

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

New Year's Day

1 January 2017

10 o'clock in the morning



Welcome to a new year!
May its promise inspire and move us,
and let us live in the light of God's love.

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 Community Hour in the Auditorium.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

Noel

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Claude Balbastre (1724-1799)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

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

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Patrick Collins

Leader: Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol God, all peoples!

People: **For great is God's steadfast love toward us; and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.**

Leader: Praise the Lord!

CHORAL INTROIT

*** HYMN**

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 129

GATHERING PRAYER

You give us a vision of a world made new, O God, yet we find it so easy to abide in the old. You promise your presence among us, yet we seek so often to hide from it. We continue to mourn for our own way, though you have

promised to wipe the tears from our eyes. When the former things have passed away, will we still long for what used to be? You are the beginning and the end; the middle we cling to for ourselves. We confess our nearsightedness and beg for eyes open to the new creation. May we enter the coming year, made whole by the grace of you and your son, who taught us to pray, 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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Dorothy Mueller

Psalm 8

God, brilliant Lord,
yours is a household name.
Nursing infants gurgle choruses about you;
toddlers shout the songs
That drown out enemy talk,
and silence atheist babble.
I look up at your macro-skies, dark and enormous,
your handmade sky-jewelry,
Moon and stars mounted in their settings.
Then I look at my micro-self and wonder,
Why do you bother with us?
Why take a second look our way?
Yet we've so narrowly missed being gods,
bright with Eden's dawn light.
You put us in charge of your handcrafted world,
repeated to us your Genesis-charge,
Made us lords of sheep and cattle,
even animals out in the wild,
Birds flying and fish swimming,
whales singing in the ocean deeps.

God, brilliant Lord,
your name echoes around the world.

—The Message

ANTHEM
Huron Indian Carol

The Chancel Choir
Arr. Robert Lehman (b. 1960)

'Twas in the moon of winter-time when all the birds had fled,
That mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim, and wandering hunters heard the
hymn:

“Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.”

Within a lodge of broken bark the tender Babe was found,
A ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapp'd His beauty round;
But as the hunter braves drew nigh, the angel song rang loud and high:
“Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and beaver pelt:
“Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.”

O children of the forest free, O sons of Manitou,
The Holy Child of earth and heaven is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant Boy who brings you beauty, peace and joy:
“Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.”

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 25: 34-40

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Enter, you who are
blessed by my Father! Take what’s coming to you in this kingdom. It’s
been ready for you since the world’s foundation. And here’s why:

I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,
I was homeless and you gave me a room,
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,
I was sick and you stopped to visit,
I was in prison and you came to me.’

“Then those ‘sheep’ are going to say, ‘Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?’ Then the King will say, ‘I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.’”

--The Message

SERMON

‘Enter, You Who Are Blessed!’

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

*** HYMN**

We Who Would Valiant Be

New Century (black) Hymnal 494

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Patrick Collins

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

Phil Bradford

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter

The Chancel Choir

Harold Darke (1888-1976)

Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

Drew Seigla, tenor

In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim
Worship night and day, a breastful of milk,
And a mangerful of hay; enough for Him, whom angels
Fall down before, the ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,

Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air -
But only His mother in her maiden bliss
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can, I give Him - give my heart.

*** 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**

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RECEIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Those who are able to come forward and receive communion will be invited row by row by an usher. Please come forward in two single-file lines and return to your seat entering from the outside aisle. If you are unable to come forward, please notify an usher. You are invited to take a piece of bread and dip the bread in the juice. All of our elements are gluten-free.

The communion table is open to all.

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, in gratitude, in deep gratitude, for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

* HYMN

As with Gladness Men of Old

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 119

* BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Resonet in laudibus

Colin Mawby (b. 1936)

* * *

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

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. A bulletin can be found there as well as a link to the live broadcast. Previous sermons may also be found there.

NEWS AND NOTICES

TODAY

Church School

There are no regular Church School classes this Sunday but there is child care in the Preschool Blue and Orange doors. Next Sunday we begin a new Rotation on "the Lord's Prayer." Everyone is invited to teach a lesson so if you are interested in spending some class time

with our children, just email Rosemary at RosemaryL@fccog.org for the details.

