

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Third Sunday in Lent

11 March 2012

10 o'clock in the morning



*Moses Presenting the Ten Commandments to
the Children of Israel by Emile Pissis, 1905
(Sherith Israel West Window)*

WELCOME to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church on this third Sunday of Lent. May this time of meditation, prayer and song draw us closer to each other and to the Lord who claims, loves and leads us.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, piano
Mary Fike, flute

Two Traditional Hymns:

Arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

I Need Thee Every Hour

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

Please sign and pass the red book.

PRAISING GOD

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

The Cherub Choir

Donald Haviland, director; Debbie Berner, pianist

Banuwa

Traditional African Tune

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

O God of Earth and Altar

New Century (black) Hymnal 582

OPENING PRAYER

God of justice and righteousness,

deliver us from complacency about our lives

and the world in which we live.

Drive out from us careless sin.

Make us sensitive to all that is sacred;

shock us with awareness of any violation

of human life in which we participate.

May our standard be your Spirit,
and not the ways of this world,
through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you have given us the law of Moses
and the teachings of Jesus to direct us in the way of life.
You offer us your Holy Spirit, so that we can be born
to new life as your children.
Yet, O God, we confess that the ways of death
have a strong attraction,
and that we often succumb to their lure.
Give us the vision and courage to choose and nurture life,
that we may receive your blessing.
As a community of faith, 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

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.*

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Grayson Cole Shaw, son of Jennifer Marie and Justin Cole Shaw

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.*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Peter Schay

Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in

the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir Ensemble
Hanna Golodinskii, Lynette Pfund, sopranos;
Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano; Christopher Pfund, tenor;
Craig Scott Symons, baritone; Vasil Golodinskii, bass

Beati Quorum Via

Charles Villiers Stanford

*Blessed are they whose way is blameless,
who follow in the law of the Lord.*

SECOND LESSON

John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

*‡HYMN

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 157

(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: *“Do You Hear the Call?”*

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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 PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Daniel B. England

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

Hanna Golodinskii, soprano

Be Thou My Vision

Bob Chilcott

***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**

God of Grace and God of Glory

New Century (black) Hymnal 436

***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**

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

Church School

Our children will be learning about the various events of Holy Week over the next three weeks. Next Sunday, *March 18*, there will be a Big Event in the Daniels Center as it will be the middle of private school vacation. Thank you to those families and high school students who helped out at Neighbor to Neighbor yesterday.

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 11:30 am to 12:30 pm in the Choir Room. There is no Cherub Choir rehearsal today.

linc

Join us today at 5:00 pm in the Auditorium for our linc worship service. This week's theme is *Roadside Assistance*. Dan England will return as our leader 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!

THIS WEEK

First Music and Arts

First Music and Arts will present The Choir of The College of William and Mary this *Saturday evening, March 17, at 8:00 p.m.* This outstanding 65-voice choral ensemble is the top choir from the second oldest university in America (after Harvard). Their program will appeal to audiences of all ages and includes works by Liszt, Mahler, and many others. Admission is free, with a free-will offering for the continuation of the First Music and Arts Series.

NEXT WEEK

Nights Off

The Nights Off women's group will gather on *Monday, March 19* at 6:30 pm at Ginny Breismeister's house. This month we will be making meals to be frozen and stored at the church; these meals will be delivered to members of the church if there is a death, illness or some other need. We would love to have any women in the church join us. Any questions please call Shirley Flierl at (203) 629-4939 or email her at FBTworld@aol.com.

Quick Healthy Meals Cooking Demo and Lunch

On *Thursday March 22, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm* we welcome back Gavin Prichard, Registered Dietician from Greenwich Hospital's Healthy Living Center, who will offer ideas for preparing healthy meals that are compatible with today's busy lifestyles. Lunch is included with this cooking demonstration and informative talk, so come with an appetite, and leave with some healthy recipes. Please register for this popular event by calling your Parish Nurse at extension 21.

CPR Training Opportunities - Consider Being a Blessing to Others *Saturday, March 24, 9:00-11:30 am or 12:00-2:30 pm, or Saturday, March 31, 9:00-11:30 am.* It's time for those of us certified through classes here at FCCOG to recertify for CPR. (March 2010 certifications are valid for 2 years.) Those interested in becoming newly certified are also welcome to this training which includes the use of our automatic external defibrillator (AED). Attendance is only required at one of the three sessions. Thanks to the generosity of the Greenwich EMS, and to the church covering the reduced fees, we can

offer the classes at no cost to the participants. Please contact your Parish Nurse at extension 21 to register for a class.

NEWS AND NOTICES

“Swing into Spring” Alert!

Please think about items or services that you might want to donate to our silent and live auctions on the night of the gala celebration, *April 28*. Some of the donations we have received so far are: *Baby items, including a hand crocheted afghan; Luncheon cruise on a 36' motor launch; Decoupage glass placemats or trays; Professional teeth whitening; Summer Soirée; Guided kayak trip; Antique Japanese wedding coat; Week at a private house in Breckenridge, CO.*

Church Committee Minutes Available

The congregation has asked recently for more transparency in the work of the church, a worthy goal for a congregational church. In response, the Church Committee will be posting its agenda on its bulletin board ahead of each meeting. Any member is welcome to attend the meetings of the Church Committee. To request an agenda item be added, please contact the Senior Deacon Paul Olmsted at olmstedp@sbcglobal.net. In addition, the minutes of the most recent Church Committee meeting are available on the bulletin board and in the church office. If you would like an electronic copy of the minutes, please contact Barbara Wilkov at barbaraw@fccog.org or 203-637-1791, ext. 24.

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

The opening of *The Interlude into Springtime* last week at The Rummage Room was its best ever!!! If per chance you missed the opening week, we have new donations coming into the shop every day. We invite you to come and see for yourself. You may first want

to clean out your closets and bring in your own donations. Thank you for continuing to separate your donations and dropping off only clean, salable goods.

Manager Maria's Wish List: Easter items and clothing; handbags; jewelry; good bric-a-brac; strollers; bikes for men, women and children; small furniture.

Daylight Savings Time began today and we all are loving the extra light! *Let us remember, as the days grow longer, life consists less in the length of the days than in the keen sense of living. Jean-Jacques Rousseau*

Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Jayson Engquist, guest organist/director

The Chancel Choir singing *Let Nothing Ever Grieve Thee*
by Johannes Brahms

5:00 pm linc worship service – Auditorium

Next week's theme is *Folks and Factlore*.

Yes, how can we make it through March without speaking of St. Patrick and the journey that he trod? What is it about this story that has made it timeless? How is it Biblically based and, beyond green beer, how does it affect us today?

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
Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry: Rev. Mark D. Montgomery
Associate Pastor for Communication/Adult Education: Rev. Daniel B. England
Associate Pastor for 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