

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

**26 November 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 auditorium.

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### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

\*All who are able please stand.

#### **PRELUDE**

Ricercare in C minor

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

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

Rev. Patrick Collins

#### **CALL TO SPECIAL**

#### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Car Westbrook

#### **STEWARDSHIP MOMENT**

### **PRAISING GOD**

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

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

People: **We bring our silence and our shouting, as introverts and extroverts.**

Leader: Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

People: **We bring our songs and our stories, our struggles and our sacrifices.**

Leader: Know that the Lord is God. It is God that made us, and we are God's; we are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.

**People:** God designed and created us, God understands us and is intensely interested in us.

**Leader:** The Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations.

**All:** God is just and wise, honest and true, caring and compassionate, eternal and holy; God is good.

**\* PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**\* HYMN**

All People that on Earth Do Dwell

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 4

**UNISON PRAYER**

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

God of wonder and glory, this expanding universe of your creation is purely awesome. It changes all the time and you continue to hold it together, even as we threaten to tear it apart. We look to you for truth, compassion and mercy. The love you have shown us and continue to show us is a blessing in our lives; a blessing that we often overlook. We come before you this day in gratitude knowing that you are always with us, and everything you have is ours.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Wilfred Lance Dolce, son of  
Samantha Romney Dolce & John Edward Dolce

**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 Wilfred, 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 to Church School in the Daniels Center. Three and younger four year olds are welcome in child care in the Blue Door. Older youth (5th, 6th 7th 8th) are needed to help in the Daniels Center.)

## **HEARING GOD'S WORD**

### **FIRST LESSON**

Phoebe Griffith

#### **Psalm 100**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good;

his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.

—New Revised Standard Version

**SOLO**

Ave Maria

Hanna Golodinskii, soprano

William Gomez (1939-2000)

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and in the hour of our death. Amen.

**SECOND LESSON****Luke 15: 11-32**

Jesus said, “A certain man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the inheritance.’ Then the father divided his estate between them. Soon afterward, the younger son gathered everything together and took a trip to a land far away. There, he wasted his wealth through extravagant living.

“When he had used up his resources, a severe food shortage arose in that country and he began to be in need. He hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. He longed to eat his fill from what the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have more than enough food, but I’m starving to death! I will get up and go to my father, and say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son. Take me on as one of your hired hands.’” ‘ So he got up and went to his father.

“While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him. Then his son said, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his older son was in the field. Coming in from the field, he approached the house and heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. The servant replied, ‘Your brother has arrived, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he received his son back safe and sound.’ Then the older son was furious and didn’t want to enter in, but his father came out and begged him. He answered his father, ‘Look, I’ve served you all these years, and I never disobeyed your instruction. Yet you’ve never given me as much as a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours returned, after gobbling up your estate on prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.’ Then his father said, ‘Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found.’”

—Common English Bible

**SERMON**

Grateful

Rev. Patrick Collins

**\* HYMN**

Thank Our God for  
Sisters, Brothers

New Century (black) hymnal 397

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

**RESPONDING TO GOD**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

The King of Love my Shepherd Is

The Chancel Choir

Edward Bairstow (1874-1946)

**\* DOXOLOGY**

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 515

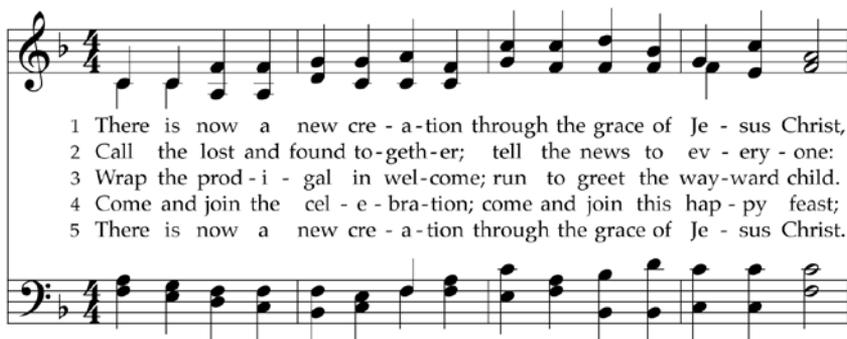
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all  
creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

### \* HYMN

There is Now a New Creation



1 There is now a new cre - a - tion through the grace of Je - sus Christ,  
2 Call the lost and found to - geth - er; tell the news to ev - ery - one:  
3 Wrap the prod - i - gal in wel - come; run to greet the way - ward child.  
4 Come and join the cel - e - bra - tion; come and join this hap - py feast;  
5 There is now a new cre - a - tion through the grace of Je - sus Christ.



peace and rec - on - cil - i - a - tion with the God of end - less life.  
now the past is gone for - ev - er and a new life has be - gun.  
All is fin - ished and for - giv - en; let us now be rec - on - ciled.  
Je - sus makes an in - vi - ta - tion to the great - est and the least.  
Sing, with thanks and ad - o - ra - tion, to the God of end - less life!

