

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Celebrating 350 Years - 1665-2015

The Second Sunday of Easter

12 April 2015

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.*



We warmly welcome you to The First Congregational Church of Greenwich on this springtime Sunday morning. With the world coming to life all around us, we hope that your spirit is inspired and renewed by your time in worship today. Please join us after worship for our Fellowship Hour in the Auditorium. Welcome!

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

Prelude in A Minor

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ
J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***HYMN**

The Day of Resurrection

New Century (black) Hymnal 245

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God,
you have called us to follow in the way of your risen Son,
and to care for those who are our companions,
not only with words of comfort, but with acts of love.
Seeking to be true friends of all,
we offer our prayer.

Open our hearts to your power moving
around us and between us and within us,
until your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and enemy,
in communities transformed by justice and compassion,
and in the healing of all that is broken. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rosemary Lamie

(After the Children's Message, as we begin singing Go, My Children, the children and helpers will go to Room 104 for a one-room schoolhouse lesson. Room 104 is on the lower level of the building; please ask for directions if needed.)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Go, My Children (to the tune All Through the Night)

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.

In my love's baptismal river

I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing – you are my own.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Sue McCalley

Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

From New Revised Standard Version

SOLO

Pour Out Thy Heart

Drew Seigla, tenor
Bernhard Molique (1802-1869)

*Pour out thy heart before the Lord,
and lift thy hands unto Him,
for He will not despise the afflicted*

*and them that are of a broken heart.
But though He cause grief, yet will He have compassion,
according to the multitude of His mercies.
Trust in the Lord, and He will strengthen thee!*

SECOND LESSON

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.

But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

From New Revised Standard Version

* HYMN

I Greet You, Sure Redeemer New Century (black) Hymnal 251

SERMON

I Doubt It *Rev. Mark D. Montgomery*

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Alleluia! The Lord Liveth

The Chancel Choir
Cuthbert Harris (1870-1932)
Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

Alleluia! The Lord liveth, and blessed be my strong helper, and praised be the God of my salvation.

The same stone which the builders refused is become the headstone in the corner.

Ye shall be sorrowful, ye shall weep and lament, and your sorrow shall be turned into joy.

For now has Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept.

Alleluia! The Lord liveth, and blessed be my strong helper, and praised be the God of my salvation.

The same stone which the builders refused is become the headstone in the corner.

Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory thru our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

***DOXOLOGY**

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 515

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*** HYMN**

Now the Green Blade Rises (CC)*

New Century (black) Hymnal 238

***BENEDICTION**

*** CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Intermezzo

Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)

*CC = Congregation Choice

Please remain in the Meetinghouse immediately following this service for the Church Town Hall Meeting about the upcoming 350th Anniversary (more info below).

Please join us for our regular Fellowship Hour in the Auditorium following the Town Hall Meeting.

We have **child care for babies and toddlers** every Sunday in the Preschool classrooms. Your children are always welcome in child care for the entire worship service or for a respite time if needed. On Church School Sundays we also have a class for 3 and 4-year olds during the entire 10:00 am service. Please see an usher if you need directions to child care or Church School.

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. A bulletin can be found there as well as a link to the live broadcast. Previous sermons may also be found there.

Calendar

TODAY

Church School

Since it is the beginning of the public school vacation week, today is a special Sunday for Church School. We will have a one-room schoolhouse lesson about the appearance of Jesus to his disciples after the Resurrection when he provides them breakfast on the lakeshore. Next Sunday we will have the first of two Sunday Rotation Workshops on Communion.

Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, R.N. is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations in Room 203 following today's Worship Service.

Choir Rehearsals

Choir rehearsals today are: Cherub Choir from 11:15 to 11:45 am in Room 104, Children's Choir from 11:15 am to 12 Noon in Room

303 (Craig's office) and Youth Choir from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm in the Choir Room.

THIS WEEK

Annual Quilt Raffle Tickets on Sale!

