

Founded in 1665

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

17 August 2014

10 o'clock in the morning





General view of Tyre by David Roberts



"Sidon"
By David Roberts (1796-1864)

We welcome you to this service of worship at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich on this late summer morning. In this hour of prayer and inspiration we invite you to set aside the burdens of life and open your heart to God's graceful Spirit.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

Intermezzo

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ
Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 118:19-29) *Olivia Gurciullo*

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made;

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: Let us give thanks for God is good,

Leader: And God's steadfast love endures forever.

All: Amen!

***HYMN**

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 35

OPENING PRAYER

We come to worship you, O Lord our God, to declare our trust in you and rejoice in the light of your love. Quiet our hearts and make us still in our spirits that we might know the wonder of who you are. We wait upon you, O Source of all joy -- we wait upon you and commit the moments of this holy hour into your hands. 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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Sue McCalley

Matthew 15:1-20

Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands before they eat.” He answered them, “And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? For God said, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.’ But you say that whoever tells father or mother, ‘Whatever support you might have had from me is given to God,’ then that person need not honor the father. So, for the sake of your tradition, you make void the word of God. You hypocrites! Isaiah prophesied rightly about you when he said: ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’”

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is

what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

From New Revised Standard Version

DUET *Lynette Pfund, soprano & Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano*
Domine Deus (from Grand Mass in C Minor)
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus pater omnipotens.
Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty.

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

From New Revised Standard Version

*HYMN

In Christ There is No East or West Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 414

SERMON

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Tyre and Sidon
Daniel Schlorff, guest preacher

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

And I Saw a New Heaven

The Summer Choir

Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

*DOXOLOGY

New Century (black) Hymnal 776

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*HYMN

Turn Back, O Man, Forswear Thy Foolish ways

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 451

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Fughetta

Josef Rheinberger

*Please join us for Coffee Hour in the Memory Garden
(weather permitting) following the worship service.*

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

Church School

Summer Church School: We have been having so much fun at the beach this summer, we have decided to continue *Bible Stories at the Beach* every Sunday. So if you are in town during August, bring your children to the 8:00 am Beach Service at Tod's Point. They can join Rosemary and helpers to explore God's creation and have some fun doing it. Meanwhile there is Child Care for infants-4 years old at this 10:00 am service. If you have questions or concerns about your child in worship, please confer with the adult in charge in the Undercroft. Ushers are able to direct you.

Blood Pressure Screening

Betsy Kreuter, PT, a member of the Wellness Committee, will be available for blood pressure screenings immediately following the Worship Service in Room 203.

Come One, Come All!

On *Sunday, August 31*, we will have not one, but TWO choirs for John Collins' final Sunday: A women's chorus and a men's chorus, each singing a special song. To give folks a chance to prepare more than just that morning, we will have a 15 minute rehearsal in the choir loft after worship for the next two Sundays. **TODAY** the ladies will gather following worship, and on *August 24*, the male voices will gather. Then, on *August 31*, the men will gather at 8:30 am in the choir loft, and the ladies will gather at 9:00 am, with a break at 9:30 for coffee and fellowship. Change your vacation schedules and join us for the extra special musical offering!



THIS WEEK

Nights Off Women's Group

Nights Off will meet tomorrow, *Monday, August 18* at Greenwich Point. For anyone who is in town and interested, please meet us at 6:00 pm at the beach for a great time to socialize and catch up with old friends and make some new ones. Please bring a snack to share



and whatever you would like to drink. Look for the group at the first set of picnic tables after going around the point past the Yacht Club and the sailing school. All women of the church are welcome to come and, as always, please feel free to bring a friend!

NEXT WEEK

Join us for the Last *Summer Sings!*

Have you missed singing in your choir during the summer? Then join us for the last *Summer Sings!* of the season on *Wednesday, August 27*. Just come as you are from 7:30-9:30 pm that evening and within these 2 hours we will have shared in an energized rehearsal and an 'instant performance' of Handel's *Zadok, the Priest*, and Haydn's *Te Deum in C*.



Music will be provided. Hospitality, refreshments, and fun are all included! No sign-up necessary. Just come ready to sing! (Suggested minimum donation of \$5 per person). We will meet in our air conditioned Meetinghouse. Non-singers are also welcome to enjoy the evening!

Beach Services during the Summer

Beach Services are held each Sunday at 8:00 am at Greenwich Point, weather permitting, **through Sept 7** (when our new Senior Pastor, Richard DenUyl will preach his first sermon there!). Communion is served every Sunday. Come and join us for this casual service.

Have You Joined Us for Summer Choir Yet?

There's still time to participate in the Summer Choir! Just join us on **Sunday mornings** at 9:00 am in the Meetinghouse for a warm-up and rehearsal for the music being done that Sunday. Come any Sundays that you are available. If you have any questions, please contact Craig Symons.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Note from Rev. Dan England

Dan England sent a note to the church this week, thanking everyone who contributed to his leaving gift. He is in the process of writing to

all those who gave, but because there were so many of you, it is taking quite a bit of time to complete the task. He asks for your patience and, once again, thanks you for your generosity.

Upcoming Church Committee Meetings

All church members are welcome, and encouraged, to attend our Church Committee meetings which are held on the first Monday of every month. Mark your calendars for the next meeting on *Monday, September 8* from 7:30 to 9:30 pm in the Lounge. See you there.

News from The Rummage Room 191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich Grand Reopening - August 25, 2014 Celebrating its 50th Year!

Monday, August 17: The Rummage Room will be closed one more week.

Monday, August 25: The Rummage Room will reopen for its 50th Grand Reopening - 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. *All 'new' merchandise.* Cashmere sweaters, handbags, jewelry, clothing, shoes, bric-a-brac and other great merchandise.

Tuesday, August 26: First day for the donations you have been saving for The Rummage Room – 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. **Maria needs shopping bags for Reopening Day ... asap!!!**

The Rummage Room was established in 1964 by the Women's Fellowship of First Church in order that all proceeds would go to help women and children's organizations both locally and worldwide. Over 4 million dollars has been distributed in the past 50 years and has impacted many lives along the way. Thank you for your continuing support.

Thought for the Day: *It is possible to give without loving, but it is impossible to love without giving.* -R. Braunstein

Tai Chi Classes

Come and experience the many wonderful benefits of Tai Chi and Qi Gong exercises with our new teacher, Joe Black. Classes are held on **Wednesdays** at 8:00 am and **Thursdays** at 9:00 am. Only \$10 per class. Join us! You can even just drop in. **All are welcome.**

Next Week at First Congregational Church

8:00 am Worship Service at the Beach (Tod's Point).

Beach Services will run through *September 7* (when new Senior Pastor, Richard DenUyl will preach his first sermon!)

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Music by:

The Summer Choir

Music Never Dies by Alfred Fedak

Rev. Mark Montgomery, preaching

Where to find us:

www.fccog.org

Facebook

Twitter

YouTube

Instagram



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.



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
Interim Senior Pastor: Rev. John W. Collins
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 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