

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

**15 October 2017**

10 o'clock in the morning



*500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation*

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**  
Praeludium III

Steven Russell, guest organist/director  
Clara Schumann

**CALL TO COMMUNITY**

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

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

### **PRAISING GOD**

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

Leader: Blessed be the name of God from this time on and forevermore.

**People: From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of God is to be praised.**

Leader: It is good to give thanks to God, to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

**People: to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night.**

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

#### **\* HYMN**

Heaven & Earth, & Sea & Air

New Century (black) Hymnal 566

## UNISON PRAYER

Rev. Patrick Collins

Holy God, we come before you with awe, for you are great in love and power. Some of us come with reluctance and some with joy; some with sadness and others full of fear, yet we know you receive us as we are. Mighty God, stay with us always, as we worship and as we share the risk and challenge of living our faith. By your powerful Spirit, turn our fear to courage and our confusion to confidence. Touch us, God, with your healing fire. Speak to us through your Word. Send us back into the world renewed and eager to do your will. We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Peter Thomas O'Connor, son of

Elizabeth McLennan O'Connor & Thomas Patrick O'Connor

## 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 Peter, that you will watch over him and guide him as he 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.**

(After the baptism, all children will go directly to their classrooms.

Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade is in the Red Door. 2nd grade is in the new Gold Door (on the lower level; next to the Rainbow Door). 3rd grade is in the Rainbow Door. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are in the Lounge (across from the auditorium.) 6th grades go to Patrick's Office on the 3rd floor and 7th and 8th graders go to the new Youth Room just past the kitchen.)

## **HEARING GOD'S WORD**

### **FIRST LESSON**

Marty Bitner

### **Psalm 90: 12-17**

Oh! Teach us to live well!

Teach us to live wisely and well!

Come back, God—how long do we have to wait?—

and treat your servants with kindness for a change.

Surprise us with love at daybreak;

then we'll skip and dance all the day long.

Make up for the bad times with some good times;

we've seen enough evil to last a lifetime.

Let your servants see what you're best at—

the ways you rule and bless your children.

And let the loveliness of our Lord, our God, rest on us,

confirming the work that we do.

Oh, yes. Affirm the work that we do!

—The Message

### **ANTHEM**

Many Gifts, One Spirit

The Youth Choir

Allen Pote (b. 1945)

Carolyn Paulus, director

Vance Briceland, piano

Many gifts, one spirit, many songs, one voice  
Many reasons, one promise, many questions, one choice.  
O, God, we pray for unity, give guidance from above.  
In our differences unite us in the circle of your love.  
O, God, remind us we are not alone.  
Though we move on different pathways,  
we are walking to your throne.

Help us learn to love each other,  
show us ways to understand.  
We are members of one family,  
growing strong by joining hands.  
O, God, remind us we are not alone.  
Though we move on different pathways,  
we are walking to your throne.  
Take our many ways of working,  
blend the colors of each soul  
into the beauty of a rainbow.  
Give us life, Lord, make us whole.

## **SECOND LESSON**

### **Romans 8: 1-14**

With the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah, that fateful dilemma is resolved. Those who enter into Christ's being-here-for-us no longer have to live under a continuous, low-lying black cloud. A new power is in operation. The Spirit of life in Christ, like a strong wind, has magnificently cleared the air, freeing you from a fated lifetime of brutal tyranny at the hands of sin and death.

God went for the jugular when he sent his own Son. He didn't deal with the problem as something remote and unimportant. In his Son, Jesus, he personally took on the human condition, entered the disordered mess of struggling humanity in order to set it right once and for all. The law code, weakened as it always was by fractured human nature, could never have done that.

The law always ended up being used as a Band-Aid on sin instead of a deep healing of it. And now what the law code asked for but we

couldn't deliver is accomplished as we, instead of redoubling our own efforts, simply embrace what the Spirit is doing in us.

Those who think they can do it on their own end up obsessed with measuring their own moral muscle but never get around to exercising it in real life. Those who trust God's action in them find that God's Spirit is in them—living and breathing God! Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end; attention to God leads us out into the open, into a spacious, free life. Focusing on the self is the opposite of focusing on God. Anyone completely absorbed in self ignores God, ends up thinking more about self than God. That person ignores who God is and what he is doing. And God isn't pleased at being ignored.

But if God himself has taken up residence in your life, you can hardly be thinking more of yourself than of him. Anyone, of course, who has not welcomed this invisible but clearly present God, the Spirit of Christ, won't know what we're talking about. But for you who welcome him, in whom he dwells—even though you still experience all the limitations of sin—you yourself experience life on God's terms. It stands to reason, doesn't it, that if the alive-and-present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, he'll do the same thing in you that he did in Jesus, bringing you alive to himself? When God lives and breathes in you (and he does, as surely as he did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With his Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ's!

So don't you see that we don't owe this old do-it-yourself life one red cent. There's nothing in it for us, nothing at all. The best thing to do is give it a decent burial and get on with your new life. God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do and places to go!

