

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

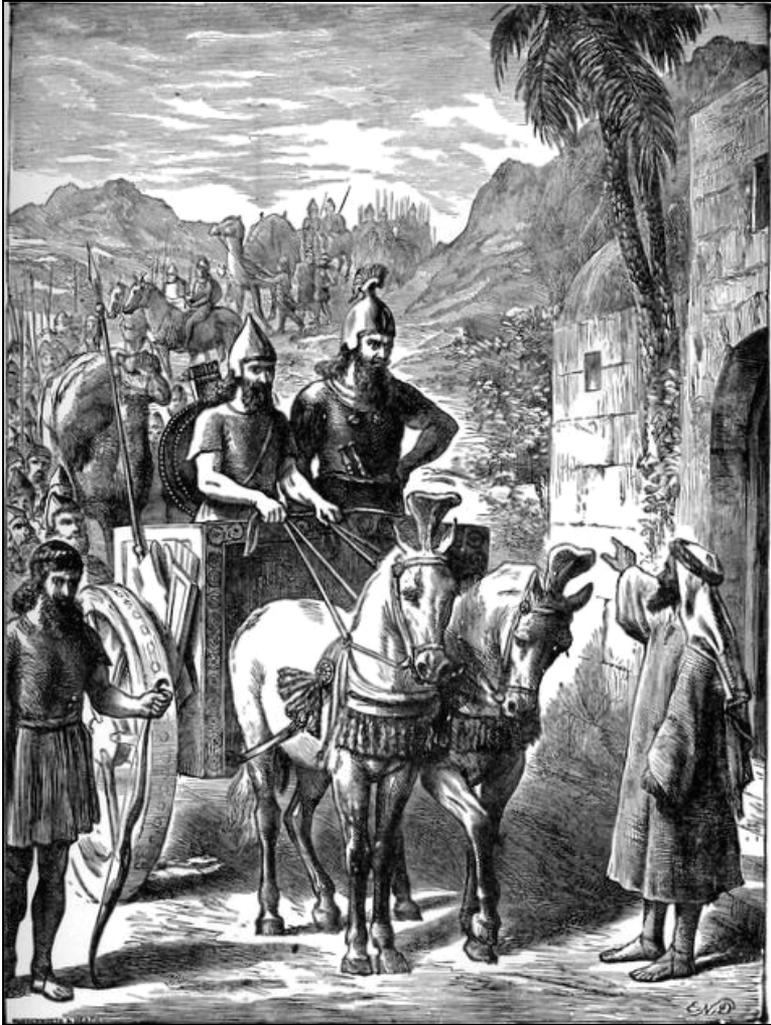
*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

12 February 2012

10 o'clock in the morning



Treasures of the Bible - Naaman comes to see Elisha

(The LaVista Church of Christ)

WELCOME to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church on this mid-winter Sunday. May this hour of meditation, prayer, song, and celebration draw you closer to the truth of our faith which is made known to us through Christ our Lord.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Air

Air

Fanfare

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Christopher Doney, trumpet

G. P. Telemann

G. F. Handel

G. F. Handel

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Dr. David D. Young

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

(Words and Music on next page)

OPENING PRAYER

God of grace and glory, we thank you
that you judge us not by the perfection of
our actions, but by our readiness to live
boldly by faith.

Help us, as individuals and as a congregation
to trust you and follow where you lead,
that in Christ your name many be glorified
in all the earth. Amen.

Concertato on
PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY

Text by JOACHIM NEANDER, (1680)
 tr. Catherine Winkworth, *alt.* (1863)

LOBE DEN HERREN
 Erneuertem Gesangbuch, (1665)
 Arranged by ROBERT LAU (ASCAP)



1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 (Men) 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
 4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is your
 reign - ing (Women) and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -
 dore him! All that has life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! All who would hear now to his
 lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. (All) Have you not seen all that is
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the A - men sound from his



tem - ple draw near, join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 need - ful has been sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 peo - ple a - gain. Glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him!

Verse 3: *Choir only*

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CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of steadfast love, how impatient we are with you, with each other, and with ourselves! We do not live as those who recognize your reign on earth, though we are again celebrating its arrival. Our children, parents, and friends receive our anger too often and our expressions of love and interest too rarely. We expend our compassion in dinner-table conversations about the evening news, and satisfy our desire for justice by reading the morning editorial page. We try to absolve our responsibility to relatives and friends through the annual ritual of gifts and cards. We speak of love and peace on earth, but ignore the realities and needs of our brothers and sisters in the global community. We earnestly repent, and are sorry in our hearts for these shortcomings and misdoings. We ask your forgiveness. Please give us the vision, strength, and will to expect and live in your dynamic, caring, and brooding presence – Now! Let us pray together ...

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!

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Olivia Hartwell

2 Kings 5:1-14

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the LORD had

given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel." He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy." When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me." But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel."

So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean?'" So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Psalm 96

The Chancel Choir

Michael Bedford

Christopher Doney, trumpet

Jayson Engquist, organ

Mark 1:40-45

A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, "If you choose, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, saying to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.

