

*The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*  
*Founded in 1665*

**14 May 2017**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

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.

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### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

\*All who are able please stand.

#### **PRELUDE**

Prelude & Fugue in G minor

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

#### **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**

Leader: Do not let your hearts be troubled.

**People: Happy are those whose strength is in God.**

Leader: In God's house there are many dwelling places.

**People: Happy are those who dwell in God's house.**

Leader: A place is prepared for all.

**People: Happy are those who trust in God.**

Leader: We will not be abandoned. We will not be alone. We will be shown the way.

**All: Let us sing for joy to the living God!**

**Let us worship God!**

#### **\* PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**CHORAL INTROIT**  
Hallelujah

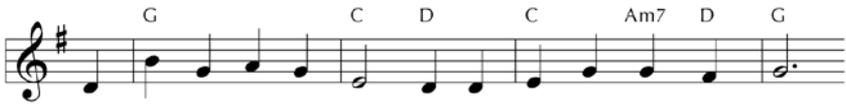
The Cherub Choir  
Traditional  
Carol Woodman, director  
Debbie Berner, piano

**\* HYMN**

How Lovely, Lord



1 How love - ly, Lord, how love - ly is your a - bid - ing place;  
2 In your blest courts to wor - ship, O God, a sin - gle day  
3 A sun and shield for - ev - er are you, O Lord Most High;



my soul is long - ing, faint - ing, to feast up - on your grace.  
is bet - ter than a thou - sand if I from you should stray.  
you show - er us with bless - ings; no good will you de - ny.



The spar - row finds a shel - ter, a place to build her nest;  
I'd rath - er keep the en - trance and claim you as my Lord  
The saints, your grace re - ceiv - ing, from strength to strength shall go,



and so your tem - ple calls us with - in its walls to rest.  
than rev - el in the rich - es the ways of sin af - ford.  
and from their life shall riv - ers of bless - ing o - ver - flow.

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**GATHERING PRAYER**

Rev. Patrick Collins  
Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Leader: Mothers come in many different forms, and today we  
celebrate them all!

**All: Thank God for mothers!**

Leader: Everyone here is either a son or a daughter.

**All: Thank God for my mother!**

Leader: For those women who have joined God in Heaven and whom we miss dearly here on earth.

**All: Thank God for the mothers of the past.**

Leader: For every woman who is working day and night to raise her children right now.

**All: Thank God for the mothers of today.**

Leader: For all the women who are expecting, but aren't quite mothers yet!

**All: Thank God for the soon-to-be-mothers.**

Leader: For the women who took in others' children through adoption and foster care.

**All: Thank God for the mothers with hearts so big.**

Leader: For those women who have lost a child to death and must carry on.

**All: Thank God for the mothers who are so strong.**

Leader: For all the women who have desperately wanted to have children of their own, but chose instead to mother everyone else.

**All: Thank God for the mothers in spirit.**

**All: We thank you, Lord, for the women who have influenced our lives in so many ways. We pray that we will honor them in everything we do. Amen.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Rev. Patrick Collins

## **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, children will go to 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

Carolyn Paulus

#### Psalm 84: 1-5

How lovely is your dwelling place,

O Lord of hosts!

My soul longs, indeed it faints

for the courts of the Lord;

my heart and my flesh sing for joy

to the living God.

Even the sparrow finds a home,

and the swallow a nest for herself,

where she may lay her young,

at your altars, O Lord of hosts,

my King and my God.

Happy are those who live in your house,

ever singing your praise.

Happy are those whose strength is in you,

in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

—New Standard Revised Version

### DUET

O Death, Where Is Thy Sting?

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

Drew Seigla, tenor

O death, where is thy sting,

O grave, where is thy victory?

### SECOND LESSON

#### John 14: 1-7

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In God’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we

know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

—New Standard Revised Version

## **SERMON**

A House for All

Rev. Patrick Collins

## **\* HYMN**

O Praise the Gracious Power

New Century (black) Hymnal 54

Verses 1, 3, 5

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

## **RESPONDING TO GOD**

### **CALL TO OFFERING**

Pam Grunow

### **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

The Chancel Choir

But Thanks Be to God

G. F. Handel

But thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **\* 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**

God of the Sparrow

New Century (black) Hymnal 32

### **\* BENEDICTION**

### **\* CHORAL RESPONSE**

## POSTLUDE

March

G. F. Handel

\* \* \*

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

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The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in loving memory of our mother, Catherine Weigner, by 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](http://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

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### TODAY

#### Church School

Today we continue our rotation curriculum on Pentecost and preparations for Children's Sunday on June 4. All other church school classes will be held in the following locations:  
3's & 4's in the Purple door; K & 1st in the Red door; 3rd in the Rainbow door; 4th & 5th in the Daniels Center and "678" in the Binney Conference Room.

