

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

**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**10 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.

---

### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

\*All who are able please stand.

#### **PRELUDE**

Wachet auf, ruft uns die stimme

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: The God who speaks comfort to us calls us here.

**People: The God who addresses us with tenderness meets us here.**

Leader: The God who guides us with gentleness cares for us here.

**People: We come to prepare a way for the Lord.**

Leader: We come to ready ourselves for the transformation of our lives.

**All: Let us worship God with receptive and willing spirits.**

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

**\* HYMN**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Pilgrim (red) hymnal 107

**UNISON PRAYER**

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

**Lord of Love and Light, shine through our darkness, bringing us hope. Open our hearts for the journey, our eyes for the light, our spirits for the peace which you bring. Fill our mouths with laughter and speech with shouts of joy that we shall reveal the love with which you surround us. We offer this prayer in the name of the One who is coming into the world bringing your hope, love, peace, and joy, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE**

Joe, Jen, & Gianni Saba

**All: Today we give thanks for the shepherds among us, back-breaking laborers on whom our economy stands, those we overlook or rarely see, yet rely on for our very survival, the ones who have much to teach us about watching for God in the darkness.**

**MUSIC DURING**

**CANDLE LIGHTING**

The Palmer Handbell Choir

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

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**

Pat Mendelsohn

#### **Isaiah 7: 13-15**

Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good."

—New Revised Standard Version

### **ANTHEM**

Springs in the Desert

The Chancel Choir

Arthur Jennings (1887-1972)

Drew Seigla, tenor

Say to them that are of a fearful heart, be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come and save you. The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as a rose. For in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams flow in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the redeemed shall walk there, and the ransomed of the Lord shall return with songs and everlasting joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

### **SECOND LESSON**

#### **Luke 1: 26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the

Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

—New Revised Standard Version

## **SERMON**

Hail Mary

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr

## **\* HYMN**

Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming

Pilgrim (red) hymnal 131

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. Patrick Collins

## **RESPONDING TO GOD**

### **CALL TO OFFERING**

#### **OFFERTORY SOLO**

For Behold (from Messiah)

Thomas Woodman, bass

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

#### **\* 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

Mary, Woman of the Promise                      New Century (black) Hymnal 123

### \* BENEDICTION

### \* CHORAL RESPONSE

### POSTLUDE

Today, God's Only Son Has Come to Us    J. S. Bach

\* \* \*

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning have been given with grateful memories of their parents by Barbara and John Norrgard.

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

---

### 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

---

### TODAY

#### **Church School**

Today all classes will continue their series of Advent lessons. Remember to keep adding to your Advent boxes for Inspirica. Also, please let Rosemary know if your child will be here on Christmas Eve and would like to be in the Nativity pageant. We need both an angel willing to climb the ladder and a Joseph for 6 pm service. Let Rosemary know if you are planning to attend the 6 pm service.

#### **Call to Special Meeting and Informational Meeting Today after Worship**

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 with an evening of fun with generous hors d'oeuvres and a full bar **today** from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the church auditorium. For reservations email Ginny Breismeister, register online, or call the church office 203-637-1791. Babysitter recommendations available. Join us for this festive Christmas celebration!

### **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**

#### **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**

**Monday, December 12:** Christmas is just around the corner, as you are well aware. Have you finished your shopping? If not, you will love visiting the Rummage Room. The Best Little Christmas Shoppe in town is bursting with merchandise for all your Christmas needs! See Manager Leanne's 50% off sales for the week at [www.fccog.org/about-us/the-rummage-room/](http://www.fccog.org/about-us/the-rummage-room/).

**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 from 10 am to 5 pm. Please come in for cookies and punch and last-minute shopping.

**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 Christmas Season:** Friends are like Angels who lift us up when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly!

**Caregivers Support Group**

Please join us for the Caregivers Support Group for those who currently are, recently have been, or no longer are, a caregiver for a family member or friend. The group offers a confidential place where participants can share experiences, learn new information, and receive emotional support and comfort from others in similar situations. The group meets on the second Sunday of the month from 11:15 am - 12:15 pm in the Binney Conference Room. Dorothy Mueller, FCCOG Stephen Minister, is the group facilitator. For more information, please call Dorothy at (203) 588-9896, or email: [dorothymueller1@gmail.com](mailto:dorothymueller1@gmail.com) .

**Next Week at First Church  
Sunday, December 17**

Rev. Avery C. Manchester, preaching

Music by the Chancel Choir  
Shepherd's Pipe Carole—John Rutter  
Mary Fike, piccolo

Maria Wiegenlied—Max Reger  
Carolyn Paulus, Carol Woodman, sopranos

Music by the Palmer Handbell Choir  
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice—Douglas Wagner

Music by the Cherub Choir  
Sing Hosanna!—A. Sevinson

## **Christmas Memorial/Honor Flowers and Decorations**

The Chancel Committee invites contributions for decorations for the Meetinghouse this Christmas. Any amount is welcome. Please deliver the completed form with your check to the Church Office (payable to the First Congregational Church Flower Fund) on or before ***Tuesday, December 12.*** Thank you.

In Memory/Honor of

---

---

---

By

---

---

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Please print names legibly to minimize spelling errors.**



## **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