### \* BENEDICTION

### \* CHORAL RESPONSE

### POSTLUDE

Fugue in D minor

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

\* \* \*

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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The flowers in the Meeting House this morning are given in celebration of the christening of Wilfred Lance Dolce by his parents, Samantha Romney Dolce and John Edward Dolce.

### **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.

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.

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**

Church School today is in the Daniels Center where we will prepare to journey through the season of Advent. Next Sunday, December 3, is the first Sunday in Advent and most classes will begin their series of Advent lessons.

#### **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

### **Annual Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale**

Our annual Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale has begun 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.

### **Giving Trees 2017**

A huge thank you to those who have taken all of the tags from our Giving Trees! Please deliver your wrapped gifts to church no later than Sunday, December 3rd. You are making many wishes come true!

### **Advent Craft Fair and Supper—Now at a new time!**

On Sunday, December 3 the Church School Task Force will host the annual Advent Craft Workshop from 4 to 6 pm in the Daniels Center. The time has been changed this year to allow families to include their children who nap, to give you a longer break between church and this event and to provide a simple dinner for all! This very popular event has many options for making your own gifts and decorations. This year we have made an effort to have something for adults as well. Let's make this truly intergenerational and join the fun! RSVP and prepay at [fccog.org](http://fccog.org) so that we will have enough supplies and food.

### **Call to Special Meeting and Informational Meeting December 10, 2017**

A Special Meeting of the members of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Old Greenwich, CT is hereby called for Sunday, December 10, 2017 in the Meetinghouse immediately following the 10:00 am worship service for the following purposes:

- To hear and act upon the recommendation of the Church Council to borrow \$180,000 from the General Endowment to complete the renovations to the staff housing at 106 Sound Beach Avenue and 11 Forest Avenue;
- To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting. The Quarterly Informational Meeting for members will immediately follow the Special Meeting.

### **First Church Christmas Party**

Come celebrate the holidays with your First Church family! Please join us for fun and generous hors d'oeuvres on Sunday, December 10th from 5:00pm to 7:30pm in the church auditorium. Full bar. Please RSVP by

Monday, December 4th. For reservations contact Ginny Breismeister at [ginnyb@fccog.org](mailto:ginnyb@fccog.org), register online at [FCCOG.org](http://FCCOG.org) or call the church office 203 637-1791. Babysitter recommendations available. Join us for this festive Christmas celebration!

### **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 date will be Saturday, 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.

### **First Church Cookie Walk**

The second annual First Church Cookie Walk is fast approaching! On Sunday, December 17th we will all have the opportunity to participate in a festive swap (or purchase) of delectable Christmas cookies made by all of you wonderful bakers. Bakers will receive "priority" stickers to fill your box first and then non bakers may go through the line. Boxes will be \$5 each. Proceeds will go to the Pastor's discretionary fund for emergency relief. Fire up your ovens, get out the flour and sugar and bake for a fun time and a help those in need!

### **News from the Rummage Room**

#### **191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich**

**Monday, November 27:** The Christmas Shoppe is open and filled with delightful goods. You need Christmas Gifts? We have Christmas gifts! You need Christmas decorations? We have Christmas decorations! You need holiday clothing? We have holiday clothing! Plus there are Christmas cards, toys, stuffed animals, wrapping paper, spools of ribbon, Christmas trees, Christmas wreaths, Christmas stockings, baby and children clothing, music boxes ... the list is endless!

**Saturday, December 2:** First Light festivities in Old Greenwich from 5 to 8 pm. First Light marks the beginning of the Christmas season. Come and bring friends and family and have a wonderful evening. The Rummage Room will be open for shopping and good cheer so be sure and drop by.

**Saturday, December 16:** Last day to leave donations before the Holidays.

**Tuesday, January 2:** The Rummage Room will reopen at 10:00 am.

**Mgr. Lianne's Wish List:** Winter gloves; ladies' dresses; winter shoes and boots.

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

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

**Thought for the Holidays:** Here's to a joyful present and a well-remembered past. Everyone at the Rummage Room wishes you a merry, merry Christmas month and a magnificent 2018, May your December holiday happiness equal the appreciation we feel for your amazing support of the Rummage Room in 2017!

**Next Week at First Church  
Sunday, December 3**

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr., preaching

Music by the Youth Choir  
The Prophecy—Robert Powell

Music by the Chancel Choir  
Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes—Mark Sirett

Music by the Palmer Handbell Choir  
O Come, O Come Emmanuel—Douglas Wagner



## **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 Art: Kris Williams