

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

5 February 2017
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 Community Hour in the Auditorium.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

Eric Birk, guest director/organist

Communion (from Tryptique op. 58)

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

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

Leader: God says, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters.

People: Come, you who have no money. Come and eat!

Leader: We have come to feast on the living bread, that we might minister to the world's hungers.

People: We have come to drink from the cup of life, that we might minister to the world's thirst.

All: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Let us worship God, the Source of every blessing.

CHORAL INTROIT

*** HYMN**

For the Beauty of the Earth

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 66

GATHERING PRAYER

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

Holy One, we enter this sanctuary today in gratitude for the blessings in our lives and in awe of the beauty of creation. We thank you for your Spirit, which sustains our souls with joy. We thank you for your Word, which is a light for our journey in life. We thank you for your Strength, which supports our dreams for the future. May our gratitude grow with each passing day as we pray in the words that Jesus gave us 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

Car Westbrook

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights above.
Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.
Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars.
Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the skies.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for at his command they were created,
and he established them for ever and ever—
he issued a decree that will never pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth,

you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,
lightning and hail, snow and clouds,
stormy winds that do his bidding,
you mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars,
wild animals and all cattle,
small creatures and flying birds,
kings of the earth and all nations,
you princes and all rulers on earth,
young men and women,
old men and children.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.
And he has raised up for his people a horn,
the praise of all his faithful servants,
of Israel, the people close to his heart.

Praise the Lord.

--New Revised Standard Version

ANTHEM

Teach Me, O Lord

The Chancel Choir

Thomas Attwood (1765-1838)

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes;
and I shall keep it unto the end.

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 5: 13-16

You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let

your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father in heaven.

--New Revised Standard Version

SERMON

Religion Worth Its Salt

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

*** HYMN**

This Little Light of Mine

New Century (black) Hymnal 524

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Patrick Collins

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

Ken Conover

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Rejoice Greatly

The Youth Choir

Joseph Martin (b. 1959)

Carolyn Paulus, director

Eric Birk, piano

Rejoice greatly, ye daughters of Zion.

Rejoice greatly, for the King cometh unto you.

Glory to God in the highest; lift your voice and sing.

Blessing and praise to the Son of David;

behold your King cometh unto you, sing and rejoice!

*** 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

In the tradition of our church, let us partake of the bread (gluten-free) as it is served, remembering our individual uniqueness in the eyes of God and our diversity within the Body of Christ. Let us hold the cup (grape juice) until all have been served, remembering our oneness with God and our unity in the Body of Christ.

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**

You Are Salt for the
Earth, O People

New Century (black) Hymnal 181

*** BENEDICTION**

*** CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Nun freut euch, lieben Christen

(Now rejoice, all you beloved Christians)

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

* * *

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 extend a warm welcome to Eric Birk, our guest director/organist. Eric is a frequent substitute at New York City churches, and most recently served Flatbush-Tompkins Congregational Church as Director/Organist. He, along with his wife, organist Bernadette Hoke, form the Birk & Hoke Duo, performing organ and piano

duets concerts around the country. He holds degrees from Baylor University and Manhattan School of Music.

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

Children will remain in worship today so they can experience regular worship with the congregation and participate in communion. It is a parent's decision as to when children participate in communion. Although we will have an introduction to communion for children in the second grade and older later this spring, we do not have a rule about when children participate. Rotation resumes next Sunday. "678" will be cooking chili for the Soup Kitchen during worship. 3's and 4's will have their regular class.

Choir Rehearsals

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

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

Children's Choir: No rehearsal

Youth Choir: Meetinghouse 11:15-12:15

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, at extension 21.

2017 “Souper Bowl” Sunday Soup Sale

Be sure to stop by the annual “Souper Bowl Sunday” soup sale to benefit the FCCOG Women’s Fellowship today! The sale will take place in the auditorium from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and quarts of homemade soup will be sold for \$10 each.

UPCOMING

Sunday Afternoons Live Returns!

