

# Easter Sunday

April 8, 2012

9 o'clock in the morning



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# *Easter Sunday*

8 April 2012

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**W**ELCOME to this Festival Service of Worship at The First Congregational Church. Thank you for joining us on this joyous Easter morning as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you are visiting with us, we hope that you will make yourself known to one of the pastors during the coffee hour immediately following the service in the Auditorium (through the back of the Meetinghouse and up the short flight of stairs). First Congregational Church seeks to be a faith community for people from all kinds of church backgrounds or no church background at all. In addition to this Sunday morning service (usually at 10:00 am), there is a casual, contemporary service most Sunday evenings at 5:00 pm in the Auditorium. If there is any way in which the members of this church can be of help to you, please let us know. And welcome!

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## **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

\*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

### **PRELUDE**

*Canzona Primi Toni*

*Canzona*

*This Joyful Eastertide*

*Entrata Festiva*

*Organ and Brass*

Giovanni Gabrieli

Jean Langlais

Sondra Tucker

Flor Peeters

### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Rev. Mark D. Montgomery*

## **PRAISING GOD**

### **CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Easter is Here*

*(words on next page)*

*The Youth Choir*

Jon Paige

*Sing, sing, Easter is here.  
Shout out with joy in praise loud and clear.  
Sing, sing, Easter is here.  
This is the day, the stone rolled away;  
Jesus has conquered the grave.  
Sing, sing, Easter is here.  
Glorious Easter is here.*

*Sing, sing, He is alive.  
Lift up your voice, the time has arrived.  
Sing, sing, He is alive.  
Lift up your voice, sing and rejoice.  
Come make a joyful noise.  
Sing, sing, Easter is here.  
Glorious Easter is here.*

*Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia.  
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia.  
Raise your joys and triumphs high.  
Sing ye heavens and earth reply.  
Alleluia, alleluia, glorious Easter is here.*

*Sing, sing, loudly declare, Christ is alive, go and share.  
Sing, sing, loudly declare, dying for sin,  
Rising again, giving us life without end.  
Sing, sing, Easter is here, glorious Easter is here.  
Easter is here!*

**\*‡ PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 182 (verses 1-4)  
Arr. Wayne Bisbee

**OPENING PRAYER**

O God of the risen Christ and God of resurrected lives, we come this day seeking your presence. So many of our moments are shadowed by fear and clouded by uncertainty about the way ahead. But through the resurrection of Christ Jesus, you have proclaimed to us release from the oppressions of today and hope for the days before us, calling us to serve you and, thus, to discover our best selves. And so it is in gratefulness to you for the

renewal of this Easter Sunday morning that we gather together in this faith community to give you thanks. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

### 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'S MESSAGE

#### CONFESSING TO GOD

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

*Rev. Avery C. Manchester*

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

So good have we become in justifying almost everything we do, O God, that it can be an alien impulse to confess that we have wronged both you and those we love, not to mention strangers.

But were a recording made of all our words or a transcript produced of all our thoughts, we would soon realize that we have much to repent of. And, yet, the real trouble is not mere words or less than honest actions, but our hearts that are crowded with thoughts of ourselves.

O Lord, free us from this constant self-absorption and help us to see other people not as a means to our ends but as those made in your image yet needy, hurting and wanting love, just as we do.

Help us to do as we would be done by. Grant us the grace to seek and find a better way of living that reflects your compassion, your passion for justice and your forgiving heart. Lead us, Lord, lest we wander far down paths you never intended and miss the one we ought to be on. And we will give you the praise, through Christ our Lord. Amen

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### ‡CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, that God is and that we are God's  
Through all the trials and tears  
Through all the rotten things that happen  
Through all the lost dreams and lost loves  
This we will not stop believing  
That God is and that we are God's

We believe in Christ Jesus, God's beloved son  
Who startled doubters with his words  
Who amazed the broken with his healing  
Who died so we don't have to, not in any final sense  
Who loved us and loves us still  
This we will not stop believing  
That Jesus loved us and loves us still

We believe in the Holy Spirit  
Who moves in our lives like the wind  
Who brings people to us at the right moment  
Who brings us to others when we can help  
Who whispers encouragement  
and gives us peace  
This we will not stop believing  
That the Holy Spirit is among us  
Moving in our lives like the wind

We believe in each other  
That we are called to this community of faith  
This we will not stop believing  
That this is where we are supposed to be

These things we believe  
and will not stop believing.  
Thanks be to God.

