

*The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*  
*Founded in 1665*

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**18 December 2016**  
10 o'clock in the morning





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.



Welcome to this service of worship at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich on this Sunday morning. Please join us after worship for our Fellowship Hour in the Auditorium.

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### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

\*All who are able please stand.

**PRELUDE**  
Recollections

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, piano  
James Stevens (b. 1961)

**CALL TO COMMUNITY**

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

(Please sign and pass the red Fellowship Pad found at the end of your pew.)

### **PRAISING GOD**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Lauren Mickley

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming.

**People: We wait filled with hope, knowing your light will shine in the darkness.**

Leader: We wait anticipating your peace, believing that one day it will fill our world.

**People: We wait embracing your love, may we reach out to share it with our neighbours.**

Leader: We wait with joy, bubbling us in expectation of your birth.

**All: Lord we wait, come soon and fill us with your life.**

**CHORAL INTROIT**

**\* HYMN**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 107

**LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE**

The Romano Family

**MUSIC DURING  
CANDLE LIGHTING**

Christ Is Born

The Palmer Handbell Choir  
Arr. Douglas Wagner (b. 1952)

**All:** Loving God, we thank you for your gift of love - shown to us perfectly in Jesus Christ our Lord. Help us prepare our hearts to receive Him. Bless our worship. Help us to hear and do your word. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, that one who taught us to pray,

**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.**

(Following the Lord's Prayer, all church school children will go to the Daniels Center for a special Advent Rotation.)

**HEARING GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST LESSON**

Joseph McBride

**Isaiah 7: 10-16**

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the

good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

--New Revised Standard Version

**ANTHEM**

I Saw Three Ships

The Chancel Choir

Arr. James Kirkby (b. 1949)

**SECOND LESSON**

**Matthew 1: 18-25**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

--New Revised Standard Version

**SERMON**

The Unsung Hero

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

**\* HYMN**

Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear

New Century (black) Hymnal 105

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. Patrick Collins

## RESPONDING TO GOD

### CALL TO OFFERING

Shirley Flierl

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

He Shall Feed His Flock--  
Come Unto Him

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)  
Carolyn Paulus, soprano  
Hanna Golodinskii, soprano

### \* DOXOLOGY

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 515

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all  
creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### \* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

### \* HYMN

While Shepherds Watched their Flocks

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 146

### \* BENEDICTION

### \* CHORAL RESPONSE

### POSTLUDE

Postlude in D minor

Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)

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The Chancel Committee would like to thank Pam Grunow and  
Loretta Stagen for their help in decorating the Meetinghouse for  
Christmas.

Directly following the service, one of our pastors will remain in the  
Chapel to be available to anyone who has a pastoral care concern.

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We have **child care for babies and toddlers** every Sunday in the  
Preschool classrooms. Your children are always welcome in child care  
for the entire worship service or for a respite time if needed. We also

now have two rows in the back of the chapel reserved for parents with infants or little ones who are not ready for the Nursery where the parents can be comfortable and still be part of worship. Please see an usher if you need help finding either of these locations.

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](http://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.

### **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS**

The decorations in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in joyful and loving memory of:

- Marjorie & Arthur L. Billings Jr., and Nina & Dr. Howard H. Flierl, by Shirley & Peter Flierl
- G. Michael Hawkins & Martin Molloy, by Kevin, Marcie, Jack, & Gavin Molloy
- Charles J. Veith IV, by his sister, Linda V. Glover
- Carol Kutzen & Joseph Browne, by Tom, Peter, & Terri Browne Kutzen
- Richard Woodman, beloved and sorely-missed husband and father, by Carolyn Paulus & Gillian & Stephanie Woodman
- Richard L. Geismar, by his family
- Patricia DeHaven & Andrea Mendelsohn, by the DeHaven family
- Robert & Joyce Turvey and Angela Wyman, by Helen Turvey Ingraham & family
- Our parents, Morris & Noemie Watkins, and Robert & Lucile Tubbs, by Jeff & Jean Watkins
- Kimberly Dawn Pacent, our beautiful daughter and my cherished sister, by Paul, Karen, & Nicole Pacent
- Phyllis Kimball, my wonderful mom and nana, by Karen & Nicole Pacent
- Marian & Fred Hout, by Susie Hout Baker & Sara, Charlie, and Lizzie
- Our parents, Carleton & Margaret Gisborne, and Harrison & Louise Reed, by Ruth & Gifford Reed & their family
- David Whitman Durland (son), by Mrs. Mary Durland

- Alvin Wachsman & grandson Jason Arnold, by the Wachsman & Arnold families
- Our parents, Purisima & Feliciano Teria, and Louise & Richard Haviland, by Erlinda & Larry Haviland
- John L. Putnam, by Wendy Putnam & Jennifer Maloney
- Earl S. Moore Jr. & Earl S. Moore Jr., by the Moore Family
- Richmond B. Hopkins, by his family
- Arthur C. & Catherine G. Weigner, by their sons, Stephen A. and Ronald C. Weigner
- Eric & Susan Robertson, my father & sister, by Lynn Robertson
- Paul Hudson & George Finch, from the Hudson & Finch families
- Joan & Jim Kreuter, by their children & grandchildren
- Charlie & Bill Robertson, by Eric & Betsy Kreuter
- Departed loved ones, by the Liddel family
- Our parents, Victoria & Efraim Olson, and Ryan & Margaret Rosendale, and aunt, Erna Nelson, by Ken & Erna Olson
- Our parents, Elizabeth & Daniel O'Grady, and Lillian & Albert Gordon, by Judy & Al Gordon
- Our parents, Nadean & Elmer Hirth, and Anna & Robert MacLea, by Carolyn & Bob MacLea
- Our parents, Alma & Steve Karch, Betty & Fred Breismeister, and Don's brother, Fred, by Ginny & Don Breismeister
- In joyful remembrance of our Heavenly Choir with whom we always are singing: Harry & Rick Woodman, Richard Vogt, Carolyn Morey, Seth McKoy, Ara Berbarien, Thiel & Marian Ficker, Ted Svalgard, Bill Fingerle, Allie Holmes, Ray Malone, Sallie Williams, Julia Andrews, & Barbara Gaulocher, by Andrea Woodman Osker, Lynn Hawxhurst, & Tom Woodman
- My grandson, Tucker Davis, by Eleanor Olsen

