

The First Congregational Church of
Greenwich



April 1, 2012
10 o'clock in the morning

WE welcome you to First Congregational Church on this Palm Sunday, the day we remember Jesus' fateful entry into Jerusalem for a week that would change the world and all of us. It is sometimes called a "triumphal" entry and in some ways it was. But the long shadow of Golgotha was present as well. We're glad you're here and hope that this service will inspire and ground you as we enter into this most holy of weeks.

Palm Sunday

1 April 2012
10 o'clock in the morning

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

From Mass for the Convents
Plein Jeu
Fugue sur le Trompette
Recit de Chromhorne
Trio

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ
Francois Couperin

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

MOMENT OF OPPORTUNITY

Nanette Laffan

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



1	Thou art the King of	Is - ra - el, thou	Da - vid's roy - al	Son,
2	The com - pa - ny of	an - gels is	prais - ing thee	on high;
3	The peo - ple of the	He - brews with	palms be - fore thee	went;
4	To thee be - fore thy	pas - sion they	sang their hymns of	praise;
5	Thou didst ac - cept their	prais - es; ac - cept	the prayers we	bring,



Repeat Refrain



1	who in the Lord's Name	com - est, the	King and Bless - ed	One.
2	and we with all cre - a - tion	in cho - rus	make re - ply.	
3	our praise and prayers and	an - thems be - fore thee	we pre - sent.	
4	to thee, now high ex - alt - ed,	our mel - o - dy	we raise.	
5	who in all good de - light - est,	thou good and gra - cious	King.	



OPENING PRAYER

O God of all our days, we have gathered here to recall Jesus in his best and worst days upon this earth. Help us to humble our hearts before you, knowing that you bestow upon the humble both a faith and courage to know you are with them always. Come, Holy Spirit, and dwell among us this day as sweet music rises from this place, as sincere prayers are offered and your word is proclaimed. Strengthen the weak, comfort the weary, uphold the uncertain and lend your blessing to all we do here today.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

The serpent of temptation that was in the garden still comes to our hearts. Having listened to its smooth reasoning, we justify ourselves, sometimes for a long time, easing into the lie we have believed.

At the heart of the lie is that we are gods, able to decide, dispatch and dispense with utter certainty. Our opinions are right and righteous. Our judgments of other people are harsh, of course, but should they not be?

But as we begin to acknowledge that you are God and we are not, when we begin to seek your will in our coming in and our going out, we find the serpent's voice fades and increasingly we come to our senses. We see things for what they really are. We speak more gently, our words laced with compassion and kindness. It is you working in us, O Lord, and as we name our sins and shortcomings, we plea for you to inhabit our hearts and minds.

And so we pray for your forgiveness that we might know how to forgive.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that you have called individually to the name and
the cause of Christ
And that together, you have called us as a Christian church
to teach the gospel
To proclaim the acceptable word of the Lord.

We believe we are not put on this earth to merely
accumulate, but to give away
To rescue people with our wealth
To inspire people with our talents
To fight injustice in all its insidious forms.

We believe we are called to good,
to be on the side of goodness.
We believe we are to resist and reject evil,
oppression, corruption and cheating.
We believe that you show us a higher ground
to which we ought to aspire.

Above all we name the name of Jesus Christ as our own,
Precious
Strong
Eternal.
And it is in his name we pray the very prayer he taught
his disciples, saying...

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.

***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.*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Olivia Hartwell

Zechariah 9:9-12

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

*The Children's Choir
Vance Briceland, accompanist
Michael Jothen*

He Comes

SECOND LESSON

Olga Hartwell

Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the

daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

*‡HYMN

Ride on Ride on in Majesty

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 175

SERMON

*Thaddeus, a disciple of Jesus, and Yosi, a powerful Pharisee,
in dialogue on the first Palm Sunday, later on the day.*

Narrator: *Pat Larrabee*

Yosi: *Avery Manchester*

Thaddeus: *Dan England*

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Lord, Come Away

*The Chancel Choir
Hanna Golodinskii, soprano
John Huston*

***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 Palms

(Words and music on next page)

***BENEDICTION**

***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

Dialogue sur les Grand Jeux

Francois Couperin

The Palms



O'er all the way green palms and blos - soms gay
His word goes forth, and peo - ple by its might.
Sing and re - joice, O blest Je - ru - sa - lem.



Are strewn this day in fes - tal prep - a - ra - tion.
Once more re - gain free - dom from de - gra - da - tion.
Of all thy sons sing the e - man - ci - pa - tion.



Where Je - sus comes to wipe our tears a - way
Hu - man - i - ty doth give to each his right
Through bound - less love the Christ of Beth - le - hem



E'en now the throng to welcome him pre - pare, Join all and sing, His
While those in dark - ness are restored to light.
Brings faith and hope to thee for - ev - er - more.



name de - clare, Let ev' - ry voice re - sound with ac - cla - ma - tion, Ho



san - na! Praise to the Lord! Bless him who cometh to bring us sal



va - - - tion!

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.

The memorial fund honoring Elizabeth and Warren Dennison has provided for the radio broadcast of this morning's service.

