

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

26 March 2017

Fourth 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

Andante (from Sonata in E minor)

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Mary Fike, flute

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, harpsichord

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**

Taylor Pratt

Leader: A time set apart,

People: A time to come together;

Leader: A space filled with silence

People: A space filled with song;

Leader: Hearts seeking solace,

People: Hearts overflowing with joy:

All: This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad!

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

CHORAL INTROIT

*** HYMN**

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 20

GATHERING PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

O God, we trust in Your power to create, to sustain, to enable. But we could not trust if we did not know that You are always near. Be with us, Lord, as we are gathered here to worship You. Help us not to check our minds or our hearts at the door, but enable us to bring all that we are to You, so that we might experience Your touch upon all aspects of our life. We pray this because of, and in the name of Jesus Christ.

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 – Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th -will go the Daniels Center for an introduction today's lesson. 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

Olga Hartwell

Micah 6: 6-8

“With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"
He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

—New Revised Standard Version

ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

Have No Fear, Little Flock Heinz Werner Zimmermann (b. 1930)

Have no fear, little flock; have no fear, little flock,
for the Father has chosen to give you the kingdom;
have no fear, little flock!

Have good cheer, little flock; have good cheer, little flock,
for the Father will keep you in his love forever;
have good cheer, little flock!

Praise the Lord high above; praise the Lord high above,
for he stoops down to heal you, uplift and restore you;
praise the Lord high above!

Thankful hearts raise to God; thankful hearts raise to God,
for he stays close beside you, in all things works with you;
thankful hearts raise to God!

SECOND LESSON

John 9: 1-41 (selected verses)

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed

and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Temple leaders did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man Jesus is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. And they drove him out.

—New Revised Standard Version

SERMON

Blessed Are the Rule Breakers

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

*** HYMN**

We Limit Not the Truth of God

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 259

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Patrick Collins

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

Joe McBride

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Thou Knowest, Lord (from Requiem)

The Chancel Choir
Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts;
shut not thy merciful ears to our prayer;
but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty,
O holy and merciful Saviour, thou most worthy Judge
eternal, suffer us not, at our last hour, for any pains of death, to fall
from thee.

*** 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**

Amazing Grace, How
Sweet the Sound

New Century (black) Hymnal 547

*** BENEDICTION**

*** CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Allegro (from Sonata in E minor)

J. S. Bach
Mary Fike, flute
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, harpsichord

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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

Today we wrap up our lessons for Lent. For the next three Sundays, children will be in worship for some of the most holy days of the church year including Palm Sunday and Easter!

Quarterly Informational Meeting of Members: 11:15 Today

Please join the Church Council for the Quarterly Informational Meeting of Members in the Auditorium following worship today. 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!

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

Children's Choir: Third Floor 11:15-12:00

Youth Choir: Meetinghouse 11:15-12:15

Prayer Net

The Faith Formation and Education Committee have designed a prayer practice for lent which Patrick introduced earlier in the season. 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

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! 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.

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

See Leanne's 50% off sales at www.fccog.org/about-us/the-rummage-room/.

March 27: Spring has sprung . . . finally! Have you cleaned out your closets yet? The Rummage Room will happily take your contributions. Please remember the profits go to multiple organizations at home and around the world who help those in need. Everything The Rummage Room doesn't use goes to the Veterans.

Manager Leanne's Wish List: Spring handbags; men's ties; and spring table linens.

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.

Thoughts for the week: #1 “Give us the liberty to know, to utter, and to argue freely according to conscience, above all liberties.”

—John Milton, English Poet

#2: “Let us remember one thing about democracy. We can have anything we want and at the same time, we always end up with exactly what we deserve.” —Edward Albee, Playwright

#3: “I venture to suggest that patriotism is not a short and frenzied outburst of emotion but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime.” —Adlai E. Stevenson, American Statesman

#4: “Conscience is the perfect interpreter of life.” —Karl Barth, Swiss Theologist

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.

Interested in Learning about Joining the Church?

Our next New Member class will be held on Sunday, April 23rd at 11:20 AM in the Senior Pastor’s office. It will last approximately an hour and one half and will include lunch. During the class, prospective new members have the opportunity to hear about the history and faith of our denomination, the United Church of Christ, and to learn more about our church. Attending does not obligate you to join but we hope that this time together will strengthen you on the journey of faith. New members will be received on Sunday, May 7th. Child care will be provided at both times. Please feel welcome to join us. If you are planning to attend, or you have questions, please contact Ginny Breismeister at ginnyb@fccog.org or 637-1791 ex.26. or call the church office.

**Next Week at First Church
Sunday, April 2**

Daniel Lepoutre, preaching
Music by the Youth Choir



The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

108 Sound Beach Avenue,
Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870
203-637-1791
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 Coordinator: Vance Briceland

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Stiers & Rev. Sally Colegrove

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