The decorations in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in honor of:

- The entire First Church family for their never-ending love and support, by Carolyn Paulus & Gillian & Stephanie Woodman
- Our grandchildren, Finn, June, Gunther, & Alta Breismeister, by Ginny & Don Breismeister

- Car Westbrook, for her years of devoted stewardship to the music at First Congregational Church, by Andrea Woodman Osker, Lynn Hawxhurst, & Tom Woodman

A donation to the decorations in the Meetinghouse this morning is given by:

- Sarah Caswell

## NEWS AND NOTICES

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### TODAY

#### **Church School**

This is our last church school Sunday until January 8. Today we wind up our advent study of Jesus' birth by joining together for learning and expressing. All children including the "678" class will go to the Daniels Center after the Lord's Prayer for a special Advent rotation. We hope to see many of you on Christmas Eve and perhaps even Christmas Day. Also today after church school the 4th and 5th graders will be going to Pilgrim Towers for a Christmas party and to deliver our congregation's gifts to them.

#### **Parish Nurse**

Sue Asselin, RN will be available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations during Community Hour, following today's worship service. During the week she is available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays by appointment, which can be made by calling extension 21.

#### **Today's Choir Schedule**

All choirs will meet today in their normal places/times:

Cherub Choir: Rainbow Room (basement) 11:15-11:45

Children's Choir: 3rd floor 11:15-12:00

Youth Choir: Meetinghouse 11:15-12:15

## **UPCOMING**

### **Casting Call for Christmas Eve Pageants**

On Christmas Eve, there are three opportunities to be in a Nativity Pageant: 10 am, 3 pm, and 6 pm. There are no speaking parts. We especially need kings--even adults--for the 6 pm. If you know which service you plan to attend and if you or your child(ren) would like to give it a try, please email RosemaryL@fccog.org. There is a rehearsal at 3 pm on December 23 for the 3 and 6 pm pageants, and 9:15 am Christmas Eve for the 10 am service.

### **Christmas Eve White Gifts**

A long-standing tradition at First Church on Christmas Eve has been that the congregation brings gifts for children wrapped in white paper for our 10 am, 3 pm, and 6 pm services. As we place them under the trees during the offering, it gives the illusion of snow. Gifts of clothing, toys, books, or other useful items are then given to Covenant to Care for Children. Ribbon and bows are not necessary. (Hint: If you find yourself without white paper at the last minute, some papers are white on their reverse side, or you can use white tissue paper.) Thank you for this gift of the season for those in need.

### **Hats Off**

Our Hats Off book study group will begin January 2017 reading with "The 100 Year Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared," by Jonas Jonasson. Our humorous tale begins with a 100 year old nursing home resident escaping out his window before his birthday celebration. He embarks on a hilarious and unexpected journey involving many adventures. Join us as we start our own reading "escape" on January 5th in the Binney Conference Room on Thursday mornings from 10-11:30. Please call Jean Bruder, 203-661-1685 to order your paperback.

### **Caregivers Support Group**

Please join us for the Caregivers Support Group, for those who currently are, recently have been, or no longer are, a caregiver for a family member or friend. The group offers a confidential place where participants can share experiences, learn new information, and receive emotional support and comfort from others in similar situations. The group will meet on the second Sunday of the

month from 11:15 am - 12:15 pm in the Binney Conference Room. Dorothy Mueller, FCCOG Stephen Minister, is the group facilitator. For more information, please call Dorothy at (203)588-9596, or email: dorothymueller1@gmail.com

**Merry Christmas from The Rummage Room  
191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich**

**The Rummage Room is closed for the Holidays. Please do not leave donations before January 2, 2017.**

The RR Windows, designed and decorated by Mgr. Leanne Meyer and Asst. Mgr. Nancy Hamilton, won “Best Holiday Store-front in Old Greenwich” from The Greenwich Chamber of Commerce for their Christmas Windows.”

The Rummage Room Reopens on Monday, January 2nd, 2017 at 10:00 am.

Remember: “Peace on earth will come to stay when we live Christmas every day.” As we start to leave 2016, here’s to a well-remembered past and a joyful 2017.

**Next Week at First Church  
Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day**

Worship in the acoustic splendor of the auditorium,  
with carols, readings, light refreshments, and  
a fable for young and old.

Music by  
The Chancel Choir  
John Rutter: Brother Heinrich’s Christmas  
Joseph McBride, narrator  
Dorothy Darlington, oboe  
Joyce Kelley, bassoon



## **The First Congregational Church of Greenwich**

108 Sound Beach Avenue,  
Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870  
203-637-1791  
*[www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org)*

Ministers: The Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Senior Pastor: Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

Associate Pastor: Rev. Patrick Collins

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Family Ministries: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Church Administration & Finance: Steve Summerton

Administrative Assistant - Operations: Donna White

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner