

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

12 March 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

Adagio

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

Felix Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

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

Rev. Patrick Collins

PRAISING GOD

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Elizabeth Mohn

Leader: Lift your eyes up to the mountains for help.

Your help comes from the God who made the heavens and earth.

People: For God so loved the world.

Leader: God will not let your foot slip; God will protect you by day and night.

People: For God so loved the world.

Leader: Holy Spirit of God, invisible like the wind of creation, breathe into us new life, so that we may be refreshed by your water and Spirit.

People: For God so loved the world.

Leader: Enough to become one of us; enough to suffer along with us; enough to offer a new vision of life for us all.

All: For God so loved the world.

Let us worship God!

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

CHORAL INTROIT

*** HYMN**

All Things Bright & Beautiful

New Century (black) Hymnal 31

GATHERING PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

God of all creation, maker of the heavens and the earth. You crafted majestic mountains and vast oceans, artfully designed tiny particles and miniature bugs, and every beautiful thing in between. You created us in your image and in your likeness. You breathed life into us at the dawn of creation and your Spirit continues to breathe new life into us and all of creation every day. God, your love for this world is powerful and amazing. Guide us in wisdom and creativity to love and care for Your creation, so it will continue to sustain us for generations to come. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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 will start in the Daniels Center. They will then go their classrooms: Kindergarten & 1st graders in the Red Door; 2nd graders in the Green Door. 4th and 5th grades will be in the Daniels Center. "678" will go directly to the Binney Conference Room and 3rd graders will meet in their classroom – the Rainbow Door.)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Bill DeHaven

Psalm 121

I raise my eyes toward the mountains.
Where will my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.
God won't let your foot slip.
Your protector won't fall asleep on the job.
No! Israel's protector
never sleeps or rests!
The Lord is your protector;
the Lord is your shade right beside you.
The sun won't strike you during the day;
neither will the moon at night.
The Lord will protect you from all evil;
God will protect your very life.
The Lord will protect you on your journeys—
whether going or coming—
from now until forever from now.

—Common English Bible

ANTHEM

I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes

The Chancel Choir
Leo Sowerby (1895-1968)
Carolyn Paulus, soprano

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.
The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.
The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.
The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

SECOND LESSON

John 3: 1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.
He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you

are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

--New Revised Standard Version

SERMON

John 3:17

Rev. Patrick Collins

*** HYMN**

O God the Creator

New Century (black) Hymnal 291

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

Andrea Woodman

ORGAN OFFERTORY

Dialogue sur la trompette
et le cromhorne

Francois Couperin (1668-1733)

*** 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**

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder New Century (black) Hymnal 558

*** BENEDICTION**

*** CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Johann Walther (1684-1748)

* * *

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

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in loving
remembrance of Catherine G. Weigner and Arthur C. Weigner by
their sons, Stephen A. and Ronald C. Weigner.

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 continue our workshops for Lent. Kindergarten & 1st grade will be in the Preschool Red Door with a "Praying in Color" activity; 2nd grade will be in the Green Door and will create the scene found in Matthew 21: 12-13 with Legos; 4th & 5th grade will be in the Daniels Center. Next Sunday we will all make prayer pretzels together

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.

Choir Rehearsals

All choirs will meet today in their normal places/times:
Cherub Choir: Rainbow Room (basement) 11:15-11:45
Children's Choir: Third Floor 11:15-12:00
Youth Choir: Meetinghouse 11:15-12:15

Sunday Afternoons Live

Today is your last opportunity to enjoy Sunday Afternoons Live in the acoustic splendor of the First Church Auditorium! Tickets are

\$20 for each performance and are available at the door. As always, school-aged children are free.

Today, 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, and Tom Woodman.

Membership Directory Available Today

The 2017 FCCOG Directory of Members and Friends will be available for pick-up during coffee hour today. Additional copies will be available at the church front desk during operating hours. Did you know you can access up-to-date information from our website fccog.org on myFirstChurch—and keep your own information current? Look for instructions in the new directory.