Our popular Sunday Afternoons Live series returns in February in the acoustic splendor of the First Church Auditorium. Each Sunday at 4:00 p.m., a wonderful performance by outstanding local and national artists will surely delight all in attendance. Tickets are \$20 for each performance and are available at the door. As always, school-aged children are free.

February 19: Edita Orlinyte, Violin, with Rimantas Vingras, piano

Edita’s program includes the Violin Concerto in A minor by J. S. Bach, Poeme, the most famous work of the French romantic composer Ernest Chausson. Preludes for piano solo by the visionary Lithuanian artist and composer M.K. Ciurlionis, known as a representative of symbolism and modernism, as well as the virtuosic “Formosa Suite” by contemporary composer Albert Markov, where a variety of styles and techniques meet. Edita and Rimantas come together once again to bring us an inspiring performance filled with emotion.

February 26: Peter & Will Anderson, Jazz Saxophonists

Peter and Will Anderson are one of the most extraordinary set of brothers performing music today, and are known for their unique renditions of classic jazz songs. Their ensemble has performed in over 35 U.S. States, toured Japan, and featured four times in NYC’s famed “Highlights in Jazz” series. “Virtuosos on clarinet and saxophone” (New York Times).

March 5: Wholly Brass

The Wholly Brass has been entertaining and dazzling audiences since 1996. With performances at New York’s Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall, and many more prestigious venues, Wholly Brass brings music in an educational and entertaining fashion everywhere it goes. The

group was founded and nurtured while the players were still students at The Juilliard School. The repertoire of the group includes Classical Masterpieces, Jazz, Broadway, World and Hollywood music. To date, Wholly Brass has performed in over 30 states in United States in concerts and special events.

March 12: First Church Musicians LIVE!

All of your favorite First Church musicians wrapped up in one concert! These outstanding musicians have graciously donated their services to make this a special afternoon of vocal music to benefit the Music Ministry at First Church. Performers include Linnea Conley, Hanna Golodinski, Carolyn Paulus, Drew Seigla, Gianna Barone, Vasil Golodinskii, Craig Symons, Vance Briceland, Carol Woodman, Tom Woodman.

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 .

Nights Off

Please join Nights Off at the home of Kathy Riley (136 Shore Road, Old Greenwich) on February 20 for the rousing, annual Valentine's Jeopardy! Amaze your friends with your knowledge of trivial information! This will be a Pot Luck dinner, so please bring an appetizer or entree to share! Time: 6:30 pm until . . . ?

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, February 5: Selected 50% off merchandise can be found on www.fccog.org/the-rummage-room/ .

Manager Leanne's Wish List for the Week: Ladies spring tops; blouses; handbags; jewelry.

February's Coming Events:

Valentine's Week Sale: Feb. 12 through Feb. 18.

President's Day Sale: Feb. 19 through Feb. 25.

Winter Clearance Sale: Monday, Feb. 27 through March 1.

The 'Famous' Three-Day Bag Sale: March 2 through March 4.

Shop Hours: 10:00-5:00 pm Monday to Friday & 10:00-12:30 Saturday.

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

Thought for the week: "It is discouraging to think how so many people are shocked by honesty and so few by deceit." Sir Noel Coward (1899 - 1973)

News from the Refugee Resettlement Committee

Thank you to the entire congregation for your time, energy, talent, and donations. Your generosity has been overwhelming and we simply want to say thank you for all that you have done to help support our refugee family during their challenging transition. Your generosity truly embodies the call of Jesus Christ to welcome the stranger. The father of our refugee family is a very talented and skilled artist. He specializes in portraits and stills done in pencil, and he will create a piece for you to purchase. You can find examples of his work in the auditorium following the worship service. If you would like him to create a portrait, please sign the sheet on the board and submit a photo you would like him to re-create. Prices are indicated on the sheet in the auditorium.

Next Week at First Church Sunday, February 12

Rev. Avery C. Manchester, preaching

Music by the Chancel Choir

If ye love me—Thomas Tallis

Eric Birk, guest director/organist



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 Steiner