Tickets for the 45th Annual Quilt Raffle are now available for purchase for \$10 each. The drawing will take place at the *Women's Fellowship Spring Luncheon* on *Wednesday, May 13* at noon. You do not need to be present to win. This year's quilt is a full-sized vintage cross stitch, *Colonial Plymouth*. The original embroidery was done around 1950. Dee Robarts acquired the separate pieces at The Rummage Room and passed them onto our beloved Kettle Quilters who painstakingly assembled the beautiful quilt, thus, saving this original embroidery. Tickets are now being sold during Fellowship Hour following Sunday worship, in the Church Office and an order form is included in the April Meetinghouse Monthly. All proceeds are donated to support charitable organizations that benefit women, children and families.



NEWS AND NOTICES

Wellness Second Hour

Join us on *Sunday, April 26* at 11:30 am in the Lounge for an Advanced Directive Workshop with Dr. Donna Coletti, Director of Palliative Care at Greenwich Hospital, Judy Holding, MAR, Chaplain at Greenwich Hospital, and Lori Romano, JD, an estate planning lawyer (and FCCOG member). Learn how to express our wishes through documents such as a living will, power of attorney, and health care proxy. Call Parish Nurse, Sue Asselin, with any questions at 203-637-1791 ext. 21 or email susana@fccog.org.

Spring Festival of the Arts: May 1-3

Mark your calendars and be sure to join us for our *Spring Festival of the Arts* on the first weekend of May, *May 1-3*.

Friday, May 1: 6:00 pm, Art Opening and Reception – The *Art Society of Old Greenwich* will present artwork from their members in our auditorium. The evening will include a wine and cheese

reception to mark the opening of the exhibit, which will be on display and viewable from Friday evening-late Sunday afternoon.
Friday, May 1: 8:00 pm, Chamber Music Performance by *Serio Divertimenti*. The group is comprised of Marcia Eckert, piano; Monte Morgenstern, clarinet; Peter Prosser, cello; Lisa Arkis, flute. Tickets \$25.

Saturday, May 2: 8:00 pm, First Church Festival Chorus and Orchestra performing Beethoven's *Mass in C* and *Choral Fantasy*, directed by Craig Scott Symons. Special guest, Cullan Bryant, pianist. Tickets \$35 for preferred seating, and \$25 for regular seating.

Sunday, May 3: 4:00 pm, *Rock of Ages: Hymns for the Soul*, featuring vocalist, Jolie Rocke Brown and nationally acclaimed pianist, Joel Martin. Tickets \$25.

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, April 13: Manager Maria will have her special 50% off sale on several categories of merchandise for the week.

Tuesday, April 28: The annual "Thank You Breakfast" for the Rummage Room Volunteers will be hosted by The Rummage Room Committee and Manager, Maria Drieghe. Breakfast will be served from 9:00 to 10:30 am in the church auditorium. Come early as it is a great opportunity for all the volunteers to get together at the same time for fun and good food.

Manager Maria's Wish List: Everything spring and summer...The Rummage Room is like Ole Mother Hubbard...the clothes racks and cupboards are bare!

Shop Hours: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday & 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturday.

Donation Hours: 9:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Thursday & 9:30 am to 12:30 pm on Saturday.

If the grass looks greener on the other side of the fence, you can bet the water bill is higher!

Tai Chi Classes

TRY IT OUT! Come and experience the many wonderful benefits of Tai Chi and Qi Gong exercises. Classes are held on **Wed** at 8:00 am and **Thurs** at 9:00 am. Only \$10 per class. Drop-ins are welcome.

Neighbor to Neighbor – Food Collection

Please don't forget those in need. **Items especially needed are canned meats, such as Spam, chili, etc.** Tuna is **not** needed at this time. Other items include: Cereal, canned fruit, pasta, peanut butter, and jelly. Sheets and towels are always needed.

Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

April 19, 2015

Music by:

The Children's Choir

Come Worship God by Michael Bedford

The Chancel Choir

Since by Man Came Death by G. F. Handel

Rev. Avery Manchester, preaching

Where to find us:

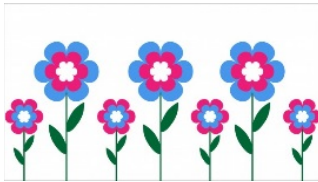
www.fccog.org

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[YouTube](#)

[Instagram](#)



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 for Youth Ministry: Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

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

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Director of Communications: Barbara Wilkov

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Stiers and Rev. Sally Colegrove

Director of Music Emeritus: Dr. John Stansell