

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

**7 January 2018**

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**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist  
Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)  
Vasil Golodinskii, tuba

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

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

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

### **PRAISING GOD**

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

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

Leader: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

**People: My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

Leader: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

**All: Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise!** (Psalm 84: 1-4)

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

#### **\* HYMN**

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Pilgrim (red) hymnal 1

## UNISON PRAYER

Rev. Patrick Collins

**It is good to be here in your presence Lord. Here we are at home with each other and with you. Here we discover the joy of life and the strength to live each day with praise in our hearts to you. You alone are God! You alone can show us the way to the life that lasts forever. We love you, Lord, and we lift this prayer in adoration of your holy name.**

## 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. Rotation classes begin in the Lounge and then go to their classrooms - Kindergarten and 1st graders, to the Preschool Red Door; 2nd to the Gold Door (downstairs), 4th and 5th graders stay in the Lounge. All other classes go directly to their classrooms: 3rd graders to the Rainbow Door (Room 104 at the end of the stairs on the way to the preschool). 6th graders to Patrick's Office on the 3rd floor and 7th & 8th graders go to the Binney Conference Room above the church offices.)

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### FIRST LESSON

Joe McBride

### Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me,  
    “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”  
Our feet are standing  
    within your gates, O Jerusalem.  
Jerusalem—built as a city  
    that is bound firmly together.  
To it the tribes go up,  
    the tribes of the Lord,  
as was decreed for Israel,  
    to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

For there the thrones for judgment were set up,  
the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

“May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls,  
and security within your towers.”

For the sake of my relatives and friends

I will say, “Peace be within you.”

For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,

I will seek your good. —New Revised Standard Edition

## **SOLO**

Angels We Have Heard On High

Vasil Golodinskii, tuba

Gwyneth Walker

## **SECOND LESSON**

### **Luke 2: 41-51**

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day’s journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.” He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart

—New Revised Standard Edition

## **SERMON**

In My Father’s House

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

**\* HYMN**

Here, O My Lord, I See You  
Face to Face

New Century (black) hymnal 336

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

**RESPONDING TO GOD**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

The Shepherd's Farewell

The Chancel Choir  
Hector Berlioz (1803-1869)

Thou must leave Thy lowly dwelling,  
The humble crib, the stable bare.  
Babe, all mortal babes excelling,  
Content our earthly lot to share.  
Loving father, Loving mother,  
Shelter Thee with tender care!

Blessed Jesus, we implore Thee  
With humble love and holy fear.  
In the land that lies before Thee,  
Forget not us who linger here!  
May the shepherd's lowly calling,  
Ever to Thy heart be dear!

Blest are ye beyond all measure,  
Thou happy father, mother mild!  
Guard ye well your heav'nly treasure,  
The Prince of Peace, The Holy Child!  
God go with you, God protect you,  
Guide you safely through the wild!

**\* 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.

### **UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.**

### **GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD**

#### **\* HYMN**

How Lovely Is Your Dwelling

New Century (black) hymnal 600

#### **\* BENEDICTION**

#### **\* CHORAL RESPONSE**

## **POSTLUDE**

Nowell to a Ground

Colin Hand (b. 1929)

\* \* \*

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in memory of George J. Helmer III. "When we remember George, we smile!"  
--Heidi, Jay and Robyn Helmer.

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.fcog.org](http://www.fcog.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**

Regular Church School classes resume today after the Lord's Prayer. The Rotation classes - Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th - begin in



the Lounge for a group opening. All other classes go directly to their classrooms. Hold these dates for upcoming events:

January 28th - Intergenerational Faith formation breakfast at 9 am in the auditorium.

January 28th - 2nd graders and their parents meet together for a class to prepare for communion. Older children who have not had an opportunity to attend a communion class are also welcome to attend this class with their parents.

February 4 - 2nd graders and older children will participate together in communion with their parents and the congregation.

### **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**

### **New Members Wanted: Come Learn About First Church!**

Our next New Member class will be held on Sunday, January 21, 2018 at 11:15 AM in the Senior Pastor's office. It will last approximately two hours and will include lunch. During the class, prospective new members will have the opportunity to hear about the history and faith of our denomination, the United Church of Christ, and to learn more about our church and meet the clergy as well as staff. Attending does not obligate you to join but we hope that this time together will strengthen you on the journey of faith. New members will be received on Sunday, January 28th. Child care will be provided at both times. Please feel welcome to join us. If you are planning to attend or you have questions please contact Ginny Breismeister at [ginnyb@fccog.org](mailto:ginnyb@fccog.org) or 637-1791 ex.26.

**News from the Rummage Room**  
**191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich**

**Monday, January 14, 2018:** Got the winter blues? The Rummage Room has the cure. Come in and find great winter wear for everyone in the family.

**Mgr. Leanne's Wish List:** Items for Valentine's Day; winter and spring clothing; handbags; jewelry; children's clothing; ski clothing and boots. (The Rummage Room does not take skis.)

**Tax Slips:** Pick up your tax slip for claiming donations during 2017. Only one needed per year.

**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 2018:** Let us leave 2017 in the silence of the past. Let it go completely since it was not perfect, and let us thank God that He has given us a fresh start for a better new year ahead.

**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, January 7**

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr., preaching

Music by the Chancel Choir  
A Repeating Alleluia—Calvin Hampton

Music by the Cherub Choir  
Hallelu Hallelu—Arr. Esther Jones

Music by Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano  
Steal Away to Heaven—Arr. Mark Hayes



## **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