Prayer Net

The Faith Formation and Education Committee have designed a prayer practice for lent which Patrick will introduce during the Children's Moment. This practice was inspired by an installation at the Ely Cathedral in England. When the Cathedral was built, Ely was an island, in a sea of rivers & swamps. Fishing formed an important part of people's livelihood. Jesus' first followers were also fishermen. Yet Jesus called them to leave their nets and follow him. This prayer net serves to remind us of Jesus' call and of the universality of our prayers. Return as often as you'd like to tie a piece of yarn as a symbol of a prayer. It can express the prayer of your heart without speaking a word. By rituals like this, we can come closer to the Holy Spirit who prays within us "with sighs too deep for words." (Romans 26:8)

UPCOMING

Quarterly Informational Meeting of Members: Sunday, March 26

Please join the Church Council for the Quarterly Informational Meeting of Members in the Auditorium following worship on March

26. We'll give everyone an opportunity to get refreshments and greet friends before beginning our informal meeting at 11:15. **Our architect, Allen Ross, will be with us to discuss all of our construction and capital projects, and to answer your questions.** This is your chance to hear all the latest church news, ask questions and give your input to church officers, so don't miss it!

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, March 13: See Leanne's 50% off sales at www.fccog.org/about-us/the-rummage-room/. The Rummage Room is in a 'Springtime State of Mind.' Come in and view the spring collection of clothing, accessories, art work, jewelry, glassware, items for St. Patrick's Day coming up March 17th, and much more!

How can you help The Rummage Room? Please clean out your closets as your donations are needed.

Manager Leanne's Wish List: Spring shoes and Spring Bric-a-brac.

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

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

Thought for the week: The Rummage Room has been selling gently-used merchandise for over 53 years. It continues as a successful endeavor because of our faith that we are making a difference in God's eyes. Our Maker has been blessing us for over 2000 years so we will continue to strive to make a difference in the lives of those who need our help.

At Home Dinners: “For the Fun of It!”

You are invited to join an old tradition at First Church, At Home Dinners. Everyone is welcome! Our At Home Dinners have no agenda; just come and meet some people you have not met before and greet old friends as well. Dinners will be offered between Friday, March 17th, St. Patrick’s Day, and Saturday, April 1. Please look for sign-up sheets in the auditorium, and visit <http://www.fccog.org/event/sign-up-for-at-home-dinners-march-17-april-1-2017/> to sign up online. What a wonderful way to have a party and celebrate our church family! For more information, please contact Ginny Breismeister, (ginnyb@fccog.org) or Prill Meyer, (prillmeyer@optonline.net)

Bowery Missions Women’s Center: March 19

Calling all Rummage Room volunteers and women’s fellowship at large: Representatives from Bowery Missions Women’s Center will be at Community Hour March 19th, and would love to hear about the workings of the Rummage Room and express gratitude for continued support by Women’s Fellowship. Hear more about this amazing ministry involved with getting women back on their feet after struggles with homelessness and/or addictions during the call to worship and at Community Hour.

Nutrition and Bone Health

On Wednesday, March 29, 10:00-11:00 am in the Auditorium, the Wellness Committee is pleased to present Denise Addorisio, a Registered Dietician from Greenwich Hospital, who will be speaking about nutrition and bone health. We will offer some tasty snacks rich in nutrients that support strong bones. RSVP’s appreciated to Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse at extension 21 or susana@fccog.org.

Travel Opportunity

Rev. Meg Williams from First Congregational, Stratford, is organizing a trip to France for September. There are a few spots left, so we are extending this opportunity to you. We will visit Chartres, tour several chateaux, Mont St. Michel and the D-Day sights, Normandy, Monet’s Gardens at Giverny, and see Paris. The trip will be September 26 – October 6, 2017. The cost is \$3300 per person, double occupancy, which includes round-trip flight from New York, hotels, daily buffet breakfasts, and four dinners, in addition to a deluxe tour bus and tour

guide. The remaining ten spots are available “first come, first serve!”
If you have questions, please call Meg at the church (203-378-2644)
or email her at megwillia@gmail.com .

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

Rev. Patrick Collins, preaching

Music by the Cherub Choir
Dona nobis pacem—Traditional

Music by the Chancel Choir
Magnificat—C. V. Stanford
Hanna Golodinskii, Soprano



The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

108 Sound Beach Avenue,
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www.fcog.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

Publications: Vance Briceland

Cover Art: Pete Holmes, from HBO's *Crashing*