## **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: Daniels Center 11:15-12:00

Youth Choir: Meetinghouse 11:15-12:15

## **UPCOMING**

### **The Undies Project at Neighbor to Neighbor Presents: Undies Sunday!**

Nothing says you care like underwear! Today we will be collecting new, unused briefs and boxers for men, women's panties, and children's underwear for those in need to improve their lives. All sizes and ages needed. A donation bin will be provided. Collection bins will also be available for the remainder of the month in the church office and during Community Hour. All items donated will be distributed through Neighbor to Neighbor to their clients.

Underwear is the most under-donated—and most needed—item of clothing. No one should be deprived of the simple, daily necessity of clean underwear that many of us take for granted. Hygiene and physical comfort are only a part of this basic human need. New, clean underwear also provides dignity and self-esteem. The Undies Project at Neighbor to Neighbor was started to fulfill this need.

### **Self-Nomination for Church Committees Being Accepted**

You may not know that much of the good work that First Church does for its members and the community happens in the committees that are lead and staffed by our wonderful lay volunteers. We are in the process of putting together those committees for the new church year starting in July. We have committees focused on growing our church programs, growing our faith community, outreach/ volunteerism and various financial matters from budgeting to stewardship. If you would like to explore the possibility of serving on one of these committees please reach out to Chris Cantwell (ctcantwells@sbcglobal.net) or one of our pastors. We are at our best

when our membership is actively involved in our church's many missions.

### **Hats Off**

Our book discussion group, Hats Off, has chosen its final selection of our spring reading, "The Bookshop on the Corner" by Jenny Colgan. Please order your copy from the Greenwich Library . Our shy English librarian is downsized out of her job and decides to buy a van and travel around Scotland with her mobile bookstore. We read about her new life populated with delightfully quirky characters as Nina sets out to find the right book for everyone in her new town. "Nina's story is laced with clever dialogue and scenes set like jewels." Join us on Thursdays from 10am to 11:30 up in the Binney Room.

### **News from The Rummage Room 191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich**

All sale items for the week can be found on the website at [www.fccog.org/about-us/the-rummage-room](http://www.fccog.org/about-us/the-rummage-room).

**Sunday, May 14 is Mother's Day:** Happy Mother's Day! Good moms have sticky floors, messy kitchens and happy kids.

**Monday, May 15:** It is the lovely Month of May and you are invited to come and shop. We have for dresses for proms, graduations and weddings, tuxedo shirts, dress shirts, shoes, hats, handbags, jewelry, and gift certificates at the cash register in any amount.

**Monday, May 29:** In celebration of Memorial Day, The Rummage Room will be closed.

**Manager Leanne's Wish List:** Ladies' summer dresses and hats; a sewing machine for the Kettle Quilters; ladies' handbags.

**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. Please do not leave donations when the shop is closed.

**Thoughts for the week:** God bless our mothers.

## **First Music & Arts presents the 5th Annual Spring Festival of the Arts**

Friday, May 19 with a Gala Wine and Cheese reception from 6-7:30 p.m. The Art Society of Old Greenwich will have artwork from its members on display throughout the weekend from Friday evening through Sunday early afternoon in the Auditorium. Each year, the number of art on display has grown, and we anticipate this year is the biggest yet.

On Saturday evening, May 20 at 7:30 p.m., Dr. Craig Scott Symons will conduct The First Church Festival Chorus and Orchestra concludes its celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Messiah concerts, first performed in December of 1966. Parts 2 and 3 of Messiah will be presented in its entirety to commemorate this momentous occasion. The soloists for the performance will be our Chancel Choir section leaders, Hanna Golodinskii, soprano; Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano; Drew Seigla, tenor; and Thomas Woodman, bass. Admission for the concert is \$25, youth 18 and under are free, and will be available at the door on the night of the performance.

On Sunday, May 21, at 4 p.m., the sanctuary will be filled with sounds of piano and organ music presented by the Birk and Hoke Duo. Husband and wife, Eric Birk and Bernadette Hoke will perform organ and piano duets by Widor, Dupré, Ernst, Hesse, and Yon. Admission is \$25, youth 18 and under are free.

### **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. We will not be meeting on May 14; our next meeting will be June 11. Dorothy Mueller, FCCOG Stephen Minister, is the group facilitator. For more information, please call Dorothy at (203) 588-9896, or email: dorothymueller1@gmail.com .

**Next Week at First Church  
Confirmation Sunday, May 21**

Rev. Patrick Collins, preaching

Music by John Russell, oboe  
Sonata for Oboe and Basso Continuo—Francesco Geminiani

Music by The Youth Choir  
You Raise Me Up—Arr. Joseph Martin

Music by The Chancel Choir  
Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit—William Dawson  
Thomas Woodman, baritone



## **The First Congregational Church of Greenwich**

108 Sound Beach Avenue,  
Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870  
203-637-1791  
*[www.fccog.org](http://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

Publications Coordinator: Vance Briceland

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

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