

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

13 August 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

Voluntary

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

William Boyce (1711-1779)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

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

Rev. Patrick Collins

HYMN SING

PRAISING GOD

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Lord, help me to relax. Take from me the tension

People: that makes peace impossible.

Leader: Take from me the fears

People: that do not allow me to venture.

Leader: Take from me the worries

People: that blind my sight.

Leader: Take from me the distress

People: that hides your joy.

All: Help me to know that I am with you, that I am in your care, that I am in your love, and that you and I are one.

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*** HYMN**

When Morning Gilds the Skies

New Century (black) Hymnal 86

UNISON PRAYER

I weave a silence on to my lips. I weave a silence onto my mind. I weave a silence within my heart. I close my ears to distractions. I close my eyes to attractions. I close my heart to temptations. Calm me, O Lord, as you stilled the storm. Still me, O Lord, keep me from harm. Let all tumult within me cease. Enfold me, Lord, in your peace. Hear me God, as I pray the words Jesus taught me, saying . . .

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

Marilyn Derr

1 Thessalonians 5: 12-24

Brothers and sisters, we ask you to respect those who are working with you, leading you, and instructing you. Think of them highly with love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are disorderly. Comfort the discouraged. Help the weak. Be patient with everyone. Make sure no one repays a wrong with a wrong, but always pursue the good for each other and everyone else. Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Don't suppress the Spirit. Don't brush off Spirit-inspired messages, but examine everything carefully and hang on to what is good. Avoid every kind of evil. Now, may the God of peace himself cause you to be completely dedicated to him; and may your spirit, soul, and body be kept intact and blameless at our Lord Jesus Christ's coming. The one who is calling you is faithful and will do this.

—Common English Bible

SOLO

On Eagle's Wings

Hanna Golodinskii, soprano

Michael Joncas (b. 1951)

SECOND LESSON**Matthew 14: 22-33**

Right then, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead to the other side of the lake while he dismissed the crowds. When he sent them away, he went up onto a mountain by himself to pray. Evening came and he was alone. Meanwhile, the boat, fighting a strong headwind, was being battered by the waves and was already far away from land. Very early in the morning he came to his disciples, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified and said, "It's a ghost!" They were so frightened they screamed.

Just then Jesus spoke to them, "Be encouraged! It's me. Don't be afraid."

Peter replied, "Lord, if it's you, order me to come to you on the water."

And Jesus said, "Come."

Then Peter got out of the boat and was walking on the water toward Jesus. But when Peter saw the strong wind, he became frightened. As he began to sink, he shouted, "Lord, rescue me!"

Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him, saying, "You man of weak faith! Why did you begin to have doubts?" When they got into the boat, the wind settled down.

Then those in the boat worshipped Jesus and said, "You must be God's Son!"

—Common English Bible

SERMON

Shhh, Do You Hear That?

Rev. Patrick Collins

*** HYMN**

Over My Head

New Century (black) Hymnal 514

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Patrick Collins

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

ANTHEM

Give to the Winds Your Fears

The Summer Choir
Robert J. Powell (b. 1932)

Give to the winds your fears,
Have hope, be not dismayed,
God hears your sighs and counts your tears,
God shall lift up your head.
Through waves and clouds and storms,
God gently clears the way;
Wait his own time, so shall this night
Soon end in joyous day.
Leave to God's sovereign sway
To choose and to command,
So shalt you, wondering, own that way,
How wise, how strong his hand!
On God the Lord rely,
And safe shall you go on;
On God's work fix your steadfast eye;
So shall your work be done.

*** DOXOLOGY**

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 515

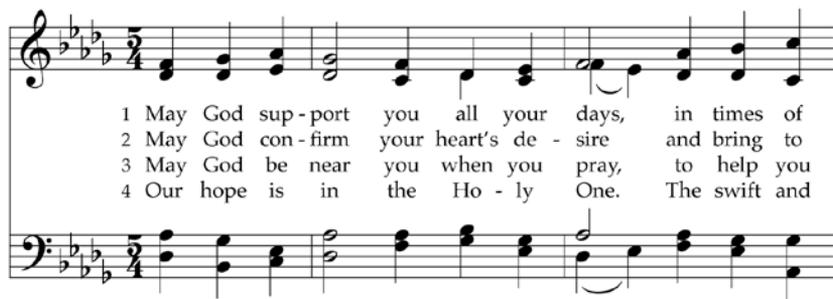
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all
creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

