

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

29 October 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

The Lake

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

Paul Halley (b. 1952)

Malcolm Dickenson, saxophone

CALL TO COMMUNITY

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

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

PRAISING GOD

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Come with your questions, come with your awe!
For the God who broods over the chaos
meets us in this place.

People: **Come with your energy, come with your weariness!**
For the God who breathes new life into the dust
meets us in this place.

All: **Come with your sadness, come with your joy!**
For the God who dared to become human
meets us in this place.

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*** HYMN**

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder New Century (black) Hymnal 558

UNISON PRAYER

Rev. Patrick Collins

Holy God

**We thank you for the ways in which
we have known and understood you;**

**We thank you for the metaphors
that have opened our eyes to more of who you are;**

We thank you for your timeless and mysterious nature.

Holy God

We are hungry for more of you

**We ask you to take us beyond the confines of familiar habits
to free us from the restrictions and distortions of our
language**

**to expand our understanding of you
so that we can love you whole heartedly**

**and we can reflect your full image
to a world that needs you**

Amen.

ANTHEM

The Children's Choir

God of Great and God of Small

Natalie Sleeth (1932-1990)

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, Director

Vance Briceland, piano

God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all,
God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things belong.
Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.

God of earth and sky and sea, God of life and destiny,
God of never-ending power, yet beside me every hour.
Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.

God of silence, God of sound, God by whom the lost are found,
God of day and darkest night, God whose love turns wrong to right,
Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.

God of heaven and God of earth, God of death and God of birth,

God of now and days before, God who reigns forevermore.
Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Thomas Jeremiah Costantini, son of
Erika Ahrens Costantini & Ryan Duffy Costantini

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 T.J., 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, children will go to Church School. Kindergarten and 1st graders, 2nd, 4th and 5th graders will go to the Lounge for an opening session together. 3rd graders will go to the Rainbow Door (room 104 at the end of the stairs on the way to the preschool). 6th graders 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

Rick Derr

Mark 12: 28-34

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

—New Standard Revised Version

ANTHEM

The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation

The Chancel Choir

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Malcolm Dickenson, clarinet

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid? Though an host of men were laid against me, yet shall not my heart be afraid: and though there rose up war against me, yet will I put my trust in him. One thing have desired of the Lord, which I will require; even that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the fair beauty of the Lord, and to visit his temple. For in

the time of trouble he shall hide me in his tabernacle: yea, in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me, and set me up upon a rock of stone. Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness: I will sing, and speak praises unto the Lord. Harken unto my voice, O Lord, when I cry unto thee: have mercy upon me and hear me. My heart hath talked of thee, Seek ye my face: thy face, Lord, will I seek. O hide not thou thy face from me, nor cast thy servant away in displeasure. Thou hast been my succor: leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation. When my father and my mother forsake me, the Lord taketh me up. Be strong, and he shall comfort thine heart; and put thou thy trust in the Lord. (from Psalm 27)

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 1: 26, 27

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

— New Standard Revised Version

SERMON

Rainbow God

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

*** HYMN**

Bring Many Names

New Century (black) hymnal 11

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Patrick Collins

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Larghetto and Allegro

Malcolm Dickenson, soprano saxophone

G. F. Handel

*** 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**

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth



Mo-ther-ing God, you gave me birth; in the bright morn - ing of this world.
 Mo-ther-ing Christ, you took my form, off - er - ing me your food of light,
 Mo-ther-ing Spir - it, nurt' - ring one, in arms of pat - ience hold me close,

9
 Cre - a - tor, source of ev' - ry breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
 grain of new life and grape of love, your ve - ry bo - dy for my peace.
 so that in faith I root and grow un - til I flow'r un - til I know.

*** BENEDICTION**

*** CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Malcolm Dickenson, soprano saxophone

Allegro

G.F. Handel

Directly following the service, one of our pastors will remain in the Chapel to be available to anyone who has a pastoral care concern.

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in loving memory of Pat DeHaven by her family.

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.

For those who are interested, we do have child care available for babies and toddlers every Sunday, for the entirety of the church service, in the Preschool classrooms.

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. 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

Welcome back to First Church, Jason!

Please join us after the service this Sunday in the Auditorium to hear from Jason Shaplen, CEO of Inspirica Inc., the Stamford-based pioneering non-profit whose mission is to break the cycle of homelessness in our community. First Church is proud to be Inspirica's lead partner in their new deeply affordable housing project in downtown Stamford. See you after the service!

Church School

Today most classes will begin their workshops on the story of Jesus feeding the 5000 as found in the Gospel of John. One of the special aspects of this gospel is the fact that it is the only one who mentions the young boy who shared his bread and fish. Every class does

different activities, so be sure to ask your children what they did in class. 3rd graders will learn about Moses' birth and God's appearance at the Burning Bush as found in the book of Genesis.

Today the 4th and 5th grade class will lead a trip to Pilgrim Towers for our 10th annual Halloween Party as part of the Church School community service program and anyone is invited to come along. We will meet in the Lounge after church and leave as close to 11:15 am as possible.

Choir Rehearsals

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

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

Cabaret Concert: November 4

It's just one week until our First Music & Arts season opener on Saturday, November 4, at 7:30 and 10:00 p.m. "Life is a Cabaret! – An Evening with Delighted To-be-here and Vodka Stinger." The 7:30 pm show is sold out, but tickets are now on sale for the 10:00 pm show on church website www.fccog.org under "Upcoming Events" on the lower left side of the main page. Tickets are NOT available at the door and you must reserve/purchase your tickets on the website.

Second Hour: Rabbi Cohen November 5

Please join us for an inspiring talk by Rabbi Daniel Cohen. He will share practical self-reflection strategies to create and live your legacy. Rabbi Cohen will discuss seven transformative principles to reverse engineer your life so that you are living with purpose and passion, so that the person you are today will more closely align with the person you aspire to be.

Rabbi Cohen is the spiritual leader of Congregation Agudath Sholom in Stamford. He speaks with authenticity and humor, and shares his wisdom which transcends all faiths. Rabbi Cohen's book will be available for purchase during Coffee Hour on October 22 & 29 and after his talk on November 5th. The discounted price will be \$10.

First Church Volunteer Day

Saturday November 11 is our next First Church Volunteer Day at Neighbor to Neighbor. To sign up for a time slot between 8:30 and 12:30 go to Sign Up Genius at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094ca4ab2faaf58-neighbor>. We will be stocking the food pantry and sorting and displaying the clothing and linen contributions. Neighbor-To-Neighbor is located at Christ Church in Greenwich (across Putnam Avenue from the YWCA). Please contact Rosemary Lamie (RosemaryL@fccog.org) if you have any questions. This is a great opportunity for a parent/child team or a teen and a friend as well as individuals. Children 12 – 15 need to be accompanied by a parent or another adult.

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 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

Monday and Tuesday, October 30 and 31: 50% off all Halloween merchandise. Happy Halloween to all!

Other items 50% off for the Week may be found on the website at www.fccog.org/about-us/the-rummage-room/.

Wednesday, November 1: The Rummage Room will be going straight into Thanksgiving mode. We will have many wonderful things for you to select from!

Mgr. Leanne's Wish List: New items for Christmas gifts; Christmas decorations; winter hats.

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.

We are coming into the season of greater awareness of the many blessings for which we are thankful. Cicero once said: “A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all virtues!” It has always been The Rummage Room’s purpose to have all proceeds go to organizations dedicated to helping women and children in need, locally, nationally and internationally.

**Next Week at First Church
Sunday, November 5**

Rev. Patrick Collins, preaching

Music by the Chancel Choir
I Dream a World—Andre Thomas

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



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