

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

19 March 2017

Third Sunday in Lent

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

Fantasy Prelude

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

Alec Rowley (1892-1958)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

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

James Macklin, Bowery Mission

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

PRAISING GOD

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Emma Olmsted

Leader: We gather as pilgrims on a journey of faith.

People: We come seeking the awareness of God's presence as we travel on.

Leader: We come seeking light for our darkness, strength in our weakness.

**People: Shine in our hearts, O God, with the light of your love.
Make your presence known through Jesus the Christ.
Amen.**

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

CHORAL INTROIT

Dona nobis pacem (Grant Us Peace)

The Cherub Choir
Traditional Melody
Carol Woodman, director
Debbie Berner, piano

*** HYMN**

Let Us with a Gladsome Mind

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 70

GATHERING PRAYER

Rev. Patrick Collins

We come to you with awe and wonder, aware of the mystery of life, reverent before your holy love and power. Sharpen our awareness of the sacred; startle us with the joy of discipleship; and strengthen us to accept the cost of following Jesus Christ, in whose name we 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.

ANTHEM

Sing Joyfully

The Children's Choir
Michael Joseph (b. 1941)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, director
Vance Briceland, piano

O come, O sing, sing joyfully to the Lord, Shout joyfully; sing praises to the King of all the earth. Sing joyfully to God; give thanks and praise, Shout to the Lord, give thanks and praise, sing to the Lord our God.

The earth is his, all nature sings his praise; the sun and moon and stars at night lighten all our days; Sing joyfully to God; give thanks and praise, Shout to the Lord, give thanks and praise, sing to the Lord our God.

Come into his courts with thanksgiving; Sing joyfully to God. For he is our God; we are his people and the sheep of his flock.

(Following the Children’s Choir Anthem, rotation classes and “678” will go the Daniels Center and do some surprise baking for Community Hour. 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 and “678” will go to the Binney Conference Room with Patrick. 3rd graders will meet in their classroom – the Rainbow Door.)

HEARING GOD’S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Pat Mendelsohn

Exodus 17: 1-7

Directed by God, the whole company of Israel moved on by stages from the Wilderness of Sin. They set camp at Rephidim. And there wasn’t a drop of water for the people to drink. The people took Moses to task: “Give us water to drink.” But Moses said, “Why pester me? Why are you testing God?” But the people were thirsty for water there. They complained to Moses, “Why did you take us from Egypt and drag us out here with our children and animals to die of thirst?”

Moses cried out in prayer to God, “What can I do with these people? Any minute now they’ll kill me!” God said to Moses, “Go on out ahead of the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel. Take the staff you used to strike the Nile. And go. I’m going to be present before you there on the rock at Horeb. You are to strike the rock. Water will gush out of it and the people will drink.”

Moses did what he said, with the elders of Israel right there watching. He named the place Massah (Testing-Place) and Meribah (Quarreling) because of the quarreling of the Israelites and because of their testing of God when they said, “Is God here with us, or not?”

—The Message

ANTHEM

Psalm 95

The Chancel Choir
William Boyce (1711-1779)

SECOND LESSON

John 4: 5-15

To get there, he had to pass through Samaria. He came into Sychar, a Samaritan village that bordered the field Jacob had given his son Joseph. Jacob's well was still there. Jesus, worn out by the trip, sat down at the well. It was noon.

A woman, a Samaritan, came to draw water. Jesus said, "Would you give me a drink of water?" (His disciples had gone to the village to buy food for lunch.)

The Samaritan woman, taken aback, asked, "How come you, a Jew, are asking me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" (Jews in those days wouldn't be caught dead talking to Samaritans.)

Jesus answered, "If you knew the generosity of God and who I am, you would be asking me for a drink, and I would give you fresh, living water."

The woman said, "Sir, you don't even have a bucket to draw with, and this well is deep. So how are you going to get this 'living water'? Are you a better man than our ancestor Jacob, who dug this well and drank from it, he and his sons and livestock, and passed it down to us?"

Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again and again. Anyone who drinks the water I give will never thirst—not ever. The water I give will be an artesian spring within, gushing fountains of endless life."

The woman said, "Sir, give me this water so I won't ever get thirsty, won't ever have to come back to this well again!"

--The Message

SERMON

Thirsty?

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

*** HYMN**

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

New Century (black) Hymnal 51

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

Marilyn Derr

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Magnificat

The Chancel Choir

C. V. Stanford (1852-1924)

Hanna Golodinskii, soprano

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, hath holpen his servant Israel: as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, forever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*** 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

High in the Heavens, Eternal God

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 82

* BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Andante Maestoso

Alec Rowley

* * *

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 by friends in loving memory of Hans and Betty Farman who were devoted supporters of First Congregational Church for many years.

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. After a special cooking project in the Daniels Center, Kindergarten & 1st grade will be in the Preschool Red Door; 2nd grade will be in the Green Door; 4th & 5th grade will be in the Daniels Center and “678” will be in the Binney Conference Room.

Bowery Missions Women’s Center

Representatives from Bowery Missions Women’s Center will be at this morning’s Community Hour, and would love to hear about the workings of the Rummage Room and express gratitude for continued support by Women’s Fellowship. The Bowery Mission, located in the Lower East Side of Manhattan, has been providing for the immediate and long term needs of the homeless and hungry of New York City since 1879. It serves three meals a day, seven days per week, in addition to showers, clothing, emergency shelter, medical care, and crisis intervention. The goal of these interventions is to invite men and women into its long term recovery programs—which help them permanently overcome homelessness, poverty, addiction, trauma, and unemployment. Its goal is to be the most effective provider of compassionate care and life transformation for hurting people in New York City. Hear more about this amazing ministry during the call to worship and at Community Hour.

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

The following choirs will meet today in their normal places/times:
Cherub Choir: Rainbow Room (basement) 11:15-11:45
Youth Choir: Meetinghouse 11:15-12:15

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 introduced in last week's Sunday service. 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 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 20: 'Tis the first day of spring—halleluia! Just as out of the dark ground comes the blossoms, so out of the night, the morning appears. See Leanne's 50% off sales at www.fccog.org/about-us/the-rummage-room/.

Manager Leanne's Wish List: Spring and summer dresses; jewelry; handbags; spring and summer shoes.

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 every day: Father, we thank you for the sense of your presence in the midst of the anxieties and stress of our daily lives. Help us to realize your love for us so that we are reminded with the dawn of each new day.

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. We currently have very limited openings for dinner on Friday, March 24 at 7 pm, as well as several openings at a wine and cheese party on Saturday, April 1, from 5-7 pm. 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. For more information, please contact Ginny Breismeister, (ginnyb@fccog.org) or Prill Meyer, (prillmeyer@optonline.net)

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.

First Church Cocktail Party March 31 6-8 pm in the Auditorium

Come celebrate with your fellow members! The Stewardship Committee cordially invites you to celebrate the generosity of the First Church community. Friday March 31st, 6 – 8pm in the Auditorium Please join us for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, fellowship and camaraderie! 327 pledges for Stewardship exceeds our goal! We are deeply grateful for our vibrant and caring church family. All members are welcome! RSVP to stewardship@fccog.org. Babysitting available, please reserve in your RSVP.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Wednesday, April 5, 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Volunteers are needed to make refreshments or play the piano. If you can help, please contact Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse at extension 21 or email susana@fccog.org. To make an appointment to donate blood, please call 1-800-GIVE LIFE.

Next Week at First Church Sunday, March 26

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr., preaching

Music by the Chancel Choir
Thou Knowest, Lord—Bob Chilcott

Have No Fear, Little Flock
Heinz Werner Zimmermann



The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

108 Sound Beach Avenue,
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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

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