

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

## The Second Sunday of Advent

9 December 2012

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 Service of Worship at First Congregational Church of Greenwich during this sacred time of Advent.

*The season invites us to an adult spirituality. Advent calls us to both follow the star the long way to God's manger and recognize that the journey is a short one; a simple turn toward neighbor, world and self.*

~ Fr. Richard Rohr

---

## **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

\*All who are able please stand.

‡Seating of latecomers.

### **PRELUDE**

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

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

### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Rev. John W. Collins*  
*Rev. Mark D. Montgomery*

## **PRAISING GOD**

### **CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Christmas Bells Are Ringing*

*The Cherub Choir*  
English words by Paul R. Ladd  
*Donald Haviland, conductor*  
*Debbie Berner, pianist*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Leader: Blessed is the One who spoke and the world came into being.*

*People: Blessed is the One who creates the world.*

*Leader: Blessed is the One who speaks and does.*

*People: Blessed is the One who decrees and fulfills.*

*Leader: Blessed is the One who has compassion for the earth.*

*People: Blessed is the One who has compassion for all creatures.*

*Leader: Blessed is the One who rewards those who fear God.*

*People: Blessed is the One who lives eternally and exists forever.*

*Leader: Blessed is the One who redeems and saves.*

*All: Blessed is the Holy One.*

*Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley*

\*‡HYMN

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 110

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

*Members of the Edgehill Community*

**Reader:** "In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.'"

**Reader:** Today we remember the shepherds, workers for the common good, steadfast watchmen isolated and alone, far from the warmth of home, doing the job no one wants. And yet God saw them, God valued them, and God declared the greatest news of all to them alone.

**People:** Today we give thanks for the shepherds among us, back-breaking laborers on whom our economy stands, those we overlook or rarely see, yet rely on for our very survival, the ones who have much to teach us about watching for God in the darkness.

**Reader:** On this second Sunday in Advent, we light the second candle as a symbol of the shepherds, agents of the gospel and redeemers of the world.

**Lighting of the Second Advent Candle**

MUSIC DURING CANDLE LIGHTING *The Palmer Handbell Choir*  
*In the Bleak Midwinter* Arr. Kevin McChesney

OPENING PRAYER (*in unison*)

Come, O Creator, O Immensity of love, O Eternity of mercy.  
Come, and be with us and in us and beside us and over us. Be as hands upon us, and fashion us for shining. Be as warmth within us, and fire us for caring. Be as strength beside us, and shape our

lives for healing. Abide in our prayers, the spoken and the unspoken; and make your Word come true in our flesh; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, 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

*Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 115 – verse 4*

*All praise, eternal Son, to thee,  
Whose advent sets thy people free.  
Whom with the Father we adore,  
And Holy Ghost for evermore.*

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### FIRST LESSON

*Daniel Lepoutre*

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to the Galilean village of Nazareth to a virgin engaged to be married to a man descended from David. His name was Joseph, and the virgin's name, Mary. Upon entering, Gabriel greeted her:

*Good morning!  
You're beautiful with God's beauty,  
Beautiful inside and out!  
God be with you.*

She was thoroughly shaken, wondering what was behind a greeting like that. But the angel assured her, "Mary, you have nothing to fear. God has a surprise for you: You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and call his name Jesus.

*He will be great, be called 'Son of the Highest.'  
The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David;  
He will rule Jacob's house forever—no end, ever, to his kingdom."*

Mary said to the angel, "But how? I've never slept with a man."

The angel answered,

*The Holy Spirit will come upon you,  
the power of the Highest hover over you;  
Therefore, the child you bring to birth  
will be called Holy, Son of God.*

"And did you know that your cousin Elizabeth conceived a son, old as she is? Everyone called her barren, and here she is six months pregnant! Nothing, you see, is impossible with God."

And Mary said,

*Yes, I see it all now: I'm the Lord's maid, ready to serve.  
Let it be with me just as you say.*

Then the angel left her.

From *The Message*

## SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

*The Youth Choir*

*The Race That Long In Darkness Pined*

Arr. Richard Peek (1927-2005)

*Carolyn Paulus, conductor*

## SECOND LESSON

*Dick Peebles*

**Luke 1:46-55**

**A**nd Mary said,  
I'm bursting with God-news;  
I'm dancing the song of my Savior God.  
God took one good look at me, and look what happened—  
I'm the most fortunate woman on earth!  
What God has done for me will never be forgotten,  
the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others.  
His mercy flows in wave after wave  
on those who are in awe before him.  
He bared his arm and showed his strength,  
scattered the bluffing braggarts.  
He knocked tyrants off their high horses,  
pulled victims out of the mud.  
The starving poor sat down to a banquet;  
the callous rich were left out in the cold.

