

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

**Homecoming Sunday**  
**10 September 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.

#### **OUTDOOR ENTRANCE MUSIC**

Cara Olmsted,  
Car Westbrook, Paul Ghaffari, violins

#### **PRELUDE**

Voluntary

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ  
John Stanley (1712-1786)  
Dr. Mark Flegg, trumpet

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

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

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

#### **SOLO**

Bless this House

Thomas Woodman, bass  
May Brahe (1884-1956)

### **PRAISING GOD**

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

Leader: People of God, look about and see the faces of those we know and love.

**People: We see neighbors and friends here, sisters and brothers and a community of kindred hearts.**

Leader: People of God, look about and see the faces of those we hardly know.

**People: We see strangers, sojourners, forgotten friends and ones who need an outstretched hand.**

Leader: People of God, look about and see all the images of  
God assembled here.

People: **In me, in you, in each of us, God's Spirit shines for  
all to see.**

Leader: People of God, come!

All: **Let us worship together.**

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

## **\* HYMN**

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

New Century (black) Hymnal 59

## **UNISON PRAYER**

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

**O Sacred Storywriter, you call us to tell your story, to be a part  
of your creation with our very being. You call us into the  
world, into the unfamiliar and the all too close. No matter the  
circumstance, the signs of your presence are always with us.  
But it is all too easy for us to look down, to tune you out, to  
trust ourselves before you.**

**Holy God, break through the noise like a rushing wind. Be  
our sight, and help us to look about until we see you in the  
faces of our neighbors, until we hear you in the voice of a  
child breaking through our worship, until we find you even  
in the hearts of those we once called enemies. God in  
community, Holy in One, open us this day that we might  
live our lives enkindled by the fire of your love. Amen.**

## **LITANY OF BLESSING**

**Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.:** Today, we mark the beginning of  
something new. New members, new classes, new teaching  
opportunities, new voices, a new program year, and new possibilities.  
We see opportunities for a stronger faith and a stronger church. We  
see opportunities to be a healthier and more vibrant community. As  
such, we ask each of you to proclaim your part in this faith journey  
we share. When your groups are called, please remain standing for  
the entire litany.

Will members of the Church Council, Diaconate, Asset Management, Buildings and Grounds, Budget, Personnel, Stewardship, and Nominating committees please stand?

**Church Council, Diaconate, Asset Management, Buildings and Grounds, Budget, Personnel, Stewardship, and Nominating committees:** We promise to use our resources with responsibility to further the message of God. Together, we will dream a future for our congregation that is responsible, bold, and faithful.

**Rosemary Lamie:** Will those serving as Church School teachers, members of the Church School Task Force, Faith Formation, Education, Preschool Board, and Historical committees please stand?

**Church School Teachers and Church School Task Force Members and members of the Faith Formation, Education, and Historical committees:** We accept the challenge, responsibility and joy of teaching our youngest members to walk in the way of Christ and provide opportunities for people from all generations to walk their faith journeys together. We further promise to honor our past through good recordkeeping and safekeeping of our heritage.

**Rev. Patrick Collins:** Will members of our Youth Ministry program, and all children and youth please stand?

**Youth:** We promise to faithfully attend the programs designed to help us on our faith journey. Scripture tells us, “Your young ones will see visions.” We will do our part in helping our congregation live into the vision God has for us.

**Dr. Craig Symons:** Will everyone involved in the Music Ministry please stand?

**Music Ministry Members:** We promise to praise God in song, lifting the spirits of this congregation so that we may all go forth from this place, recognizing we do so in the fullness of God’s grace.

**Rev. Avery C. Manchester:** Will the members of our Stephen Ministry, Outreach, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Wellness committees, and Caregiver support group leaders please stand?

**Caring Ministry and Outreach Committee Members:** We promise to provide light to the world through the care and support we provide to those in emotional, financial, or spiritual need.

**Rev. DenUyl:** Will members of the Women's Fellowship, Kettle Quilters, Rummage Room and Allocations Committee, please stand.

**Women's Fellowship, Rummage Room and Allocations Committee:** We promise to bring opportunities to build faith and fellowship among the women of this church and to support the many needy populations of women and children our community, near and far.

**Ginny Breismeister:** Will members of our Welcoming Committee, Ushers, Greeters, and Community Relations please stand?

**Hospitality Members:** We will create an environment of welcome through our words, our programs, our caring and the grace we receive and give.

**Rev. DenUyl:** Will everyone please stand?

**All of God's Faithful People:** We promise to support this congregation and its mission with our time and resources, our faithful attendance and presence, our prayers, and by the compassion we learn here and carry into the world.