UPCOMING

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 meets 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

“The Spiritual Child” author to speak at First Church on Sunday, January 22 at 11:30 AM

Research by the Spiritual Child Team at Columbia Teachers College have revealed some remarkable data about the effect of spirituality in children and their wellbeing as teenagers. These findings are relevant for all ages and that is why we have invited Dr. Lisa Miller to be with us to share a light lunch and to dialogue about the findings of her 10 years of study. Dr. Miller is Professor of Psychology and Education at Columbia University, Teachers College and is Founder of the Spirituality Mind Body Institute, the first Ivy League graduate program in spirituality and psychology. Dr. Miller is the author of “The Spiritual Child; The New Science of Parenting for Health and Lifelong Thriving.” A graduate of Yale, she received her doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania from Martin Seligman. She frequently is cited in print and in on-line media and has appeared on CNN, Fox News, MSNBC, and NBC Today Show as an expert. She lives in Connecticut with her husband and three children.

News from The Rummage Room 191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, January 2: The Rummage Room will ring in the New Year at 10:00 am. If you and your family need winter clothing, ski-wear, boots, scarves, mittens, hats ... you will find it at 191 Sound Beach Avenue.

The Rummage Room Christmas windows designed by Leanne Meyer and Nancy Hamilton are still on display and since they change constantly as things sell, they are replaced by new things. The Rummage Room was awarded “The Best Holiday Windows in Old Greenwich” by the Greenwich Chamber of Commerce just before Christmas.

Leanne’s Wish List: Winter coats, gloves, mittens, hats, boots, ski clothing.

Shop Hours: 10:00 - 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday & 10:00 - 1:00 pm Saturday.

Donation Hours: 9:30 - 4:30 pm Monday through Thursday & 9:30 - 12:30 pm Friday and Saturday.

Thought for the start of 2017: “And in despair I bowed my head. There is no peace on earth, I said. For hate is strong, and mocks the song of peace on earth, goodwill to all. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: God is not dead, nor doth he sleep! The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, goodwill to all.” —Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

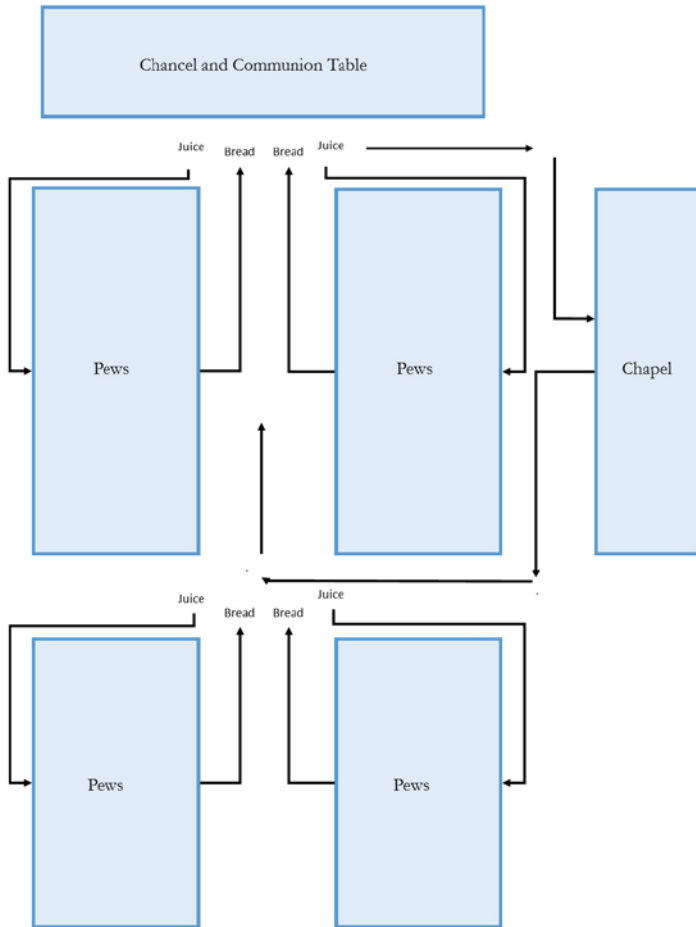
**Next Week at First Church
Sunday, January 8**

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr., preaching

Music by the Chancel Choir
Craig Scott Symons, directing

Communion by Intinction

Below is a diagram to follow to receive communion by intinction.





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. 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 Steine

Cover Art: Red Sunrise over Oostende, Hans Hillewaert