\*GLORIA

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 513

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without  
end. Amen. Amen.*

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

*Daniel Lepoutre*

Acts 10:34-43

Peter fairly exploded with his good news: "It's God's own truth, nothing could be plainer: God plays no favorites! It makes no difference who you are or where you're from—if you want God and are ready to do as he says, the door is open. The Message he sent to the children of Israel—that through Jesus Christ everything is being put together again—well, he's doing it everywhere, among everyone.

"You know the story of what happened in Judea. It began in Galilee after John preached a total life-change. Then Jesus arrived from Nazareth, anointed by God with the Holy Spirit, ready for action. He went through the country helping people and healing everyone who was beaten down by the Devil. He was able to do all this because God was with him.

"And we saw it, saw it all, everything he did in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem where they killed him, hung him from a cross. But in three days God had him up, alive, and out where he could be seen. Not everyone saw him—he wasn't put on public display. Witnesses had been carefully handpicked by God beforehand—us! We were the ones, there to eat and drink with him after he came back from the dead. He commissioned us to announce this in public, to bear solemn witness that he is in fact the One whom God destined as Judge of the living and dead. But we're not alone in this. Our witness that he is the means to forgiveness of sins is backed up by the witness of all the prophets."

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

*Alleluia*

*The Chancel Choir*  
Randall Thompson

## Mark 16:1-8

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so they could embalm him. Very early on Sunday morning, as the sun rose, they went to the tomb. They worried out loud to each other, "Who will roll back the stone from the tomb for us?"

Then they looked up, saw that it had been rolled back—it was a huge stone—and walked right in. They saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed all in white. They were completely taken aback, astonished.

He said, "Don't be afraid. I know you're looking for Jesus the Nazarene, the One they nailed on the cross. He's been raised up; he's here no longer. You can see for yourselves that the place is empty. Now—on your way. Tell his disciples and Peter that he is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You'll see him there, exactly as he said."

They got out as fast as they could, beside themselves, their heads swimming. Stunned, they said nothing to anyone.

## CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER

## PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

## \*‡HYMN

*Lift High the Cross*

New Century (black) Hymnal 198

Arr. David Giardiniere

SERMON “*Practice Resurrection*”

*Rev. Avery C. Manchester*

RESPONDING TO GOD

## CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM  
*Hallelujah*

*The Chancel Choir, Organ and Brass*  
Ludwig van Beethoven

\*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

\*CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION

*Thine is the Glory*

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 193  
Arr. Robert Hobby

\*BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATION AND CHOIR RESPONSE

*Hallelujah Chorus*

George Frideric Handel

POSTLUDE

*Praise the Lord*

*Organ and Brass*  
Sigfrid Karg Elert

*Instrumentalists for the Service are:*

*Lowell Hershey and Jim Cifelli, trumpets; Bill Bonnell, French horn; Steve Shulman and Cliff Haynes, trombones; Eric Phinney, timpani; Mark Swicegood, organ.*

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**Youth Choir of  
The First Congregational Church of Greenwich**

*Lucinda Allen  
Jadesola Ariyibi  
Matthew Baptist  
Charlie Baird  
Amy Cass  
Ivan Golodinskii  
Olivia Hartwell  
Hosung Kwon  
Sarah Lauridsen  
Daniel Lepoutre  
Charlotte Lorthioir  
Julia McDonald  
Liz Morris  
Melanie Pfetsch  
Shaw Speer  
Katie Weatherseed  
Gillian Woodman  
Stephanie Woodman*

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At the conclusion of the services this morning, you will receive a Daffodil, a symbol of new life. The Daffodils for the Easter Service are a gift from the Jean Woodward Memorial Flower Fund.