He embraced his chosen child, Israel;  
he remembered and piled on the mercies, piled them high.  
It's exactly what he promised,  
beginning with Abraham and right up to now.

From *The Message*

\*‡HYMN

*Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 109

*(During the Hymn, the Church School children and teachers will leave for their classrooms. Children in second grade and older will leave independently. Children in kindergarten and first grade will meet their teachers at the back of the Meetinghouse (narthex) and will go to their classrooms as a group.)*

SERMON

*"How Can This Be?"*

*Rev. Avery C. Manchester*

PIANO SOLO

*A Child is Born*

Thad Jones

*While this song wasn't written by him, this is played in memory of jazz legend Dave Brubeck, a dear friend to the First Church family for many years. His connection was very strong in the years when Richard Vogt was Director of Music. Dave and his family often shared their talents during worship and in numerous concert appearances. We are grateful for the impact this gentle giant had in the musical fabric of this church and around the world.*

**RESPONDING TO GOD**

PASTORAL PRAYER

*Rev. Daniel B. England*

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Springs in the Desert*

*The Chancel Choir*

*Arthur Jennings*

*Christopher Pfund, tenor*

**\*DOXOLOGY**

(sung to tune of *All Creatures of Our God and King*)

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

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD**

**\*HYMN**

*Lift Up Your Heads*

New Century (black) Hymnal 117

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

*Noel*

Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

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

---

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning have been given with grateful memories of their parents by Barbara and John Norrgard.

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.

---

## *Giving Opportunities for the Season*

### **The Giving Tree**

The deadline for wrapping and delivering your gift(s) for our friends at Pilgrim Towers is this *Wednesday, December 12*. We came up a little short on the gifts for H.O.M.E. There were three wish tags unclaimed and 5 tags are missing with no name entered into the book. If you would like to contribute even a few dollars to a fund that will be used to purchase the remaining requests, please let Rosemary know because she will place the orders and have them shipped directly to H.O.M.E. A huge "Thank You" to everyone who was able to participate in sharing Christmas joy with Pilgrim Towers and H.O.M.E.



### **Mitten Tree**

Throughout Advent, the Mitten Tree is available in the Auditorium to accept gifts of mittens, hats, gloves and socks that will be delivered to St. Luke's Lifeworks to help warm the hands and hearts of those who benefit from St. Luke's services.



### **White Gifts**

White Gifts are offerings of new clothing, toys, books or other useful items wrapped in white paper that are offered during our 10 am and 4 pm services on Christmas Eve. The white paper gives the illusion of snow under the trees in the Meetinghouse. The gifts will be sent to Covenant to Care for Children, which provides advocacy, mentoring, and direct assistance to children and youth who are neglected, abused or at risk. Warm clothes, coats, educational toys, family board games, and gift cards (for Target or Walmart for teens) are particularly appreciated. Ribbon and bows are not necessary but **please attach a tag listing the contents including age, gender & size.** (Hint: If you find yourself without white paper, some patterned papers reverse to white, or use white tissue paper.)

## Christmas Tree Sale



One of the ways that we increase the amount we are able to share through the Outreach Budget of FCCOG is through our Annual Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale! The sale will continue each weekend from 9:00 – 4:00 pm until the trees run out! You can help by purchasing your tree (and other items) from us and tell all your friends too!

## Neighbor to Neighbor

This Saturday, *December 15* is the last opportunity of 2012 for FCCOG members and friends to volunteer at the Neighbor to Neighbor Food Pantry and Clothing Room. Please let Rosemary know ASAP by emailing her at [RosemaryL@fccog.org](mailto:RosemaryL@fccog.org) if you can join us anytime between 8:30 am and 12:30 pm that Saturday. We need several people during the course of the morning.

## Calendar

---

### TODAY

#### Church School

Today most of our children will hear about the Annunciation to Mary of her coming motherhood. The 3rd graders will learn about the Book of Psalms. Later today at the Christmas Carol Dinner, there will be a special Children's Time between dinner and caroling, so we hope to see you all there! Next Sunday, our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be going to Pilgrim Towers for their annual Christmas visit.

#### Flu Shots

There are still a few flu shots available. Please look for your Parish Nurse in Room 203 immediately following the worship service. The cost for the vaccine is \$30, cash or check made out to "FCCOG."

#### Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, RN, is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations in Room 203 following today's worship service.

#### Youth and Cherub Choir Rehearsals

The Youth Choir will rehearse today from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm in the Choir Room. The Cherub Choir will have no rehearsal today.



