

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

5 August 2012

10 o'clock in the morning



Holding On...Letting Go by Katie Berggren

<http://paintingmotherhood.blogspot.com>

<http://kmberggen.com>

As we usher in the month of August, we warmly welcome you to worship at First Congregational Church of Greenwich. We are glad that you are here to experience the spiritual nourishment offered by our time together, and we hope that God's loving Spirit will be deeply felt in your life.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Two Choral Preludes:

Everything is in God's Blessing

My Inmost Heart Now Raises

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God's touch of hope meets us in unexpected places.

People: God's touch of kindness walks toward us when we are most alone.

Leader: God's touch of healing reaches down into the depths of our souls.

People: We come to this place to be touched by God's love and surprised by grace.

***‡HYMN**

God Reigns O'er All the Earth New Century (black) Hymnal 21

(Please remain standing for the Opening Prayer through the Gloria)

***OPENING PRAYER** (*In unison*)

Eternal God, we gather today to thank you for creating the world and all living creatures. We come seeking the light of your Spirit and to live together as the people of Christ. Give us the strength to honor our covenant with you, that our souls might be restored in moments of doubt. Grant us the courage and insight to be the presence of Christ's grace to all we meet, and grant us your peaceful blessing as we journey through our lives. We ask as always in Jesus' name who taught us to pray saying,

***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.

***GLORIA**

New Century (black) Hymnal 754

Glory to God the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Jean Watkins

Psalm 139:1-10

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

Even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

SOLO
Deep River

Donald Haviland, tenor
Traditional Spiritual

SECOND LESSON

Luke 24:44-53

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

*‡HYMN

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lea

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 327

(As the hymn begins, the Church School children will leave for Summer Church School with Rosemary.)

SERMON

“Letting Go”

Rev. John W. Collins

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Hallelujah, Amen

The Summer Choir

G. F. Handel

*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

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (*seated*)

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

RECEIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (*in unison*)

We thank you, O God, for these moments of communion with you and each other. By these actions, we have renewed our commitment to bear your name and to follow you wherever you lead us. O Lord God, your great name be praised. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*HYMN

Lord God of Hosts, Whose Purpose

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 411

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

I Will Sing My Maker's Praise

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

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

Calendar

TODAY

Summer Church School

Summer Church School continues today. We meet in a one-room schoolhouse format with children 4/5 – 9/10; younger children are welcome in child care and older children are needed to help. Since the preschool is undergoing its annual "deep cleaning," child care and Church School will be in Room 104 at the bottom of the stairs on the way to the Daniels Center opposite the Noah's Ark mural.

NEXT WEEK

Summer Bible Study

There are two special Summer Bible Studies on the books of 2 Peter and Jude, closely related in many ways, but often ignored. The second one will be next *Sunday, August 12*. Led by Dan England.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Email Updates

Email is a great way to stay up-to-date with the activities and events going on at FCCOG in between monthly newsletters. If you have not been receiving these emails and would like to, please be sure to give your correct email address to Barb Wilkov at barbaraw@fccog.org or 203-637-1791 x24. We have many emails which have been undeliverable for various reasons and would like to update as many as possible. Don't miss out on the latest news! Update your email today.



Join us at the Beach!

Join us at Greenwich Point on Sunday mornings at 8:00 am for worship (weather permitting). Communion is served every Sunday.

Summer Choir

Join us any Sunday you are available during the summer at 9:00 am in the Meetinghouse for a warm-up and rehearsal for the music being shared in worship that Sunday. Anyone is welcome.

August 12: *All People at This Hour*, J. S. Bach

August 19: (two anthems) *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*, Maurice Bevan; *Sanctus*, Charles Gounod; Christopher Pfund, tenor

August 26: *Many Gifts, One Spirit*, Allen Pote



News from The Rummage Room

Reopening Day: On *Monday, August 27*, The Rummage Room will open for business at 10:00 am. This is a huge day for shoppers due to



the quantity and quality of merchandise that has been stockpiled for this special occasion, which in turn, makes it a huge day for the Women's, Children's, and Family projects that benefit from The Rummage Room's proceeds. In preparation for **Reopening Day**, the shop will be closed over the next month for cleaning, painting, repairs and restocking. The Rummage Room depends on your donations throughout the year and it is hoped that you will accumulate your donations and bring them to the shop on **Tuesday, August 28**, the day **after** Reopening. Please **do not** leave donations at The Rummage Room **during the time it is closed**. This would be a terrible waste as they will be treated as trash and carted away at The Rummage Room's expense.

If every morning, you can find a reason to say, "*Yes it's going to be a beautiful day;*" and every day, you find a reason to say, "*Yes, it is a beautiful day;*" and every night, you find a reason to say, "*Yes it was a beautiful day;*" then one day, you'll look back and say, "*Yes, it was a beautiful life!*"

Tai Chi Fitness with Luis Duarte



Improve your balance, health and well being. Come and experience the many wonderful benefits of Tai Chi and Qi Gong exercises. Classes are held on **Wednesdays** at 8:00 am and **Thursdays** at 9:00 am. Only \$7 per class if paid by the month, and \$8 per class for "drop ins." Join us! You'll love it! **All are welcome.**

Food Collection

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

Adding a few items to your weekly grocery store visit will make a significant difference at Neighbor to Neighbor. Items currently in need are:



Cereal; Oatmeal; Pasta Sauce; Dried Beans; 100% Juice; Canned Tomatoes; Peanut Butter (no larger than 28 oz., please) and Jelly. If you've forgotten your food items this morning, feel free to email fccoghungermission@gmail.com with your contact information and someone will pick up the food from your home and deliver to the Church for Neighbor to Neighbor.

Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Choral Music by The Summer Choir:

All People at this Hour by J. S. Bach

Solo by Soprano, Hanna Golodinskii:

The Lord's Prayer by Albert Malotte

Rev. Mark Montgomery, preaching

8:00 am Inland Beach Service – Greenwich Point

FCCOG's summer Beach Services are a wonderful,
casual time for worship, communion and community.

Please join us.

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 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