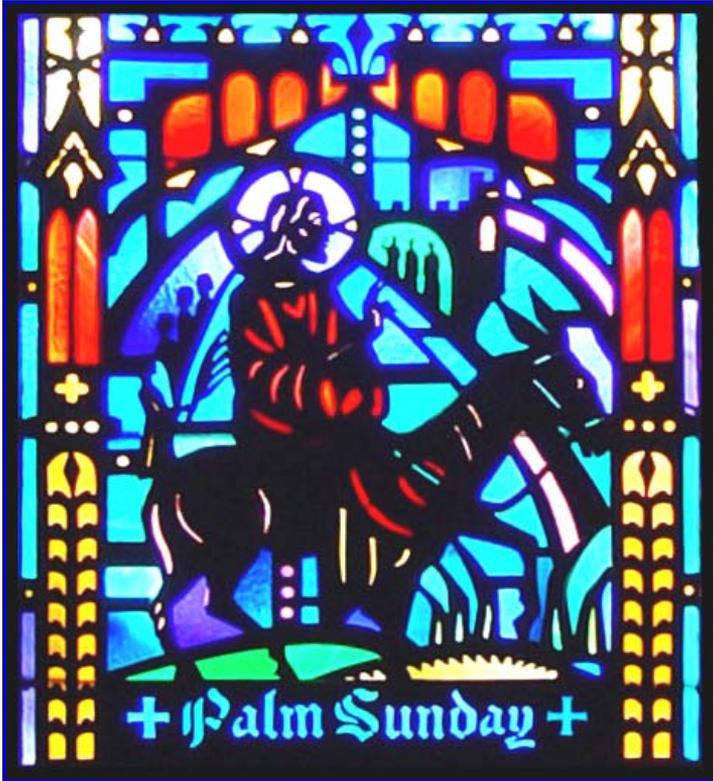


*The First Congregational Church  
of Greenwich*



*April 13, 2014  
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 Palm Sunday service of worship at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich. We hope that this time together offers you strength and encouragement for your faith journey.

***Palm Sunday***  
13 April 2014  
10 o'clock in the morning

---

**PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

\*All who are able please stand.

‡Seating of latecomers.

**PRELUDE**

*O Stainless Lamb of God*

*Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ*

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

**CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Rev. John W. Collins*

**MOMENT OF OPPORTUNITY – Lenten Offering Appeal**

*Rev. Mark D. Montgomery*

**PRAISING GOD**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Daniel Lepoutre*

*Leader: We raise our palms to you!*

*People: Proclaiming that we believe and that we are a part of this faith story.*

*Leader: We raise our hands.*

*People: Reminding ourselves that we are called to be active participants in the story.*

*Leader: We raise our hearts.*

*People: So that they may be filled with you.*

*Leader: We raise our voices.*

*People: With Hosanna, with prayer, with songs, with voices that proclaim, "We are a part of the Christ story!"*

\*‡HYMN

*All Glory, Laud and Honor*

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 155

**OPENING PRAYER**

*Rev. Avery C. Manchester*

God of parades and paradox  
Of dancing and despair.  
God of hollow places and hope  
Of tomb and triumph.  
God of all that we are  
Of all that we know.

Join with us  
Call us to join with you  
In times that encompass  
both adoration and anxiety  
Reminding us that we are never without you.  
And so, worship should always be in our hearts  
A prayer of gratitude ready to be lifted.

A prayer of comfort that finds us right where  
we are supposed to be...  
In the grip of grace.

May the prayer you taught us bring not only our voices together,  
but our spirits as well.  
One body, the body of Christ, praying together...

**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.

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

### Roll Call of Candidates

*Ginny Breismeister*

*(Candidates will come forward as their names are called)*

### Commitment of Candidates

**Clergy:** We are called of God to be disciples through Christ Jesus. Today we welcome each of you to join us in the joy of God's service through the work of First Congregational Church of Greenwich.

