

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

**20 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.

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### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

\*All who are able please stand.

#### **PRELUDE**

Andante

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

#### **HYMN SING**

### **PRAISING GOD**

#### **\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Before all began, God, Word, and Wisdom, created and called, from the foundations of the deep.

**People: Listen! Wisdom, she is calling!**

Leader: To those who suffer, God's love is given. Endurance blossoms from the foundations of the deep.

**People: Listen! Wisdom, she is calling!**

Leader: God delights daily in you, me and everyone. We are given hope, grace and love as the foundation of our lives.

**People: Listen! Wisdom, she is calling!**

Leader: Love poured into our hearts, that we may become Christ's hand and heart. Love is the foundation of our lives.

**All: Listen! Wisdom, she is calling!**

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

### **\* HYMN**

God of Grace and God of Glory    New Century (black) Hymnal 436

### **UNISON PRAYER**

**O God, grant us to see your wisdom. Wisdom to know good from evil. Wisdom so that we might learn to be accepting of all the diverse people you have created. Wisdom to be peacemakers and mediators of understanding where there is conflict. Wisdom to not violate any of your creatures by discriminating against them. God grant us wisdom, discernment, faith and the power to love in all circumstances.**

### **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Jaxon Recchia, daughter of  
Dale Deck & Eric Recchia

### **BAPTISM PRAYER (in unison)**

**Gracious God, giver of life, you have called us by name, and pledge to each of us your faithful love. We pray today for your blessing on Jaxon, that you will watch over her and guide her as she grows in faith. Remind us of the promises of our own baptism, and renew our trust in you. Make us strong to obey your will and to serve you with joy, through the power of your Holy Spirit. All of this we pray as Jesus taught us 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.**

### **BAPTISMAL RESPONSE**

Child of Blessing,  
Child of Promise

New Century (black) Hymnal 325

Child of blessing, child of promise,  
baptized with the Spirit's sign;  
With this water God has sealed you  
unto love and grace divine.

Child of God, your loving Parent,  
learn to know whose child you are.  
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,  
trust and love God more than all.

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### FIRST LESSON

Bill DeHaven

### Wisdom 5: 12-21

Wisdom is bright and unfading. She readily appears to those who love her. She's found by those who keep seeking after her. She makes herself known even in advance to those who desire her with all their hearts. Someone who awakens before dawn to look for her will find her already sitting at the door. Taking wisdom to heart is the way to bring your thinking to maturity. The one who can't sleep at night because he's consumed with thinking about her will soon be free from worry.

She herself goes about looking for those who are worthy of her. She graciously makes herself known to them as they travel. She comes to them in each of the ideas that they think. The real beginning of wisdom is to desire instruction with all your heart. Love for instruction expresses itself in careful reflection. If you love Wisdom, you will keep her laws. If you are attentive to her laws, you can be assured that you will live forever. If you live forever, you will be near to God. If you desire wisdom with all your heart, you will know what good leadership is. So if you, who take charge over peoples, want to keep enjoying the thrones and symbols of power that you presently possess, honor wisdom so that you may rule forever.

—Common English Bible

**SOLO**  
Never Alone

Carol Woodman, soprano  
E. C. Heidelberg

I never worry, for why should I worry,  
Tho sorrows may come my way?  
I've someone to hide me, to comfort and guide me,  
To watch over me day by day.

Never alone because I know my Lord is with me;  
Never alone, He's always standing by.  
Jesus has promised to take my hand and lead me;  
Never alone, no never alone am I.

Lord, I would serve thee, would honor and serve thee,  
In all all that I do or say;  
My heart bows before thee, I love and adore thee,  
I'll live for thee day after day.

## **SECOND LESSON**

### **Proverbs 8: 1-4, 22-31**

Do you hear Lady Wisdom calling? Can you hear Madame Insight raising her voice? She's taken her stand at First and Main, at the busiest intersection. Right in the city square where the traffic is thickest, she shouts, "You—I'm talking to all of you, everyone out here on the streets! God sovereignly made me, the first, the basic, before he did anything else.

"I was brought into being a long time ago, well before Earth got its start. I arrived on the scene before Ocean, yes, even before Springs and Rivers and Lakes. Before Mountains were sculpted and Hills took shape, I was already there, newborn; Long before God stretched out Earth's Horizons, and tended to the minute details of Soil and Weather, and set Sky firmly in place, I was there. When he mapped and gave borders to wild Ocean, built the vast vault of Heaven, and installed the fountains that fed Ocean, when he drew a boundary for Sea, posted a sign that said no trespassing, and then staked out Earth's Foundations, I was right there with him, making sure everything fit.

