

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Second Sunday in Lent Youth Sunday

4 March 2012

10 o'clock in the morning



Waiting for Rainbows...

WELCOME to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church. We are glad that you are here. May we each find this time together filled with blessing and hope.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Westbound Train

Alex Mair, piano

Christos Tsitsaros

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Daniel B. England

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Amazing Grace

New Century (black) Hymnal 547

OPENING PRAYER

Julia McDonald

When we gather as God's people, something happens.

We hear the same scripture story, but it speaks to us as individuals.

We pray the same prayer, but it means something to us based on where we are in our lives right now.

We sing a hymn and it recalls a different memory for each of us.

When we gather as God's people, something else happens too.

We become more than individuals.

Our journeys collide.

Our voices raise in unison.

Our hopes are recognized as similar.

O God, the paths that we have taken to this place vary but they
have all led to you.
May we be challenged and blessed in this time of worship.
Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

Olivia Hartwell

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

I keep reaching for rainbows...
Thinking one God's morning
I will wake up surrounded by rainbows
With hurts painted over in hues that only angel wings
could brush
Night obliterated, chaos hurled beyond the rainbow and
my vision
The world created in myriad colors
The hungry fed,
The dying held,
The maimed walking,
The angry stroked
The violent calmed
The oppressed freed,
The oppressors changed,
And every tear wiped away.

I keep reaching for rainbows,
But instead of colors in our storm,
Gray and black infiltrate, dirtying the sky
And I hear human voices wailing in the darkness,
The never ending darkness...
Just the same
I know the promise of the rainbow.
I keep thinking I'll turn a corner one day
And find a litany of rainbows
Flung across the sky.
Hosannaing back and forth
Through all the ages and

Out into eternity forever. Amen!
Every tear wiped away—
It's a promise—
When we become rainbows to each other.
As a community of faith, let us pray together...

Adapted from *Reaching for Rainbows* by Ann Weems

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

Give Me a Clean Heart New Century (black) Hymnal 188

*Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.
God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you.
For I'm not worthy of all these blessings.
Give me a clean heart and I'll follow you.*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ivan Golodinskii, Stephanie Woodman

Genesis 7:1-24
(paraphrased)

Then the Lord said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male

and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.”

And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him. Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came on the earth. And Noah with his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood.

Noah with his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah’s wife and the three wives of his sons entered the ark, they and every wild animal of every kind, and all domestic animals of every kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every bird of every kind – every bird, every winged creature. Then the Lord shut him in.

The flood continued forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters. The waters swelled so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered; the waters swelled above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep.

And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, domestic animals, wild animals, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all human beings; everything on dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. Only Noah was left, and those that were with him in the ark. And the waters swelled on the earth for one hundred fifty days.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

The Smallest Things

Katie Weatherseed, soloist

James E. Clemens

THE LESSON CONTINUES

Kim Rogers, Alex Ng-Yow, Melanie Pfetsch, Lucinda Allen

***‡HYMN**

You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

New Century (black) Hymnal 173

(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: “Waiting for Rainbows”

Katie Weatherseed, Liz Morris, Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

RESPONDING TO GOD

***HYMN**

I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry

New Century (black) Hymnal 351

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Daniel Lepoutre

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us
in Jesus our brother, and to whose deeds we testify:

God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine
image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.

God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of
righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen
Lord, God has come to us and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation
to its Creator.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the
church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of
all ages, tongues, and races.

God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of
discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human
family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the

powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table to join him in his passion and victory.

God promises to all who trust in the gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God.

Amen.

***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 OFFERING

ANTHEM

True Colors

Kim Rogers, Hosung Kwon, Liz Morris, soloists

Billy Steinberg and Tom Kelly

***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**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (*seated*)

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SERVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Canon in D Major

Jadesola Ariyibi, piano

Johann Pachelbel

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

*Rev. Avery C. Manchester, Gwen Pfetsch,
Jadesola Ariyibi, Stephanie Woodman,
Gillian Woodman, Sarah Morris*

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE New Century (black) Hymnal 81 *God Be With You* (no refrain)

*God be with you till we meet again.
By good counsel guide, uphold you.
With a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.*

POSTLUDE

Toccatà

Alex Mair, piano
Aram Khachaturian

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in loving memory by friends of Hans and Betty Farman who were devoted supporters of First Congregational Church for many years.

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' Last Supper . Our middle school classes will participate in worship. Some of our other classes may return to the Meetinghouse to witness the closing "message" of the Youth Sunday worship service. As always, 2nd grade and younger children should be picked up in their classrooms. If your child is staying for child care during the Town Meeting, please take them to the Daniels Center and wait for the child care supervisors to arrive.

Town Hall Meeting Today

The Church Committee is holding a Second Hour Town Hall Meeting today in the Auditorium following the worship service. The meeting will include progress reports from the three Task Forces the Church Committee established last fall and kicked off in December. Governance, Pastor Compensation and Housing, and Welcoming were identified as areas to develop and participation in the Task Forces has been active. The meeting also will provide an opportunity for discussion about transition and the direction of the church in the future. Childcare will be provided in the Daniels Center.

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

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

linc

Join us today at 5:00 pm in the Auditorium for our linc worship service. Our Lenten journey in linc will take a look at the faith journey on which we, as individuals and community, find ourselves. Our theme today will be "*Stones in the Road.*" Mark Montgomery is preaching. Come as you are and bring all your friends!

THIS WEEK

'Hats Off' Book Group

Our 'Hats Off' book study group has chosen *The Holy Ghost Girl* by Donna Johnson as our March selection, starting March 1. This is Donna's memoir about growing up on the road in a clan she calls "The Holy Rollers." Come join us on *Thursday mornings* from 10:00 - 11:30 am in the Lounge. Any questions, please call, Debbie Berner at 203-629-1110.

We still need several Neighbor to Neighbor Volunteers!

Join us this *Saturday, March 10*, for another FCCOG Volunteer Day at Neighbor to Neighbor. Hours to volunteer are either 8:30 - 10:30 am OR 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Please let Rosemary (RosemaryL@fccog.org) know if and when you can be there.

NEWS AND NOTICES

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

- **Big News!** At 1:00 pm tomorrow, March 5, The Rummage Room will open with its racks and shelves filled with all new and gently used spring clothing, shoes, handbags and jewelry. The donations for our 'Opening Interlude into Springtime' have been amazing! And thank you one and all for continuing to separate your donations and bringing only clean, salable goods.
- **Manager Maria's Wish List:** St. Patrick's items and clothing; spring clothing, handbags and jewelry; brac-a-brac; a wooden doll house; single, double and jogging strollers; stuffed cats and dogs for Maria's window display; Easter decorations. And don't miss the spring window display ... fantastic!

- God has given us many gifts; the joy of laughter, the comfort of friends, along with the opportunity to help others by donating, shopping and volunteering at The Rummage Room. Please consider working an hour or two each week. Call Maria at 203-637-1875 or speak with her when you drop off your donations. Thank you.

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 Cherub Choir

The Chancel Choir: *Be Thou My Vision* by Bob Chilcott

Chancel Choir Sextet: *Beati Quorum Via*

by Charles Villiers Stanford

Avery C. Manchester, preaching

5:00 pm linc worship service – Auditorium

Next week's theme is *Roadside Assistance*.

Dan England will return as our leader for the evening and take us on the journey with the "*Good Samaritan*."

In this moving and timeless story, we hear about the need to take care of one another. There are some shocking parts to the story that are often overlooked and there are deep truths that are valuable for us today.

Come as you are and bring all your friends!



Rainbow Ocean

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

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