**Senior Deacon:** Friends in Christ, we bid you welcome. We greet you as fellow disciples of Christ. Our purpose is to promote the increase of the love of God and neighbor. Will you now unite yourself with The First Congregational Church of Greenwich, accepting its responsibilities, praying and working for its usefulness, sustaining its worship, supporting its wider mission, and living with us in the joys of Christian fellowship?

**Candidates:** I will.

**Clergy:** We believe in the freedom and responsibility of the individual soul and the right of private judgment. We join in fellowship with other congregations of the United Church of Christ in declaring our steadfast allegiance to the faith which our forebears confessed, which from age to age has found its expression in the historic creeds of the Church Universal and of our Communion, and in affirming our loyalty to the basic principles of our representative democracy. We hereby set forth the things we most surely believe.

**The Covenant** (*Congregation: All who are able please stand*):

We believe in God, infinite in wisdom and love, in Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Spirit, who renews, comforts and inspires us. We are united in seeking to know the will of God as taught in the Holy Scriptures and to walk in the ways of Christ. As Jesus accepted, welcomed and embraced all people without exception, so do we accept all who join with us in our journey to be a people of faith. We accept the mission of this church to proclaim the gospel, to

worship God and to work for the dream of a compassionate world. Trusting in God's Spirit, we promise to support each other in love, that through our faith, the world might be made new.

## Right Hand of Fellowship

### SONG OF RESPONSE

*Blest Be the Tie That Binds (verse 1)*

*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

*(During the Song of Response, the children will go to the Lounge to watch some special Palm Sunday videos. Parents should meet their children in the Lounge after worship.)*

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### FIRST LESSON

*Sue McCalley*

### Psalm 118:1-2; 19-29

**O** give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. *From New Revised Standard Version*

SOLO

*How Peaceful*

*Hanna Golodinskii, soprano*

Sergei Rachmaninov

SECOND LESSON

*Barbara Norrgard*

**Matthew 21:1-11**

**W**hen they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, “Tell the daughter of Zion, look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

*From New Revised Standard Version*

\*‡HYMN

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

New Century (black) Hymnal 213

SERMON

*Palms Up*

*Rev. Mark D. Montgomery*

**RESPONDING TO GOD**

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

*Rev. Daniel B. England*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Lord, Come Away*

*The Chancel Choir*

John Huston

*Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano*

\*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

*The Palms* (words and music on next page)

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Festal Trumpets*

Noel Rawsthorne

*Please join us for Coffee Hour following the worship service.*

---

The calla lilies in the Meetinghouse on this Palm Sunday are given in loving memory of our parents, Margaret and Carleton Gisborne, by Claire Henry and Ruth Reed and our families.

We have **child care for babies and toddlers** every Sunday in our Preschool classrooms. Your children are always welcome for the entire service or for a respite time if needed. Please see an usher if you need directions.

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.

---

# The Palms



O'er all the way green palms and blossoms gay  
His word goes forth, and people by its might,  
Sing and rejoice, O blest Je-ru - sa - lem.



Are strewn this day in fes - tal pre - a - ra - tion.  
Once more re - gain free - dom from de - gra - da - tion.  
Of all thy sons sing the e - man - ci - pa - tion.



Where Je - sus comes to wipe our tears a - way  
Hu - man - i - ty doth give to each his right  
Through bound - less love the Christ of Beth - le - hem



E'en now the throng to welcome him pre- pare, Join all and sing, His  
While those in dark-ness are restored to light.  
Brings faith and hope to thee for-ev - er - more.



name de - clare, Let ev'-ry voice re - sound with ac - cla - ma - tion, Ho



san - na! Praise to the Lord! Bless him who cometh to bring us sal



va - - - - tion!

**TODAY**

***Church Hall Meeting***

Join us **today** at a special Church Hall Meeting immediately following the worship service in the Auditorium to discuss *First Church Alive* updates. Child care is available in the Preschool Blue Door (please ask for directions if you need them).

**Church School**

Hosanna!! Today our children will be in worship until the scriptures. Then we will gather in the Lounge for a video fest of different stories about Palm Sunday. We will see animation, segments of movies and learn together the story of today's celebration as well as talk a little about the week ahead. Also, there is a basket in the Narthex where children can place their Lenten offering boxes or even a loose offering which will be dedicated during the Offering later in the service.