* HYMN

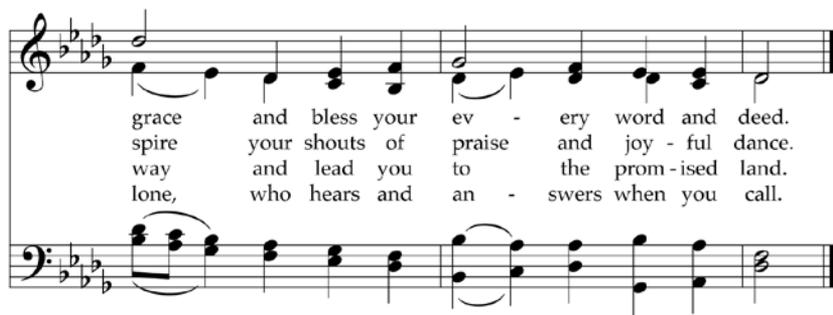
May God Support You All Your Days



1 May God sup - port you all your days, in times of
2 May God con - firm your heart's de - sire and bring to
3 May God be near you when you pray, to help you
4 Our hope is in the Ho - ly One. The swift and



glad - ness and in need. May God re - mem - ber you with
full - ness all your plans. May God's sus - tain - ing love in -
with a gen - tle hand. May God for - ev - er guide your
strong will sure - ly fall, but you will stand with God a -



grace and bless your ev - ery word and deed.
spire your shouts of praise and joy - ful dance.
way and lead you to the prom - ised land.
lone, who hears and an - swers when you call.

* BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Postlude in G Major

Arthur Foote (1853-1937)

* * *

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

A Note to Parents

Relax! God put the wiggle in children, do not feel you have to suppress it in God's House. All are welcome here at First Congregational Church! Feel free to sit towards the front where it is easier to see and hear. Explain the parts of the service. Sing the hymns and pray together. Children learn behavior by copying you. If you have to leave the service with your child, please feel free to do so. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me." At First Church we believe that the way we welcome children in worship directly affects the way they respond to God, the Church, and to one another.

To the members of our congregation, please know that a smile of encouragement is always welcome to parents with small, active children. The presence of children is a Gift to the church, which offers hope for all.

Church School

This Sunday there is no Church School outside of Child Care for children birth through 4 years old. However all children are invited to be in worship where there is a special “PrayGround” in the chapel with rugs, puppets, books and coloring options for any young children who are 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.

Blood Pressure Screening

Betsy Kreuter, PT, is available for blood pressure screenings during community hour following today’s worship service.

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.

Church School Teachers Needed

We are still in need of folks who can spend time with and teach our children on Church School Sundays. A special thank you to all who stepped up in the last week or so. Here’s where we have need: One adult to help in the Baby Nursery/ Toddler Room once or twice a month. Two adults to teach the combined 3’s and 4’s class. One adult for 2nd Grade. One adult for 4th & 5th grade class. And one adult for the 6th grade class. Teaching is a great gift to our children as we learn with them the stories of the love of God and Jesus and as we all grow in our faith together. Please talk to either Rosemary or Patrick if you are even a little tempted to give it a try or to come back again. You will not be sorry!

Artwork by the Father of Our Afghan Family

Qasim, a recent Afghan immigrant, has a wonderful exhibit of his drawings at the Village Barber on Sound Beach Avenue in Old Greenwich during August. You are encouraged and welcome to stop by and look at his pictures.

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

Who: The Rummage Room

What: The 53rd Grand Reopening

When: Tuesday, September 5th. Doors open promptly at 10:00 am

Where: 191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Why: The Rummage Room was established in 1964 by the Women's Fellowship in order that all proceeds would go to help women, children and families in need. Thanks to all who donate and purchase.

Please do not bring donations while the shop is closed. There will be no one to process them and they will end up in the dumpster.

Donations will be accepted again Wednesday, September 6th - 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Thank You.

Thought for the week: Don't cry because summer is almost over ... smile because it happened!

**Next Week at First Church
Sunday, August 20**

Rev. Patrick Collins, preaching

Choral Music by The Summer Choir
King of Glory, King of Peace—Mark Schweizer

Carol Woodman, soprano
Never Alone—E. C. Heidelberg



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