*‡HYMN

There is a Balm in Gilead New Century (black) Hymnal 553

(As the hymn 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.)

SERMON: "*Dare We Believe*"

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

 who has created and is creating,

 who has come in Jesus,

 the Word made flesh,

 to reconcile and make new,

 who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus,
 crucified and risen,
 our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
 God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

United Church of Canada, 1980

***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

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Sing Ye Praise from Hymn of Praise

Charlie Baird, tenor

Felix Mendelssohn

***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**

Give to the Winds Thy Fears

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 338

(sung to the tune Rise Up, O Men of God)

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

Leader: Go in peace, and take peace, into the world of human need.

People: You are the body of Christ and members of one another.

Leader: Serve and honor one another, that you may be strengthened to be Christ's body in the world.

All: Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE
Psalm XIX

Christopher Doney, trumpet
B. Marcello



Music Notes:

The Scripture Anthem is by American composer Michael Bedford. Bedford lives in Tulsa, OK, where he serves as Organist/Choirmaster and Composer-in-residence at St. John's Episcopal Church. In April of 2003, his *Psalm 96* was awarded 1st Place in the Ninth Biennial Competition for the 2004 American Guild of Organists/EC Schirmer Publishing Award in Choral Composition.

Charlie Baird, tenor, sings an aria from the oratorio *Song of Praise* or *Lobgesang* by Felix Mendelssohn. The text is based on portions of *Psalm 107* and *Psalm 56*. Charlie is a senior at Darien High School and sings with the Youth Choir here at First Congregational Church. Charlie will be attending St. Olaf College in Minnesota in the fall.

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in loving memory of Peter McLennan by Kathy and daughters.

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

Today our younger children will hear the story of Jesus Welcoming Children in the gospel of Mark. Our older classes will also hear a story from Mark about the rich man who, after hearing from Jesus what he might do to be assured a place in heaven, decided the price was too much to bear. Thank you to everyone who donated coins - including many pennies - for the Youth Mission Trip to Panama. Next *Sunday, February 19* is a Big Event Sunday - the multiage classroom for all children 4 and older - the topic is: *Is Lent for Children? And How!*

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.

Youth and Cherub Choir Rehearsals

Youth Choir will rehearse today from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm in the Choir Room. There is no Cherub Choir rehearsal today.

Bible Study

Bible Study will meet today at 11:20 am in the Lounge to discuss the Resurrection story in Luke and the book *Heaven is for Real*. Come with your insights.

Sunday Afternoons Live

Join us today for another *Sunday Afternoons Live* from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in the Auditorium with a special performance by Mark Nadler, cabaret singer and pianist extraordinaire.

linc

Join us today at 5:00 pm in the Auditorium for our linc worship service. The theme will be *Comedy Tonight*. On the heels of our Cabaret, we will return to Broadway for our second dose of Broadway Bible! Avery Manchester will be preaching. Come as you are and bring all your friends!

NEXT WEEK

Night's Off

A fun get together to celebrate Valentine's Day with a Black and White theme will take place on *Monday, February 20* at 6:30 pm at Lu Baldwin's home. Please bring a beverage and dessert or other food item to share with the ladies. In addition, please bring a sweet item of your choice (such as a box of brownie mix, cookies, etc.) that will be donated to a local food bank, such as Neighbor to Neighbor. We welcome all women from the church. Please feel free to bring along a friend. This is a great way to get to know other ladies in the church. Any questions or for directions, call Shirley Flierl at 203-629-4939 or email FBTworld@aol.com.

NEWS AND NOTICES

New Officers of the Church

As of January 29, 2012, the new Officers of the Church are Christopher Hartwell, Chair of the Board of Trustees; Paul Olmsted, Senior Deacon and Chair of the Church Committee; Clem Lepoutre, Benevolence Steward. Continuing from last year are Peter Schay, Treasurer and Phoebe Griffith, Church Clerk. In addition, all Trustees and Deacons are officers of the church. They are listed in the 2011 Annual Report which is available in the Church Office.

Hats Off

Our Thursday morning book study group, *Hats Off*, is heading into February with a 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.

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, February 13 through Saturday, February 18: St. Patrick's Day items and clothing; spring clothing for adults and children; good handbags and shoes; jewelry.
- 50% off everything red and/or Valentine's Day items Monday, February 13 and Tuesday, February 14 in celebration of Valentine's Day.
- Thank you for separating your donations and dropping off only clean and salable items. We are truly grateful for your patience in doing this.
- As you celebrate Valentine's Day, be reminded that, *The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved ... loved not for ourselves, rather, loved in spite of ourselves.*
-Victor Hugo

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

Choral Music by the Chancel Choir:

Sing Praise to God by

Cicut Cervus by G. Palestrina

Jon Hunt, guest organist and choir director

Dr. David D. Young, preaching

5:00 pm linc worship service – Auditorium

Sarcasm is the Body's Natural Defense against Stupid

Dan England, 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