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 have **child care for babies and toddlers** every Sunday. 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.

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## Easter Flowers

**The decorations in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in joyful and loving memory (M) of, and in honor (H) of:**

Joan and Jim Kreuter by their children and grandchildren (M)  
Charlie Robertson by his brother and sister, Eric and Betsy Kreuter (M)  
George Finch by Jane H. Finch (M)  
Our parents, Purisima and Feliciano Teria and Louise and Richard Haviland by Larry and Erlinda Haviland (M)  
Dana L. Anderson by her family (M)  
Melita and John Magness by their family (M)  
Our parents and grandparents, Harold Richmond and Ruth Browning Hopkins, and Raymond Leslee and Mildred McConnell Hamilton by Rich and Bobbie Hopkins (M)  
For our children, Richmond, Jeffrey and Sally and their children by Rich and Bobbie Hopkins (H)  
Bertrand Moss and Dr. Lee D. Davenport by Doris Moss Davenport (M)  
Our parents, Louise and Harrison Reed, and Margaret and Carleton Gisborne by Ruth and Gifford Reed (M)  
Efraim and Victoria Olson, Ryan and Margaret Rosendale (parents), and Erna Nelson (aunt) by Ken and Erna Olson (M)  
Elizabeth and Gerald Thurman, and Nancy and Tom Ragland by Marilyn and Tom Ragland (M)  
Barbara M. Tufts and James Anderson III by Ty, Cyndy, Jay and Katie Anderson (M)  
Charles Joseph Veith IV by his sister, Linda Veith Glover (M)  
Dr. David Young by Christopher A. Mill (H)  
Marian, Peter W. and F. Warren White by Thomas, Lori, Leighton and Owen White (M)  
Our son, Kim, by Harlan and Wendy Reynolds (M)

John Provoost by Jack, Judy, Michael, Jennifer and David Provoost (M)  
Our parents, Margaret and Earl Moore, and Selma and Josef Dunker by  
Earl and Darlene Moore (M)  
Tim Mahoney by his parents and siblings (M)  
Our parents and our sisters by Bob and Harriet Starr (M)  
My family by Thelma J. Colegrove (M)  
My family, now and before, by Bobby Littlefield (M/H)  
Art and Marge Billings, and Nina and Howie Flierl by Shirley and Peter  
Flierl (M)  
Maurice and Therese Vigneron, and Josef and Claire Meyer by Fred and  
Marie-Noelle Meyer (M)  
Donald L. Penwell (died 3/7/12) by his brother, William F. and Mary Jane  
Penwell (M)  
Carol C. Sweger by her loving family (M)  
Our parents and sister, Judy Parker, by Sandra and John McCue (M)  
Family and friends by Diane, Paul and Kate Kretschmann (M)  
Adrienne Schmitt by The Kuppenheimer Family (H)  
Finn, June and Gunther Breismeister by Ginny and Don Breismeister (H)  
Their parents, Alma and Steve Karch, and Betty and Fred Breismeister, and  
Don's brother, Fred by Ginny and Don Breismeister (M)  
Her husband, Clinton Olsen, and her grandson, Tucker Davis, by Eleanore  
Olsen (M)  
The Ainsworth Family

## *Calendar*

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### TODAY

#### **Church School**

Church School will resume on April 15. The Church School Task Force invites the entire congregation to join us for a Pancake Breakfast on *Sunday, April 22* in the Daniels Center. You may arrive anytime between 8:30 and 9:30 am for a full breakfast and fellowship.

#### **Youth and Cherub Choir Rehearsals**

There are no choir rehearsals today.

#### **linc**

There is no linc service today.

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## NEXT WEEK

### Wellness Event

Next *Sunday April 15 11:30-12:30* - *Whole Person Approach to Weight Loss* with Henri Roca, MD, Medical Director of Greenwich Integrative Medicine. One basic principle of holistic medicine is that people are individuals, and their plans for improving health should be tailored to their unique needs. Dr. Roca will discuss a holistic approach to weight management, and the various complementary medical disciplines that can help one achieve an optimal weight. He is board-certified by the American Academy of Family Practice and the American Board of Holistic and Integrative Medicine. In addition to providing comprehensive conventional care, Dr. Roca is a medical acupuncturist, hypnotherapist, massage therapist and biofeedback practitioner. So, please join us for what is sure to be an enlightening program.