Calendar

TODAY

Church School

There are no Church School classes today as we will worship together in the Meetinghouse. Next week we will worship together once again as we celebrate the joy of Easter! There is a sign-up easel in the Auditorium for next Saturday's Egg Decorating event. We hope to see you there and at other Holy Week events. Check the online calendar at www.fccog.org for all of the Holy Week Services. Church School will resume on April 15.

Youth and Cherub Choir Rehearsals

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

linc

Join us today at 5:00 pm in the Auditorium for our linc worship service. The theme today is *After the Parade*. We usually go right from Palm Sunday to our Maundy Thursday service....but what happened in-between? Join us for a service filled with times of voice and times of silence. The service is casual so come as you are and bring all your friends!

NEWS AND NOTICES

Wellness Event

Sunday April 15 11:30-12:30 - Whole Person Approach to Weight Loss with Henri Roca, MD, Medical Director of Greenwich Integrative Medicine. One basic principle of holistic medicine is that people are individuals, and their plans for improving health should be tailored to their unique needs. Dr. Roca will discuss a holistic approach to weight management, and the various complementary medical disciplines that can help one achieve an optimal weight. He is board-certified by the American Academy of Family Practice and the American Board of Holistic and Integrative Medicine. In addition to providing comprehensive conventional care, Dr. Roca is a medical acupuncturist, hypnotherapist, massage therapist and biofeedback practitioner. So, please join us for what is sure to be an enlightening program.

“Hats Off” Book Study Group

Our "Hats Off" Book Study Group has started our spring reading with *Quiet Hero* by Rita Cosby. Senator John McCain says, "Rita's story is one that will touch every family... A loving, poignant tribute to her POW father and freedom." Rita Cosby grew up on Halsey Drive in Havemeyer Park, Old Greenwich! Come join us on *Thursday mornings from 10:00 am -11:30 am* in the Lounge. Any questions, please call Debbie Berner, 203-629-1110.

CROP Hunger Walk

“CROP” stands for **C**ommunities **R**esponding to **O**vercome **P**overty. We invite you to join us 3 weeks from today on *Sunday, April 22* for the 5th annual Greenwich/Port Chester CROP Hunger Walk, this year being held at First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich, 1 West Putnam Avenue, Greenwich. Registration - 1:15 pm; Walk (under 2 miles) - 2:00 pm. For more information and to sign up to walk and/or volunteer, please visit the CROP Walk table at Coffee Hour or contact Mark Montgomery or Rosemary Lamie.

It's Coming!

Well, yes, Jesus is coming, but if he is delayed, Bible Study will start *April 22* at 11:20 am in the Lounge.

“Swing into Spring” Update!

The excitement is building for our *April 28* gala at the Riverside Yacht Club. Please consider donating an item, service or entertainment. So far we have over 25 silent and live auction items including: *use of a 22’ Tipi for an event at your house; cocktail sail on a 40’ sailboat; golf outing; antique desk; VIP tickets to The Daily Show.*

Church Committee Minutes Available

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. The most recently approved minutes of the Church Committee meetings 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.

News from The Rummage Room

- **April 2 through April 7:** The Rummage Room is open Monday through Friday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Saturday, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. There is a wonderful selection of spring clothing, Easter items for decorating, stuffed rabbits and chickens, Easter eggs, and items for your children’s Easter baskets. All Easter decorations are 50% off all week long.
- **Manager Maria’s Wish List:** Spring and summer clothing; items for Mother’s Day; handbags; jewelry; strollers; small furniture; a small flat screen TV.
- **Gift Certificates for the favorite people in your life:** These are available at the cash register for any amount. They make great gifts for Mother’s Day, graduations or for any gift giving occasion.
- **The “Thank You” Volunteers Breakfast** will be held in the church auditorium at 9:00 am on *April 17*. Mark your calendars and sign up at The Rummage Room. If you would like to become a volunteer at The Rummage Room, the breakfast would be a great place to come and get acquainted.
- Easter Week, beginning with Palm Sunday and continuing through Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, is a beautiful time to be a Christian. Blessed are we who believe!

Next Week at First Congregational Church ~ Holy Week Schedule

April 5: Maundy Thursday

A simple but delicious meal beginning at **6:00 pm**, followed by a special Service of Worship in the Auditorium and the week's Service of Communion at **7:00 pm**.

April 6: Good Friday

12:00 pm Youth Cross Walk to Tod's Point.

8:00 pm Good Friday Service -

Music by the Chancel Choir:

Theodore Dubois, *Seven Last Words of Christ*.

April 7: Saturday Morning

10:00 am to 12:00 pm Easter Egg Decorating
in the Daniels Center

April 8: Easter Sunday

6:15 am Sunrise Beach Service at Greenwich Point -
Music by the Youth Choir

9:00 and **11:00 am** Easter Sunday Services in the Meetinghouse -
Choral Music by the Youth Choir and Chancel Choir.
Prelude begins at 8:45 am and 10:45 am with brass and organ.

No linc Worship Service;

Instead of our regularly scheduled 5:00 pm linc Service, we invite you to attend one of our other Easter Sunday Services above.

Easter Memorial/Honor Flowers

The Chancel Committee invites contributions for flowers in the Meetinghouse this Easter. Any amount is welcome. Please deliver the completed form with your check to the Church Office (payable to the First Congregational Church Flower Fund) **no later than *Tuesday, April 3.*** Thank you.

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

By:

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____

Please print names legibly to minimize spelling errors.

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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