

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

**12 November 2017**  
10 o'clock in the morning



*Where there is no vision, the people perish.*  
*--Proverbs 29:18*

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 auditorium.

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### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

\*All who are able please stand.

#### **PRELUDE**

Choral

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Joseph Jongen (1873-1953)

#### **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: My heart is ready, O God, my heart is ready!

**People: I will sing, I will sing praises! Wake up, my soul!**

Leader: Wake up, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn!

**People: I will thank you, O God, among all people!**

**All: Let us praise and adore the God of Creation!**

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

#### **\* HYMN**

When Morning Gilds the Skies

New Century (black) Hymnal 86

## UNISON PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

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

Madelyn Ashley Hogan, daughter of  
Amie Ashley & Wade Tyler Hogan

## 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 Madelyn, 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.**

(After the baptism, all children will go to Church School. Kindergarten and 1st graders to the Red Door; 2nd to the Gold Door (downstairs) 4th and 5th graders to the Lounge. 3rd graders 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**

Betsy Kreuter

### **Matthew 26: 47-56**

The words were barely out of his mouth when Judas (the one from the Twelve) showed up, and with him a gang from the high priests and religious leaders brandishing swords and clubs. The betrayer had worked out a sign with them: "The one I kiss, that's the one—seize him." He went straight to Jesus, greeted him, "How are you, Rabbi?" and kissed him.

Jesus said, "Friend, why this charade?" Then they came on him—grabbed him and roughed him up. One of those with Jesus pulled his sword and, taking a swing at the Chief Priest's servant, cut off his ear.

Jesus said, "Put your sword back where it belongs. All who use swords are destroyed by swords. Don't you realize that I am able right now to call to my Father, and twelve companies—more, if I want them—of fighting angels would be here, battle-ready? But if I did that, how would the Scriptures come true that say this is the way it has to be?"

Then Jesus addressed the mob: "What is this—coming out after me with swords and clubs as if I were a dangerous criminal? Day after

day I have been sitting in the Temple teaching, and you never so much as lifted a hand against me. You've done it this way to confirm and fulfill the prophetic writings." Then all the disciples cut and ran.  
—The Message

## **ANTHEM**

Almighty and Everlasting God

The Chancel Choir  
Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

Almighty and everlasting God,  
mercifully look upon our infirmities,  
and in all our dangers and necessities  
stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **SECOND LESSON**

### **Matthew 5: 1-12**

When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said: "You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

"You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

"You're blessed when you're content with just who you are—no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.

"You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat.

"You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'care-full,' you find yourselves cared for.

"You're blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

“You’re blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That’s when you discover who you really are, and your place in God’s family.

“You’re blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God’s kingdom.

“Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don’t like it, I do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

—The Message

**SERMON**

Do We Have a Vision

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

**\* HYMN**

Be Now My Vision

New Century (black) hymnal 451

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

**RESPONDING TO GOD**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY SOLO**

Oh Glory

Thomas Woodman, bass  
Hall Johnson

**\* 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

Jesus, Still Lead On

New Century (black) Hymnal 446

### \* BENEDICTION

### \* CHORAL RESPONSE

### POSTLUDE

Festal Trumpets

Noel Rawsthorne (b. 1929)

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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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Flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in memory of my parents and brother, by Caralliene Westbrook.

Flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in joyful celebration of the baptism of Madelyn Ashley Hogan.

### **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](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 finish their workshops on the story of Jesus feeding 5000 as found in the gospel of John. 3rd graders will be introduced to the story of Daniel as found in the Book of Daniel. Be sure to hold these dates: Harvest Sunday (November 19) when we are in worship together to give our thanks to God and donate food for our neighbors. November 26, Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend when church school will be a "one room schoolhouse" and we will plan a new way to do an advent calendar.

#### **Giving Trees 2017**

The "Giving Trees" are outside the auditorium decorated with tags for you to choose a Christmas gift for our friends at H.O.M.E. (Homeworkers Organized for More Employment), the non-profit organization that supports low-income and homeless families in Orland Maine and Pilgrim Towers, a senior residential community in Stamford. Please come by and fulfill a wish! Wrapped gifts are needed back by Sunday, December 3. Thank you!

#### **Choir Rehearsals**

The following choirs will meet today in their normal places/times:

- Cherub Choir: Rainbow Room (basement) 11:15-11:45
- Children's Choir: Music Room (3rd floor) 11:15-12:00
- Youth Choir: Choir Room (3rd floor) 11:15-12:15

#### **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**

### **Harvest Sunday—November 19**

Please fill up a grocery bag—or two—with canned and other dry goods. Bring your filled bags to the Harvest Sunday Service on November 19 where they will be collected as part of our offering during the worship service. The offering will be divided between Neighbor to Neighbor and H.O.M.E. in Orland, Maine.

### **Annual Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale Begins November 25**

Our annual Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale begins on **Saturday, November 25 at 9:00 a.m.** with the delivery of 500 fresh cut Fraser and Balsam Fir trees from New Hampshire and over 200 balsam wreaths, roping and kissing balls! The sale continues on weekends through December 10 while supplies last. Remember that all funds raised go to support local organizations. Check out the available volunteer times and dates here: [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/9040C49A9A87-christmas1](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/9040C49A9A87-christmas1)

### **IRIS Winter Coat & Boot Drive**

IRIS is welcoming 53 Afghans in October alone, a record-breaking pace. And they need our help! They are very low on winter coats and boots. And they need to distribute them ASAP! Most community groups wait until the holidays to do coat drives, but that is too late for refugees facing their first New England winter. It would be tremendously helpful if you could round up any spare warm winter coats and boots over the next couple of weeks and bring them to the box marked IRIS on the stage in the Auditorium.

### **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, November 13:** 50% off sales for the week may be found on the website at [www.fccog.org/about-us/the-rummage-room/](http://www.fccog.org/about-us/the-rummage-room/)  
The Rummage Room Christmas Shoppe will open its doors at 1 pm!

**Thursday, November 23:** Happy Thanksgiving Day from everyone at the Rummage Room!

**Friday and Saturday, November 24-25:** All merchandise 50% off (except Christmas items).

**Saturday, December 2:** Don't miss the First Light festivities in Old Greenwich from 5 pm until 8:30 pm—the beginning of the Christmas season! There will be Christmas caroling, shopping, and food. Bring your family and friends as it is always a beautiful evening to put us squarely into the Christmas season.

**Mgr. Leanne's Wish List:** Handbags, jewelry, and wool sweaters.

**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.

**Thought for our country:** Why do we have these continued killings in our nation? And what is the key to stopping them? Why are guns so much more important than human lives? We all know the answer ... they aren't. The fear that sensible gun legislation, like background checks and outlawing automatic weapons in all their forms, is the first step toward outlawing all guns is a fake concern. No one can point to anyone that has advocated outlawing all guns. As Pastor Richard said: "It's a fact that Japan had only one shooting death in the past year while we had tens of thousands in the USA during the same period. We know what we should do. If you don't, ask yourself, What Would Jesus Do?"

**Next Week at First Church  
Sunday, November 19  
Harvest Sunday**

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr., preaching

Music by the Children's, Youth, & Chancel Choir  
I Was Glad—K. Lee

The Palmer Handbell Choir  
How Can I Keep from Singing?—Cathy Macklebust

The Cherub Choir  
Shalom, Chevarim—Israeli folk song

The Children's Choir  
Sing of the Lord's Goodness—Ernest Sands



## **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

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