals

The 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

There will be no Bible Study this week because of the Annual Meeting, but we'll resume next week at 11:20 am in the Lounge. Also, the showing of the film *Hereafter*, directed by Clint Eastwood and starring Matt Damon will be shown on *Wednesday February 1* in the Lounge at 6:00 pm. A brief discussion will follow but we'll be all done by 8:00 pm. Everyone, including those who do not regularly attend the Bible Study, is invited to attend. Popcorn and expensive candy bars will be provided.

linc

Join us today at 5:00 pm in the Auditorium for our linc worship service. The theme will be *Rethinking 'Home.'* Mark Montgomery will be preaching. Come as you are and bring all your friends!

THIS WEEK

Come to the Movies!

Bible Study is hosting a showing of the film *Hereafter*, directed by Clint Eastwood and starring Matt Damon, this *Wednesday February 1* in the Lounge at 6:00 pm. A brief discussion will follow but we'll be all done by 8:00 pm. Everyone, including those who do not regularly attend Bible Study, is invited to attend. Popcorn and expensive candy bars will be provided.

NEXT WEEK

"Souper Bowl Sunday" Soup Sale - February 5, 11:00 am-1:00 pm (till soup runs out). Get your soup recipes ready for next *Sunday, February 5* when the annual Women's Fellowship Soup Sale will begin. There's still time for soup donations! You can sign up in the Church Office ... instructions are there as well. Quarts of soup will be sold for \$8 each and \$10 for chili and other hearty soups, all proceeds go to support Women's Fellowship projects. For more information call Sue McCalley at 203-273-6526.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Hats Off

Our Thursday morning book study group, *Hats Off*, has enjoyed reading *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* as our first book of 2012 and will begin February with another delightful read, *Nothing Daunted* by Dorothy Wickenden. This story follows the life of 2 high society gals from the East in 1916 who shucked a life of tea parties to teach a year of school in the remote wilds of northwestern Colorado. Come join us *Thursdays from 10:00 to 11:30 am* in the Lounge! Any questions please call Debbie Berner at 203-629-1110.

Red Cross Blood Drive – Saturday, February 11

This community blood drive, co-sponsored by the Wellness Committee and Women's Fellowship, runs from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Please donate the *Gift of Life* or donate some prepared food. Devilled eggs and finger sandwiches are particularly appreciated.

Blood donation appointments can be made by calling 1-800-GIVE LIFE. Food contributions can be planned by calling Betsy Kreuter at 203-698-3016 or Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse, at extension 21. There will also be a sign-up sheet during Coffee Hour this morning and in the Church Office on weekdays.

Sunday Afternoons Live

Mark your calendar for another *Sunday Afternoons Live* on **Sunday, February 12**, with a special performance by Mark Nadler, cabaret singer and pianist extraordinaire.

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

Manager Maria’s Wish List for Monday, January 30 – Saturday, February 4: Valentine’s and St. Patrick’s Day items and clothing; carry-on suitcase; 36w/32” inseam overalls; a stereo radio/CD/tape player; a card table; a wooden doll house; a mountain bike for a 10 year old. We thank you in advance for separating your donations and bringing us only clean, salable items that you would buy yourself. As of January 1, 2012, The Rummage Room is asking donors to please take only one tax slip to be used for the entire year. The next time you leave donations, please speak to Maria, one of the assistant managers or one of the volunteers in the back room about the change in the tax slip for 2012.

It is fitting in this week of the Chinese New Year to quote an old Chinese proverb: *Be not afraid of growing slowly, be afraid only of standing still.*

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.

Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Choral Music by:

The Youth Choir, *Go Ye into all the World*, Hank Beebe

The Chancel Choir, *Beautiful Savior*, F.M. Christiansen

Music During Communion:

Hanna and Vasil Golodinskii,

The King of Love My Shepherd Is, H.R. Shelley

Dr. David D. Young, preaching

5:00 pm linc worship service - Auditorium

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