

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

**First Sunday of Advent**  
**3 December 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**

Savior of the Heathen, Come

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

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

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

#### **CALL TO SPECIAL**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Car Westbrook

### **PRAISING GOD**

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

Leader: Now is the time of watching and waiting.

**People: The time of pregnant expectation of new life.**

Leader: Now is the season of hope unfolding.

**People: The dark winter season when hope is waiting to be born.**

Leader: Let us come before God with receptive and willing spirits.

**People: May our souls magnify God's name, and may our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!**

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

**\* HYMN**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 110

**UNISON PRAYER**

Rev. Patrick Collins

**Silent Word, Creative Act, Hidden Truth, Revealed Love: we wait for you. To be precise, we are impatient for you to come to set things right. We are insecure with our world and anxious about ourselves. We refuse your guidance, but we often wish you would act according to our plans. We seldom pause to consider that you are waiting for us; waiting for us to be open to your wonder and beauty, waiting for us to listen and respond with a burning passion to your truth, your justice, and your mercy. Give us humble hearts and willing spirits to receive you as you come to us through all the experiences of our lives. Amen.**

**LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE**

Joe, Gen, & Gianni Saba

**All: Today we give thanks for the prophets among us, who bring to us surprising new visions of hope, who challenge us to think outside the box, who show us a future we never anticipated.**

**MUSIC DURING**

**CANDLE LIGHTING**

The Palmer Handbell Choir

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Arr. Douglas Wagner (b. 1952)

**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.**

(Children now go to Church School. Kindergarten and 1st graders to the Preschool 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 Binney  
Conference Room - Note change in location.)

## **HEARING GOD'S WORD**

### **FIRST LESSON**

Bill DeHaven

#### **1 Corinthians 1: 1-9**

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and  
our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified  
in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in  
every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their  
Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus  
Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God  
that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have  
been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—  
Bajust as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among  
you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for  
the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to  
the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus  
Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of  
his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

—New Revised Standard Version

### **ANTHEM**

The Prophecy

The Youth Choir  
Robert Powell (b. 1932)  
Carolyn Paulus, director  
Vance Briceland, piano

### **SECOND LESSON**

#### **Isaiah 64: 1-9**

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

—New Revised Standard Version

## **SERMON**

The Oldest Prayer

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr

## **\* HYMN**

Isaiah the Prophet  
Has Written of Old

New Century (black) hymnal 108

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

## **RESPONDING TO GOD**

## **CALL TO OFFERING**

## **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

Thou Shalt Know Him

The Chancel Choir

Mark Sirett (b. 1952)

Thou shalt know him when he comes,  
Not by any din of drums,  
Nor his manners, nor his airs,  
Nor by anything he wears.

Thou shalt know him when he comes,  
Not by his crown or by his gown,  
But his coming known shall be,  
by the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee.  
Thou shalt know him when he comes. Amen.

### **\* 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**

#### **THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

We practice open Communion – all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to participate in the community of God's people are welcome to receive Communion, including children of all ages, and regardless of church membership or denominational affiliation. All are welcome to the table of God.

### **INVITATION**

### **PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP**

In the tradition of our church, let us partake of the bread (note, gluten-free bread is available) as it is served, remembering our individual uniqueness in the eyes of God and our diversity within the Body of Christ. Let us hold the cup (grape juice) until all have been served, remembering our oneness with God and our unity in the Body of Christ.

## **MUSIC DURING COMMUNION**

If I Can Help Somebody

A. Bazel Androsso  
Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

## **GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD**

### **\* HYMN**

In the Bleak Midwinter

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 128

### **\* BENEDICTION**

### **\* CHORAL RESPONSE**

### **POSTLUDE**

Improvisation on “Veni Emmanuel”

Dr. Craig Scott Symons

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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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## **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

Today is the first Sunday in Advent and most classes will begin their series of Advent lessons. Remember to keep adding to your Advent boxes for Inspirica. If you were not here last Sunday and would like to begin the activity for Inspirica, see Rosemary during Fellowship hour where she will have the boxes and supplies for you to join in. Also, please let Rosemary know if your child will be here on Christmas Eve and would like to be in the Nativity pageant.

#### 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 today. You are making many wishes come true!

#### Advent Craft Fair and Supper—4-6 pm today

Today, 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. Hope to see you there!

#### 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 or while supplies last. Remember that all funds raised go to support local organizations.

### **Messiah—Saturday, Dec 9, 4 pm**

The 51st annual performance will take place on Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 4:00 pm. Since 1966 First Congregational Church has presented Part I of Handel's Messiah, the Christmas portion, concluding with the Hallelujah chorus. The First Church Festival Chorus, 75 singers strong, is accompanied by the First Church Chamber Orchestra, with soloists Sharla Nafziger, soprano, Kate Maroney, mezzo soprano, Bill Heigen, tenor, and Nathaniel Sullivan, bass. Tickets for the performance are \$25 and can be purchased online at the church website, or stop by the church office during normal business hours.

### **Light up the Sky—Light up the World**

Please join us Saturday, December 9th from 5:30-6 pm as we light up the decorations on the front lawn and give away seed money to a select few youth in the church and the community to spread hope and light to those in need in the community. This event promises to be a fun night filled with a ceremonial tree lighting, carol sing and give-away. This new tree lighting ceremony, now earlier in the season,

will replace the Christmas Eve carol sing outside around the crèche. The youth who receive the seed money will be charged to take their money and come up with a creative way to use that money to make a difference in our community and world, and then report back to the church what they did.

### **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—RSVP by 12/4**

Come celebrate the holidays with your First Church family! Please join us for fun and generous hors d'oeuvres on Sunday, December 10 from 5 to 7:30 pm in the church auditorium. There will be a full bar. Please RSVP by Monday, December 4. 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 pm. The date will be Saturday, December 16. Live music will be performed by Kevin Makarewicz. Please come and support

those who have suffered so! The suggested donation is \$20. 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 17 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**

**Saturday, December 2:** The Annual First Light Celebration will take place 5 to 8 pm in Old Greenwich. It is a great night for shopping, Christmas caroling, and spending time with friends and family!

**Monday, December 4:** If you haven’t begun your Christmas Shopping, today is the day. The Rummage Room is bursting with everything and anything you could want for gifts and Holiday decorations clothing. Come see for yourself as the items to choose from are endless.

**Mgr. Leanne’s Wish List:** Winter boots; spring cardigans; children’s coats.

**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.

**Friday, December 15:** The Rummage Room will host its annual Holiday Party throughout the day.

**Saturday, December 16:** Last day for donations! Please do not leave donations again until January 2, 2018. The Rummage Room closes for the holidays at 1 pm and reopens on Tuesday, January 2, at 10 am.

**Thought for the Holidays:** Happy Holidays from all of us involved with the Rummage Room. And many thanks to our shoppers and

donors. You make our efforts meaningful, fruitful and fun! We could not possibly do it without you.

**Next Week at First Church  
Sunday, December 10**

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr., preaching

Music by the Chancel Choir  
Spirings in the Desert—Arthur Jennings  
Drew Seigla, tenor

For Behold—G. F. Handel  
Thomas Woodman, bass

Music by the Palmer Handbell Choir  
‘Twas in the Moon of Wintertime—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: Bart Aldrich