### Nights Off

Nights Off will be meeting at Sue McCalley's home on *Monday April 16* at 6:00pm. We will spend the first part of the evening assembling crepes (the ingredients will already be prepared). These will be added to the food we prepared last month and frozen at the church for families in need (such as when there is an illness, death, etc.). We will then play the game, Bunco, and have refreshments. All ladies of the church are welcome. Any questions call or email Shirley Flierl at 203-629-4939 or [FBTworld@aol.com](mailto:FBTworld@aol.com).

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## NEWS AND NOTICES

### CROP Hunger Walk

“CROP” stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. We invite you to join us 2 weeks from today on *Sunday, April 22* for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Greenwich/Port Chester CROP Hunger Walk, this year being held at First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich, 1 West Putnam Avenue, Greenwich. Registration - 1:15 pm; Walk (under 2 miles) - 2:00 pm. For more information and to sign up to walk and/or volunteer, please visit the CROP Walk table at Coffee Hour or contact Mark Montgomery or Rosemary Lamie.

## **It's Coming!**

Well, yes, Jesus is coming, but if he is delayed, Bible Study will start *April 22* at 11:20 am in the Lounge.

## **“Swing into Spring”**

We are moving along with many interesting and creative donations for the auction being held *Saturday, April 28* at the Riverside Yacht Club. Please make sure there is room for you by sending in your reply card as soon as possible. Then you will be able to enjoy the dinner, the entertainment and the lively auction. We have houses, boats, food and other tempting items and services ready to be auctioned off. Happy Easter from the Fundraising Committee!

## **News from The Rummage Room**

The Rummage Room Committee, the Staff, and the Volunteers wish you joy of heart, peace of mind, and many blessings on this Easter morning.

- **April 9 through April 14:** The long and the short of it is The Rummage Room needs donations. Our Spring has been a long one and a productive one. The cupboard isn't bare but it could be in a very few weeks without your help. Hopefully this will give you the courage to go through your closets.
- **Manage Maria's Wish List:** Gifts for Mother's Day; Handbags; Spring and Summer clothing; Jewelry; Bric-a-Brac; Bikes of all sizes; Strollers.
- **Tuesday, April 17** is The Rummage Room “Volunteer Thank You Breakfast” at 9:00 am in the Church Auditorium. If you would be interested in becoming a volunteer at The Rummage Room, it would be a great place to come and get acquainted. Please call Maria at 203-637-1875 to sign up.
- Gift Certificates are available at The Rummage Room for any amount. Mother's Day is coming soon.

*This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

*Psalm 118:24*

## **Food Collection**

A reminder that the Food Collection Barrel remains in the back of the Meetinghouse, so please contribute food each week.

*Upcoming Events in the  
First Music and Arts 2011-2012 Series*



*Friday, May 4, 8:00 pm - Spring Music Festival  
Felix Mendelssohn Elijah*

First Congregational Church Festival Chorus and Orchestra

Randal Turner, baritone in the role of Elijah

Hanna Golodinskii, Carolyn Paulus, Katie Weatherseed, sopranos

Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano, Christopher Pfund, tenor

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, conductor

*Friday, May 11, 8:00 pm - Organ Recital by Thomas Dahl*

Cantor/Organist at St. Peter's Church,

Hamburg, Germany

*Sunday, May 13, 10:00 am - Music and Friendship Sunday*

The Entire Music Ministry of First Congregational Church

The Cherub, Children's, Youth,

Chancel, and Palmer Handbell Choirs

Featuring Antonio Vivaldi *Gloria* sung by the

Youth and Chancel Choirs

accompanied by a chamber orchestra

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*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  
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 Church School: Rosemary Lamie  
Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister  
Director of Publications: 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