

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

12 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

Chorale-Prelude
on "Rhosymedre"

Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958)

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: Help us, O God our Savior;

People: Deliver us and forgive us our sins.

Leader: Look upon your congregation;

People: Give to your people the blessing of peace;

Leader: Declare your glory among the nations;

People: And your wonders among all peoples.

Leader: Let not the oppressed be shamed and turned away;

People: Never forget the lives of the poor.

Leader: Continue your loving kindness to those who know you;

People: And your favor to those who are true of heart.

Leader: Satisfy us by your loving kindness in the morning;

People: So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

CHORAL INTROIT

*** HYMN**

Praise to the Living God

New Century (black) Hymnal 8

GATHERING PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Holy God, we come before you with awe, for you are great in love and power. Some of us come with reluctance and some with joy; some with sadness and others full of fear, yet we know you receive us as we are. Mighty God, stay with us always, as we worship and as we share the risk and challenge of living our faith. By your powerful Spirit, turn our fear to courage and our confusion to confidence. Touch us, God, with your healing fire. Speak to us through your Word. Send us back into the world renewed and eager to do your will. We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

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, rotation classes and "678" will go to the Daniels Center. 3rd graders will go to Room 104 (Rainbow Door). After Patrick introduces the lesson, "678" will go to the Binney Conference Room and the rotation classes will stay in the Daniels Center.)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Pat Larrabee

Deuteronomy 30: 15-20

Look at what I've done for you today: I've placed in front of you Life and Good; Death and Evil.

And I command you today: Love God, your God. Walk in his ways. Keep his commandments, regulations, and rules so that you will live,

really live, live exuberantly, blessed by God, your God, in the land you are about to enter and possess.

But I warn you: If you have a change of heart, refuse to listen obediently, and willfully go off to serve and worship other gods, you will most certainly die. You won't last long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

I call Heaven and Earth to witness against you today: I place before you Life and Death, Blessing and Curse. Choose life so that you and your children will live. And love God, your God, listening obediently to him, firmly embracing him. Oh yes, he is life itself, a long life settled on the soil that God, your God, promised to give your ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

--The Message

ANTHEM

If Ye Love Me

The Chancel Choir

Thomas Tallis (c. 1505-1585)

If ye love me, keep my commandments.
And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter,
that he may 'bide with you forever; e'en the spirit of truth.

SECOND LESSON

Psalm 119: 1-8

You're blessed when you stay on course,
walking steadily on the road revealed by God.
You're blessed when you follow his directions,
doing your best to find him.
That's right—you don't go off on your own;
you walk straight along the road he set.
You, God, prescribed the right way to live;
now you expect us to live it.
Oh, that my steps might be steady,
keeping to the course you set;
Then I'd never have any regrets
in comparing my life with your counsel.
I thank you for speaking straight from your heart;
I learn the pattern of your righteous ways.

I'm going to do what you tell me to do;
don't ever walk off and leave me.

--The Message

SERMON

“Choose Life”

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

*** HYMN**

What Gift Can We Bring?

New Century (black) Hymnal 370

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

Eric Schless

ORGAN OFFERTORY

Jacob's Ladder

Ralph Simpson (b. 1933)

*** 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**

Awake, My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve

Pilgrim (black) Hymnal 362

*** BENEDICTION**

*** CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Toccata in Seven

John Rutter (b. 1945)

* * *

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, perform 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

Today we will begin a new series on "Festivals and Celebrations in the Bible" as a prelude to Lent. The Rotation Classes (Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd 4th & 5th grades along with "678" will begin in the Daniels Center. Next week is a Service Sunday where all children 5 and older will be in the Daniels Center for a special mission project.

Choir Rehearsals

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

Children's Choir: No rehearsal

Youth Choir: No rehearsal

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.

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.

Don't Miss "Feast and Fast at First Church"

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, February 28, 6:30 to 8:00pm for "Feast and Fast at First Church" our own "Mardi Gras" celebration. We will have homemade waffles with all the toppings. Also lots of fun and a brief devotional at the end to bring us into the Lenten season. This is an event for the whole congregation.

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) 588-9896, or email: dorothymueller1@gmail.com .

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, February 12: Selected 50% off merchandise can be found on www.fccog.org/the-rummage-room/.

February 13 and 14: 50% off everything red. Happy Valentine's Day! **Special This Week:** 50 percent off - Men's and women's - Pants, Jeans, Sweaters. Toys, games and puzzles and everything outside

February 20: President's Day—The Rummage Room will be open!

February 27 through March 1: Winter clearance sale begins.

Manager Leanne's Wish List for the Week: Handbags, jewelry, dollhouse furniture, spring blouses for women.

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 day: We all wish there was more we could do to feed, clothe, educate and make life better for so many women and children in the world and in our own country. We **can** help, however. Every time we buy or donate at The Rummage Room, funds go to vetted organizations that help those in need. We are truly "The Best Little Shop in Greenwich."

**Next Week at First Church
Sunday, February 19**

Rev. Patrick Collins, preaching

Music by the Chancel Choir
Ever With Me—Gwyneth Walker



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

Cover Art: Travis D. Peterson