

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Founded in 1665

3 September 2017

10 o'clock in the morning

*The woman singeth at her spinning-wheel
A pleasant chant, ballad or barcarole;
She thinketh of her song, upon the whole,
Far more than of her flax; and yet the reel
Is full, and artfully her fingers feel
With quick adjustment, provident control,
The lines—too subtly twisted to unroll—
Out to a perfect thread. I hence appeal
To the dear Christian Church—that we may do
Our Father's business in these temples mirk,
Thus swift and steadfast, thus intent and strong;
While thus, apart from toil, our souls pursue
Some high calm spheric tune, and prove our work
The better for the sweetness of our song.*

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

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

Dialogue

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

François Couperin (1668-1733)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

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

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

HYMN SING

PRAISING GOD

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: God said, "Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

People: But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord."

Leader: Jesus said, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

All: We come in the name of the Spirit, resting from our labors. Let us worship God this day!

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*** HYMN**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 8

UNISON PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we give thanks for work, and for the many works you have given us to do. Hear our prayers on this day of rest, and strengthen us for the week ahead. We pray that you would be present with those who work by day, and those who work by night; those who work near, and those whose work carries them far away; and we pray for those who in this uncertain time have no job. We pray all of this knowing that your labors on our behalf never cease, and that your yoke is easy, and your burden is light. And lastly, we pray all this in your name and in your words, 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

Car Westbrook

Psalm 90 (selected verses)

Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust,
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.

So teach us to number our days

that we may gain a wise heart.
Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
Let your work be manifest to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.
Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and prosper for us the work of our hands—
O prosper the work of our hands!

—New Revised Standard Bible

SOLO
Zion's Walls

Thomas Woodman, bass
Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

Come fathers and mothers, come sisters and brothers,
Come join us in singing the praises of Zion.
O fathers, don't you feel determined to meet within the walls of Zion?
We'll shout and go round the walls of Zion.

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 2: 8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

—New Revised Standard Bible

SERMON

The Theology of Work

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

*** HYMN**

Christians, Rise & Act Your Creed New Century (black) Hymnal 537

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Patrick Collins

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation
Christ is made the sure Foundation,
And the precious Cornerstone;
Who, the two walls underlying,
Bound in each, binds both in one;
Holy Zion's Help forever,
And her Confidence alone.

The Summer Choir
Vernon Hoyle (b. 1948)

All that dedicated city,
Dearly loved of God on high,
In exultant jubilation,
Pours perpetual melody,
God the One, and God the Trinal,
Singing everlastingly.

To this temple, where we call Thee,
Come, O Lord of Hosts, today!
With Thy wonted lovingkindness
Hear Thy people as they pray.
And Thy fullest benediction
Shed within its walls for ay.

Laud and honor to the Father,
Laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit,
Ever Three and ever One;
Consubstantial, co-eternal,
While unending ages run.

*** 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**

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

We practice open Communion – all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to participate in the community of God's people are welcome to receive

Communion, including children of all ages, and regardless of church membership or denominational affiliation. All are welcome to the table of God.

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Today's communion will be by intinction. Congregants are invited to come forward down the center aisle to one of the communion stations by the chancel, receive the bread (gluten-free), dip in the cup and partake. Those who need to stay in the pew should indicate their need to be served there to one of the ushers or greeters.

Someone will come to serve you.

COMMUNION HYMN

For Everyone Born

Shirley Erena Murray

(The congregation is to sing this refrain after each verse)

Refrain



and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and



joy, com-pas - sion and peace: yes,



God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,



jus-tice and joy!

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in this power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

* HYMN

Come Labor On

New Century (black) Hymnal 532

* BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Plein Jeu

Francois Couperin

* * *

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.

Church School begins next Sunday with brief class meetings and introductions. Registration is available online on the homepage and in person next Sunday. Thank you to all who have joined the teaching teams for church school this year. See you at Homecoming next Sunday!

UPCOMING

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

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich and The Women's Fellowship are excited to announce the 53rd Grand Reopening of the Rummage Room on Tuesday, September 5 at 10 a.m. The entire shop has been restocked with all 'new' merchandise. Store hours are: Monday through Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

During the past 53 years the Rummage Room has donated more than 4 million dollars to local, national and world wide benevolent organizations. It would be 'Oh So helpful' if you would wait to bring your donations beginning Wednesday, September 6th. The shop is managed by Leanne Meyer, three assistant managers and over fifty volunteers from the church and community. In addition to being known for great merchandise and bargains, the Rummage Room has won numerous awards for it's creative window displays.

**Next Week at First Church
Sunday, September 10**

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, preaching

Entry music outdoors along the cemetery driveway
Cara Olmsted, Car Westbrook, Paul Ghaffari, violins

Choral Music by the Youth and Chancel Choirs
We Are the Body of Christ—Emily Lund
Mark Flegg, Trumpet



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