**Bible Study**

There is no Bible Study this Sunday or next.

**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**

Cherub Choir will rehearse from 11:15 am-12 Noon in Room 104, Children's Choir from 11:15 am-12 Noon in Room 303 (Craig's office) and Youth Choir from 11:15 am-12:15 pm in the Choir Room.

---

**THIS WEEK**

**Maundy Thursday Dinner and Service**

Please join us this *Thursday, April 17* at 6:00 pm for a simple dinner of soup, bread and fruit followed by worship at 7:00 pm in the Meetinghouse. We hope to have as many of our congregation and guests here as possible to commemorate the Last Supper and begin the

last solemn days of Holy Week. Please join us and the rest of your church family.

### Annual Good Friday Service

Our annual tradition of presenting a time to gather on Good Friday continues this year on *April 18* at 8:00 pm with a performance of the moving masterpiece, *Requiem* by Gabriel Fauré. Our outstanding Chancel Choir and soloists, Linnea Conley, soprano, and Thomas Woodman, bass, will be accompanied on the organ by Director of Music, Craig Scott Symons. This is a special performance dedicated to the memory of Timothy Manchester, the son of Rev. Avery Manchester, who tragically lost his life May 1, 2013. Fauré's setting of the *Requiem* is Avery's favorite and will be a very special way of honoring Tim's life. We invite you to attend this special performance as a way of continuing your Holy Week journey. A free-will offering will be received to support the ongoing work of the First Music & Arts outreach ministry of our church.



### Easter Saturday - Egg Dyeing and "Search the Church"

This *Saturday, April 19* is *Easter Saturday*, a day when we have a very special program for our families. First, for many years we have sponsored an egg dyeing time where you can bring your hardboiled eggs and we will have all the fixings for dyeing and decorating them. "So bring the fuss to us" at 10:00 am–12:00 noon. Also, during those two hours there will be opportunities for you and your children to "Search the Church" for symbols of Holy Week; a fun way to learn the story. Please sign up on the easels in the auditorium or the Preschool so we can be prepared for you. All are invited.



---

## NEXT WEEK

### *Nights Off* in April

The next gathering of the *Nights Off* women's fellowship group will be on *Monday, April 21*, but there is a change in what we will be doing (Game Night is being postponed until our May gathering). In October we viewed the movie, *Before Sunrise*, which is part of a 3-movie series. On *April 21*, we will meet at Sue Asselin's home at 6:30 pm to watch the second movie in this series, *Before Sunset*. (Greenwich Library will then



be showing the third movie of the series, *Before Midnight*, on Friday, May 16 at 8 pm). On April 21, please bring along a favorite snack to share and whatever you would like to drink. Plan to come and join us, and why not invite a friend to come along too! Any questions, please contact Shirley Flierl at [FBTworld@aol.com](mailto:FBTworld@aol.com) or 203-629-4939.

### 2014 FCCOG's Men's Retreat

Join us for the 2014 Men's Retreat on *Friday, April 25* at North Greenwich Congregational Church, 606 Riversville Road, Greenwich. We will be gathering at 5:30 pm for fellowship, followed by dinner at 7:00 and our fabulous program with Daniel Martin ([www.dannymartin.org](http://www.dannymartin.org)) at 8:00 pm, ending by 10:00. The cost for the evening is \$25 and all are invited to join us. Please RSVP to the Church Office at 203-637-1791 or to [averycoe@aol.com](mailto:averycoe@aol.com) or [CWM48@aol.com](mailto:CWM48@aol.com).

---

## NEWS AND NOTICES

### Annual Quilt Raffle Tickets on Sale!

Tickets for the 44th 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 14* at Noon. You do not need to be present to win. The Kettle Quilters have created a beautiful quilt this year in a version of the classic *Log Cabin* pattern. Tickets are being sold 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.