“Day after day I was there, with my joyful applause, always enjoying his company, delighted with the world of things and creatures, happily celebrating the human family.” —The Message

**SERMON**

Wisdom: She Is Calling

Rev. Patrick Collins

**\* HYMN**

O God the Creator

New Century (black) Hymnal 291

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. Patrick Collins

**RESPONDING TO GOD**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

King of Glory, King of Peace

The Summer Choir  
Mark Schweizer (b. 1956)

King of glory, King of peace,  
I will love thee;  
and that love may never cease,  
I will move thee.  
Thou hast granted my request,  
thou hast heard me;  
thou didst note my working breast,  
thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art  
I will sing thee,  
and the cream of all my heart  
I will bring thee.  
Though my sins against me cried,  
thou didst clear me;  
and alone, when they replied,  
thou didst hear me.

Seven whole days, not one in seven,  
I will praise thee;  
in my heart, though not in heaven,

I can raise thee.  
 Small it is, in this poor sort  
 to enroll thee:  
 e'en eternity's too short  
 to extol 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**

Come and Seek the  
 Ways of Wisdom

1 Come and seek the ways of Wis-dom, she who danced when  
 2 Lis - ten to the voice of Wis-dom, cry - ing in the  
 3 Sis - ter Wis - dom, come, as - sist us; nur - ture all who

earth was new. Fol - low close - ly what she teach - es,  
 mar - ket - place. Hear the Word made flesh a - mong us,  
 seek re - birth. Spir - it - guide and close com - pan - ion,

for her words are right and true. Wis - dom clears the  
 full of glo - ry, truth, and grace. When the word takes  
 bring to light our sa - cred worth. Free us to be -

path to jus - tice, show - ing us what love must do.  
 root and rip - ens, peace and righ - teous - ness em - brace.  
 come your peo - ple, ho - ly friends of God and earth.

## \* BENEDICTION

## \* CHORAL RESPONSE

## POSTLUDE

Prelude in F Major

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

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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.

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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

### 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.

### **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.

### **Only 5 More Church School Teachers Needed**

We are very close to being fully staffed for Church School starting September 10 (Homecoming Sunday). A special thank you to all who stepped up in the last few weeks. Here's where we still have needs: 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. 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. Teaching experience not required. We all learn as we go and with the team approach you are never alone. We also have easy to follow lesson plans for you. 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!

### **Outreach Opportunity**

“For I was hungry and you gave me food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me drink...” --Matthew 23:35

Can you take a couple of hours out of your Labor Day weekend and help serve lunch to our neighbors at New Covenant House in Stamford from 12:00-1:30? First Church provides the noon meal on the first Monday of every month, which coincides with Labor Day this year. To celebrate the holiday, we'll be providing fried chicken and the fixings. Your simple gift of time will be very much appreciated. Please contact Pat Mendelsohn (patmendelsohn@aol.com) for more details.

### **Join Us for Our Final Summer Sing!**

Do you miss singing with your choir during the summer months? Come as you are from 7:30-9:30 on Wednesday August 30 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**

The Rummage Room is closed in preparation for The 53rd Grand Reopening on Tuesday, September 5th of 'The Best Little Shop in Town.' The Doors will open at 10:00 am so be sure to mark your calendars. Opening Day has changed from late August to early September to give volunteers some much needed time off and to coincide with the Community returning from summer holidays.

The Shop has continually stockpiled excellent merchandise, saved for many months in anticipation of this day. Last year, the RR brought in \$10,000 on Opening day, laying a strong foundation for carrying out The Women's Fellowship mission of supporting organizations that help women, children and others in need at home and around the world.

Please do not bring donations while the shop is closed. Donations will be accepted again on Wednesday, September 6th, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Rummage Room hours are 10:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. And 10:00 am - 1:00 pm on Saturday.

Please also do not donate items in poor condition which cannot be sold. The Rummage Room must pay a fee to have those items carted away, as the previous charitable organization who removed such donations no longer offers this service. If you know of a charitable organization who might provide this service to the Rummage Room, please contact Manager Leanne Meyer at 203 637-1875.

Thought in anticipation of the September 5th Grand Reopening. When God solves our problems, we have faith in His abilities. When God doesn't solve our problems, He has faith in our abilities. All proceeds go to help children and families in need.

**Next Week at First Church  
Sunday, August 27**

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, preaching

Choral Music by The Summer Choir  
When the Perfect Comes—Carson Cooman

Jordan Castro, flute  
Andante—W. A. Mozart  
Allegro malinconico—F. Poulenc



## **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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