

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

30 July 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 Memory Garden.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

Allegretto

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

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**

Leader: We come to worship and praise our God, and to learn more about the wonders of our God.

People: How great and wonderful is our Compassionate God.

Leader: We come, with ears and hearts open to God, ready to discover more of God's mysteries and miracles.

People: How generous and caring is our Gracious God.

Leader: We gather to share together in our common history, and to experience the enrichment which that brings us.

All: All praise and honor to God for past and present blessings, and for God's merciful love and grace. Amen.

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*** HYMN**

We Worship You, God

New Century (black) Hymnal 26

UNISON PRAYER

We gather together to remember, to once again tell the wonderful stories of our God. Stories we have heard many times before, and passed down from generation to generation. Stories of faithfulness and love, of mercy and compassion, of miracles and new life. We tell these stories over and over so that we don't forget. We tell these stories to remember who we are, people of God. We tell these stories so that our children and our children's children can also come to know and love the God we serve. In Christ's name we pray, using the words he taught us:

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

Barbara Norrgard

Psalm 78: 1-8

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

He established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children; that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up

and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments; and that they should not be like their ancestors, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.

SOLO

He's Always Been Faithful

Carol Woodman, soprano

Sara Groves

Morning by morning I wake up to find
The power and comfort of God's hand in mine
Season by season I watch Him, amazed
In awe of the mystery of His perfect ways
All I have need of, His hand will provide
He's always been faithful to me.

I can't remember a trial or a pain
He did not recycle to bring me gain
I can't remember one single regret
In serving God only, and trusting His hand
All I have need of, His hand will provide
He's always been faithful to me.

This is my anthem, this is my song
The theme of the stories I've heard for so long
God has been faithful, He will be again
His loving compassion, it knows no end
All I have need of, His hand will provide
He's always been faithful,
He's always been faithful,
He's always been faithful to me.

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 13: 31-35, 44-48

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable: "The

kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.” Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: “I will open my mouth to speak in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad.”

—New Standard Revised Version

SERMON

Heaven Is Like . . .

Rev. Patrick Collins

*** HYMN**

My Shepherd Is the Living God New Century (black) Hymnal 247

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Patrick Collins

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

For I Am Persuaded

The Summer Choir
Mark Schweizer (b. 1956)

For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to keep me from the love of God. And who will separate us from the love of Christ? God’s spirit dwells within us, the Spirit is life.

*** 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**

Holy God, We Praise Your Name New Century (black) Hymnal 276

*** BENEDICTION**

*** CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Improvisation

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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

Rev. DenUyl will be on vacation/study leave from July 24 through August 21. He will return to the pulpit on August 27. In the event of a pastoral emergency please contact Rev. Collins.

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, August 30—Saint-Saëns Christmas Oratorio

Jack A. Pott, conductor

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, accompanist

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, July 31: Last day for donations until Wednesday, September 6 . . . the day after Reopening Day.

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

Thursday, August 3: All you can stuff in a bag for \$12 per bag.

Friday, August 4: All you can cram in a bag for \$8 per bag.

Saturday, August 5: All you can jam in a bag for **one dollar** per bag! Everything must go!

Saturday, August 5: The Rummage Room will close its doors at 1 pm for restocking and repairs.

Please: do not leave donations before Wednesday, September 6—There will be no one to process your donations and they will be tossed in the dumpster.

Tuesday, September 5: The Rummage Room’s 53rd Grand Reopening will be at 10 am. Please mark your calendars and join us. You will be delighted with Leanne’s “all new” merchandise!!

Thought for our lives: Gratitude is the memory of the heart. God has given us so much and we have grateful hearts as we fulfill our quest to help others in need by volunteering, donating and shopping at the Rummage Room. All proceeds go to organizations dedicated to supporting women’s and family causes.

**Next Week at First Church
Sunday, August 6**

Rev. Patrick Collins, preaching

Choral Music by The Summer Choir
For the Beauty of the Earth—Kenton Coe

Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano
Carol Woodman, soprano
Dorothy Darlington, oboe
Flösst mein Heiland (O my savior)—J. S. Bach



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

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