### For Moms of Very Young Children

Join our Moms' Group in April. If you have a baby, toddler and/or 2 year old, join us for an opportunity to meet and relax with other moms and their young children. The group meets the second and fourth Friday of every month (next meeting *Friday, April 25*) from 9:30-10:30 am in Room 104. For more information, contact Kristen Jacks at [kmj33z@yahoo.com](mailto:kmj33z@yahoo.com) or 203-344-1961.



### News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, 203-637-1875

Monday, April 14: Easter decorations, along with Manager Maria's

choice of two other categories of merchandise, will be 50% off through *Thursday, April 17.*

**Friday, April 18:** In celebration of **Good Friday**, The Rummage Room will be **CLOSED**.

**Saturday, April 19:** The Rummage Room will be open 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

**Looking Ahead - Tuesday, April 29:** *The Annual Thank you Breakfast for The Rummage Room Volunteers* will be held in the church auditorium at 9:00 am. If you have been thinking about volunteering at The Rummage Room, please join us for breakfast so you can get to know the volunteers and learn about the wonderful work they do. Call Manager Maria at 203-637-1875 to make a reservation.

**Manager Maria's Wish List:** Gifts for Mother's Day, small furniture, boys' blazers (all sizes), double stroller, pocketbooks, ties. Hopefully, you will find the time to clean-out your closets - we need your donations.

**And Remember:** *How sweet it is to be loved by God! He loved us so much that he gave His only begotten Son whose death we will be remembering this coming Friday, April 18. What can each of us give back to God?*

### Neighbor to Neighbor Special Collection Request

A Collection barrel/bin remains in the back of the Meetinghouse each week. Neighbor to Neighbor is in great need of several specific items at this time, including:

- canned fruit (but **not** fruit cocktail or apple sauce)
- canned meats (such as tuna, Spam, beef stew, ravioli with meat)
- baby items such as diapers, pull-up diapers, baby lotion, baby wipes, etc.
- children's clothing especially sizes 2-6 and 10-12 (but **no** infant clothing)
- men's pants
- shoes for all ages
- bed linens (sheets and blankets; comforters and bedspreads) especially large sizes (even King size which can sometimes be used on smaller beds, too).



Please pick up some extra items when you go to the grocery each week and help those in need.

## Holy Week at First Church

### April 17: Maundy Thursday

6:00 pm Supper and 7:00 pm Tenebrae Service

### April 18: Good Friday

12:00 pm Cross Walk to Greenwich Point

8:00 pm Service featuring First Church Chancel Choir  
*Requiem* by Gabriel Fauré

### April 19: Easter Saturday

10:00 am to 12 Noon Egg Dyeing and  
“Search the Church” Scavenger Hunt

### April 20: Easter Sunday

6:00 am Sunrise Service at Greenwich Point

9:00 am and 11:00 am Festival Services in the Meetinghouse  
with Youth and Chancel Choirs, with brass and timpani;  
child care available.

### *Preaching Schedule:*

6:00 am Sunrise: Youth and Rev. Mark Montgomery

9:00 am Service: Rev. John Collins, preaching

11:00 am Service: Rev. Mark Montgomery, preaching



## Easter Memorial/Honor Flowers and Brass

The Chancel Committee invites contributions for flowers in the Meetinghouse this Easter and the Church Committee also invites contributions for Easter Brass. You may give to one, the other or both. Any amount is welcome. Please deliver the completed form with your check to the Church Office (payable to *The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*) by **TODAY, Sunday, April 13**. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY. Thank you.

Please accept my contribution to (check 1 or both):

\_\_\_\_\_ Easter Flower Fund    \_\_\_\_\_ Easter Brass

In Memory of:

---

---

In Honor of:

---

---

By:

---

---

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

Where to find us:

[www.fccog.org](http://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](http://www.fccog.org)

Ministers: The Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Interim Senior Pastor: Rev. John W. Collins

Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry: Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

Associate Pastor for Communication/Adult Education: Rev. Daniel B. England

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Family Ministries: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Director of Communications: Barbara Wilkov

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

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

Director of Music Emeritus: Dr. John Stansell