

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

9 July 2017

10 o'clock in the morning



World Council of Churches

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 Memory Garden.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

Adagio

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, director

Henry Ley (1887-1962)

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**

Rev. Patrick Collins

Leader: Blessed be the name of God from this time on and forevermore.

People: From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of God is to be praised.

Leader: It is Good to give thanks to God, to sing praises to your name, O Most High,

All: to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night.

LITANY OF HOPE AND PEACE

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*** HYMN**

Awake, Awake, to Love and Work

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 34

UNISON PRAYER

O God, just as the sun's heat gives way to cool evenings, take, we pray, the heat out of our desires and our tempers, and calm us so that we may experience the peace and serenity which come from you. Just as, O God, the sun's daytime brightness gives way to the rich colors of the evening, prevent us, we pray, from being dazzled by the apparent brilliance of human achievement. Help us to rediscover the varied beauty of your creation, and appreciate afresh the value of your abiding presence. For the sake of 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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Bill DeHaven

Romans 7: 15-25

I can anticipate the response that is coming: "I know that all God's commands are spiritual, but I'm not. Isn't this also your experience?" Yes. I'm full of myself—after all, I've spent a long time in sin's prison. What I don't understand about myself is that I decide one way, but then I act another, doing things I absolutely despise. So if I can't be trusted to figure out what is best for myself and then do it, it becomes obvious that God's command is necessary.

But I need something more! For if I know the law but still can't keep it, and if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, I obviously need help! I realize that I don't have what it takes. I can will it, but I can't do it. I decide to do good, but I don't really do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions. Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time.

It happens so regularly that it's predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. I truly delight in God's commands, but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge.

I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question?

The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does. He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind, but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different.

—The Message

ANTHEM

My Eyes for Beauty Pine

The Summer Choir

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

My eyes for beauty pine,
My soul for Goddës grace:
No other care nor hope is mine,
To heaven I turn my face.
One splendour thence is shed
From all the stars above:
'Tis named when Goddës name is said,
'Tis Love, 'tis heavenly Love.
And every gentle heart,
That burns with true desire,
Is lit from eyes that mirror part
Of that celestial fire.

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30

“How can I account for this generation? The people have been like spoiled children whining to their parents, ‘We wanted to skip rope, and you were always too tired; we wanted to talk, but you were always too busy.’ John came fasting and they called him crazy. I came

feasting and they called me a lush, a friend of the riffraff. Opinion polls don't count for much, do they? The proof of the pudding is in the eating."

Abruptly Jesus broke into prayer: "Thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth. You've concealed your ways from sophisticates and know-it-alls, but spelled them out clearly to ordinary people. Yes, Father, that's the way you like to work."

Jesus resumed talking to the people, but now tenderly. "The Father has given me all these things to do and say. This is a unique Father-Son operation, coming out of Father and Son intimacies and knowledge. No one knows the Son the way the Father does, nor the Father the way the Son does. But I'm not keeping it to myself; I'm ready to go over it line by line with anyone willing to listen.

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

—New Standard Revised Version

SERMON

"Willing to Listen?"

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

*** HYMN**

Arise, Your Light Is Come

New Century (black) Hymnal 164

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Patrick Collins

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Thomas Woodman, bass
Spiritual

*** 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**

I Look to You in Every Need

New Century (black) Hymnal 463

*** BENEDICTION**

*** CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Minuet

Alfred Hollins (1865-1942)

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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

This Sunday there will be no Church School outside of Child Care for children birth through 4 years old. However all children are invited to be in worship and we will have a special “PrayGround” in the chapel with rugs, playthings, books and coloring options for any young children who will be here. Parents need to supervise their children in this area and can easily do that from the front row in the chapel or the front row on the lectern side of the Meetinghouse.

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

Join Us for the First Church Beach BYO Picnic— Thursday, July 13

Welcoming Committee is pleased to invite everyone to the First Church Beach Bring-Your-Own Picnic! Pack a picnic dinner and beverages for yourself and your family—dessert is on us! We will gather from 5 pm until 8 pm on Thursday, July 13 at the clambake area of Tod’s Point. At 6 pm, the Milkcraft Truck will arrive to dispense fresh gourmet ice cream treats made on the spot—absolutely free!

Those who do not have park passes to Greenwich Point Park will be able to enter the park for the festivities.

Sign-up sheets will be available at Community Hour after worship service, or you may either call the church office or contact Ginny

Breismeister (GinnyB@fccog.org) to let us know you're coming. Come beat the summer heat with great company and great ice cream!

Calling Women of All Ages and Stages!

Come hear what Ruth and Naomi have to do with us today! It is not too late to join the group. On two more Mondays we will to reflect on and discuss the Book of Ruth. Under the able guidance of Olga Hartwell, a current Yale Divinity School student and long-time member of our church, we will meet on Monday, July 10 at the church in the Binney Conference Room to continue a journey of discovery. We will meet from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Our last date is July 17. Contact RosemaryL@fccog.org for questions.

Summer Choir – All Welcome!

Please join us on Sunday mornings throughout the summer, starting at 9:00 am in the Meetinghouse for a warm-up and rehearsal of the music being sung that morning. Come any Sunday that you are available to help lead the congregation in worship, and it's also a chance to experience worship from the choir loft. Everyone is welcome! If you have any questions, please contact Craig Symons (ext. 22).

Join Us for Summer Sings!

Do you miss singing with your choir during the summer months? Come as you are from 7:30-9:30 on the Wednesday July 26 and, within two hours, we will have shared in an energized rehearsal and an 'instant performance' of great choral music. Music will be provided. Hospitality, refreshments, and fun are all included! No sign-up necessary, just come ready to sing. Donation of \$10 per person.
Wednesday, July 26—An Evening with Gilbert and Sullivan
Eric Peterson, conductor
Dorothy Kolinsky, accompanist

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, July 10: Sale items for the week can be found on the website at www.fccog.org/about-us/the-rummage-room.

Monday, July 10 through Thursday, July 13: The Rummage Room will be open 10-5:00 pm.

Friday, July 14: The Rummage Room will close on Fridays at 3 pm for the month of July.

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

Monday, July 31st through Wednesday, August 2: Everything in the shop 50% off!

Notice: Last day for donations will be August 2. The Rummage Room will close on August 5 for restocking and repairs.

Tuesday, September 5: The Rummage Room's 53rd Grand Reopening will be at 10:00 am.

Prayer for the week: "Lord, help us remember: Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; Love harmonizes it; Hatred darkens life; Love illuminates it."—Martin Luther King

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 .

Next Week at First Church
Sunday, July 16

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr., preaching

Choral Music by The Summer Choir
Let the Whole Creation Cry—Roland Martin

Piano Music by Alex Mair



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

Publications Coordinator: Vance Briceland

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