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Rev. Patrick Collins

## **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.**

(After the Lord's Prayer, children will head to the back of the church and then to their classrooms. There will be Church School Task Force members in the hallways to direct them. At the end of the worship service, Babies

and Toddlers will be picked up in either the Blue or Orange door classrooms in the preschool. Children 3 years old and older will be picked up in the Daniels Center where the entire church school will be together for our own Benediction and Grace before the picnic.)

## **HEARING GOD'S WORD**

### **FIRST LESSON**

Phoebe Griffith

#### **Hebrews 11: 8-16**

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old-and Sarah herself was barren-because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

--New Revised Standard Version

### **ANTHEM**

With a Voice of Singing

The Chancel Choir

Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

### **SECOND LESSON**

#### **Deuteronomy 26: 1: 5**

"When you come into the land which the Lord your God gives you for an inheritance, and have taken possession of it, and live in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the Lord your God gives you, and you

shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place which the Lord your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there. And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'I declare this day to the Lord your God that I have come into the land which the Lord swore to our fathers to give us.' Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand, and set it down before the altar of the Lord your God.

“And you shall make response before the Lord your God, ‘My father was a wandering Aramean; and he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number; and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous.’”  
--New Revised Standard Version

**SERMON**

There's No Place Like Home!

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

**\* HYMN**

I Love to Tell the Story

New Century (black) Hymnal 522

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. Dr. Michael Ciba

**RESPONDING TO GOD**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

We Are the Body of Christ

The Youth and Chancel Choirs

Emily Lund

Mary Fike, Flute

Vance Briceland, Piano

**\* 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**

Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit

New Century (black) Hymnal 282

**PRESENTATION OF THE PARSONAGE KEYS**

**\* CLOSING BLESSING**

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

**\* CHORAL RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

Trumpet Voluntary

Jeremiah Clark (1674-1707)

Dr. Mark Flegg, trumpet

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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**

Welcome to your Church School Opening Day! Today there is child care for our Babies and Toddlers; class for our 3's and 4's in the Preschool Purple door; and a brief classroom time for all other ages and grades at the time indicated in the bulletin. We will be getting to know each other and looking forward to the year ahead.

If you have not yet registered your child, please do so today on our website at [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org) or in the preschool office area. Visitors are welcome to register their children, too! Registration helps us to know your children and puts you on our mailing list.

At the end of the worship service, Babies and Toddlers will be picked up in either the Blue or Orange door classrooms in the preschool. Children 3 years old and older will be picked up in the Daniels Center where the entire church school will be together for our own Benediction and Grace before the picnic.

### **Introducing the New FCCOG Faith Formation Website [www.familyfaithatfccog.weebly.com](http://www.familyfaithatfccog.weebly.com)**

This is a new resource for anyone who is a parent, grandparent, relative, caretaker or friend of our children. It is the first edition which will be updated and enhanced regularly. Rosemary and Patrick have worked on this for many months and are anxious to hear your comments and suggestions for making it helpful to you. Most of all we hope it helps you and your children on your faith journeys!

## UPCOMING

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

The 53rd Grand Reopening of the Rummage Room on Tuesday, September 5 was a tremendous success as measured by the crowds of happy customers and the funds generated on Reopening Day. Collectively, everyone who shopped, donated, volunteered and managed the Rummage Room are responsible for helping to raise an impressive amount—proving once again that “life is a series of thousands of tiny miracles.” Thanks to the support of the Women’s Fellowship Board and the Rummage Room Committee, the Rummage Room is pleased to announce that 50% of the sales on Opening Day was donated to The American Red Cross for the victims of Hurricane Harvey.

**Mgr. Leanne’s Wish List:** Children’s clothing and shoes; fall coats for everyone.

**Shopping Hours:** Monday through Friday, 10 to 5:00 pm

**Donation Hours:** Monday through Thursday 10:00 to 5:00 pm & Saturday, 10 am to 1:00 pm.

**Thought for the Week:** Our prayers go out to families who lost loved ones September 11, 2001; to those left homeless in August by Hurricane Harvey; and those being left homeless by Hurricane Irma in September.

### **Caregiver Support Group**

Due to Homecoming today, there will be no Caregiver Support group meeting at 11:15 am. The Caregiver Support Group will resume on Sunday, October 8th at 11:15 am in the Binney Conference room. For questions about the group, call Dorothy Mueller at 203-588-9896 or email: [dorothymueller1@gmail.com](mailto:dorothymueller1@gmail.com)

### **Prayer Shawl Committee**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will begin meeting again on 9/12 at 6:30 pm in the Church Office, and every other Tuesday following. All are welcome! Please call Sheila Bennett if you are interested in joining us at 203 698-0443.

**Next Week at First Church  
Sunday, September 17**

Rev. Patrick Collins, preaching

Choral Music by the Chancel Choir  
True Light—Keith Hampton

Tod Hedrick, viol da gamba  
Sonata—J. S. Bach



## **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

Cover Photo: Pat Larrabee