—The Message

## **SERMON**

WOW

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

## **\* HYMN**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

New Century (black) Hymnal 440

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. Patrick Collins

## RESPONDING TO GOD

### CALL TO OFFERING

#### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Joys Are Flowing Like a River

The Chancel Choir  
Jay Thomas

Joys are flowing like a river,  
Since the Comforter has come;  
Christ abides with us forever,  
Makes the trusting heart a home.

Bringing life and health and gladness,  
All around this heav'nly Guest;  
Banished unbelief and sadness,  
Changed our weariness to rest.

Like the rain that falls from heaven,  
Like the sunlight from the sky,  
So the Spirit too is given,  
Comes upon us from on high.

See a fruitful field is growing,  
blessed fruit of righteousness  
and the streams of life are flowing  
in the lonely wilderness.

What a wonderful salvation,  
Where we always see Christ's face!  
What a peaceful habitation!  
What a quiet resting-place!

#### \* 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, O Fount of Every Blessing New Century (black) Hymnal 459

### \* BENEDICTION

### \* CHORAL RESPONSE

### POSTLUDE

Thine Is the Glory

Anna Laura Page

\* \* \*

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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Flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in celebration of Barbara Van Buren's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, by her daughter Barrie Richmond and her family.

Flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in joyful celebration of the baptism of Peter Thomas O'Connor and in memory of his grandfather, Peter Nelson McLennan.

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.

### **A Note to Parents**

Relax! God put the wiggle in children, do not feel you have to suppress it during worship. The presence of children is a Gift to the church, which offers hope for all. 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 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**

#### **Church School**

Today most classes will continue their workshops based on Paul's first letter to the Corinthians 13; the often-quoted scripture on love. Every class does different activities, so be sure to ask your children what they did in class. 3rd graders will begin looking at the book of Genesis.

On Sunday, Oct 29, the 4th and 5th grade class will go to Pilgrim Towers for our 10th annual Halloween Party. Part of our Church School community service program, anyone is invited to come along. Children are encouraged to wear their costumes.

#### **Choir Rehearsals**

The following choirs will meet today in their normal places/times:  
Cherub Choir: Rainbow Room (basement) 11:15-11:45

#### **Interested in Learning About Joining First Church?**

Our next New Member Class will be held on today at 11:20 am in the Lounge. It will last approximately an hour and a half and will include lunch. During the class, prospective new members will have the opportunity to hear about the history and faith of our denomination, the United Church of Christ, and our church. Attending does not obligate you to join but we hope that this time together will

strengthen you on the journey of faith. New members will then be received on Sunday, October 22nd. Child care will be provided at both times. Please feel welcome to join us. If you are planning to attend, or you have questions, please contact Ginny Breismeister at [ginnyb@fccog.org](mailto:ginnyb@fccog.org) or 203 637-1791 x 26.

### **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**

### **Pizza, Pumpkins, & Play**

**Saturday, October 21, 5 to 8 pm**

Sign up now for our annual Halloween celebration, the fun-for-all Pizza and Pumpkins event. This year "The Big Green Truck" will be making their famous pizzas. Pizza serving starts at 6 pm but we will open the doors at 5 pm for the always exciting pumpkin carving and decorating. Patrick will unveil our new storytelling booth! So plan to be here and bring your neighbors and friends on Saturday, October 21 from 5 – 8 pm. Fun for all ages. RSVP online at [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org) in the Upcoming Events section on the homepage. Pay at the event: \$20 per adult. \$10 children. \$60.00 maximum per family.

### **Hurricane Relief Yoga Classes**

Andrea Woodman Osker will be giving yoga classes to benefit the victims of the many hurricanes which have wreaked such havoc. The classes will be gentle in nature. Classes will be held in the Daniels Center at 1:00pm. The dates are Saturdays on October 21, November 18, and December 16th. Live music will be performed by Kevin Makarewicz. Please come and support those who have suffered so! The suggested donation is \$20.00. Please bring a yoga mat. All levels are welcome.

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

If you haven't seen the Rummage Room fabulous Halloween windows, we urge you to make a special trip in to OG before all the ghosts and goblins take over!

**Mgr. Leanne's Wish List:** New items for Christmas; linens; winter coats.

**Shopping Hours:** Monday through Friday, 10 to 5 pm and 10 to 1 pm Saturday.

**Donation Hours:** Monday through Thursday 9:30 to 4:30 pm & Saturday 10 to 12:30 pm.

The Rummage Room is so proud to mark this October as their 53rd year of operation. We want to thank all of those who have given their time over the years by volunteering as well as a special thanks to the community for all of our donations. Without you it would have been impossible.

**Thought for each day:** "Life was meant to be lived, and curiosity must be kept alive. One must never, for whatever reason, turn their back on life."—Eleanor Roosevelt

**Next Week at First Church**  
**Sunday, October 22**

Rev. Patrick Collins, preaching

Music by the Chancel Choir

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light—Paul Manz

Ride on, King Jesus—Hall Johnson

Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

Music by the Cherub Choir

All Things Bright & Beautiful



## **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