Join us today at 5:00 pm in the Auditorium for our *linc* worship Service and then stay for the Christmas Carol Sing and Dinner! During *linc*, our story continues and now the young child has reached adulthood...what does all this mean??? Come to *linc* and find out. Join us as actors, once again, tell the story of a woman from birth to adulthood. We then couple that story with our own and those from scripture as we experience the Advent journey. This is a casual worship service appropriate for all ages, so come as you are and bring all your friends!

### Christmas Carol Sing and Dinner

Join us **tonight** from 6:00 to 8:00 pm for this favorite Christmas event! **Please bring your favorite side dish to share with 8-10 people.** Entrees, beverages and dessert are being provided. A suggested donation for the meal is \$5/person with a maximum of \$20 per family. It will be a night of food, fellowship and a rousing Christmas Carol sing-along. And warm up your voices by attending *linc* first at 5:00 pm.



---

## THIS WEEK

### *Messiah* is Coming!

The first rehearsal for our 46<sup>th</sup> annual performance of *Messiah*, under the direction of Director of Music, Dr. Craig Scott Symons is tomorrow from 7:30-10:00 pm in the Meetinghouse. A dress rehearsal with orchestra will take place this **Wednesday, December 12** from 7:30-9:30 pm. Performances of this special holiday treat will be held on **Saturday and Sunday, December 15 and 16** at 4:00 pm in the Meetinghouse. A \$20 donation per person is suggested to help support this and other exciting music programs. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to experience this wonderful holiday tradition!

---

## NEXT WEEK

## Bible Study

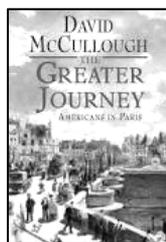
Save the date! Join us on *Wednesday, December 19* at 7:00 pm in the Auditorium for the showing of Pier Pasolini's *The Gospel According to Matthew*, an Italian film that will make you wonder why Hollywood even bothered trying to do a life of Jesus. Suggested by our own Ken Olson, it will be a film night to remember.

---

## NEWS AND NOTICES

### *Hats Off* Book Discussion Group

*Hats Off* will be starting a new book on Thursday, *January 3, 2013* - *The Greater Journey; Americans in Paris* by David McCullough. Copies are available in the Church Office. Enjoy the tales of these adventurous Americans who set off for Paris in the years between 1830 and 1900, "hungry to learn and excel in their work. What they achieved would profoundly alter American history." *Hats Off* meets on Thursdays from 10:00 am to 11:30 am in the Lounge. Any questions, please call Debbie Berner at 203-629-1110.



### 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.**



### News from The Rummage Room 191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

#### December Calendar

**Monday, December 10:** 25% off Christmas clothing, gift items and decorations through Saturday, December 15.

**Monday, December: 17:** 50 % off everything in the shop, including Christmas items, through Friday, December 21.

**Friday, December 21:** Holiday party for our shoppers from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm with cookies and eggnog.

**Friday, December 21:** Shop will close at 5:00 pm for the Holidays

and reopen Wednesday, January 2, 2013 at 10:00 am.

**Tuesday, December 25:** Thank you and may the blessings of the season enrich your Holiday - Merry Christmas to all.

**Wednesday, January 2, 2013:** Shop reopens with a week-long Winter Clearance Sale from 10:00 am to 5:00 daily.

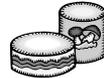
**Wednesday, January 2, 2013:** First day to receive donations - 9:30 am to 4:30 pm.

\*\*\* Please do not leave donations in the back or at the front door while The Rummage Room is closed over the Holidays.

*Rejoice! Jesus was born on Christmas Day so that we might live our lives in peace ,harmony, love and respect for one another. Hallelujah!*

### Food Collection

There continues to be great need for food at Neighbor to Neighbor, between the hurricane and the holiday season. Please remember to contribute food each week. The Food Collection Barrel remains in the back of the



Meetinghouse. Adding a few items to your weekly grocery store visit will continue to make a significant difference at Neighbor to Neighbor. In particular need at this time is canned fruit. They do not need any canned meats, such as tuna, for the moment. Other items in need include:

- Cereal
- pasta sauce
- dried beans
- canned tomatoes
- smaller size peanut butter
- jelly
- 100% juice

*Next Week at First Congregational Church*

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Music by:

**The Chancel Choir**

*Qui Creavit Celum* by Roland Martin

**The Children's Choir**

*A Litany for Advent* by Shirley McRae

**The Palmer Handbells**

*What is This Lovely Fragrance?* Arr. Cathy Mocklebust

**Rev. John Collins, preaching**

\*\*\*

orillinc  
get connected

**4:00 pm in the Meetinghouse**

Next week *linc* will join forces with our choir and share in the *Messiah* together in the Meetinghouse at 4:00 pm.



-----

## Christmas Memorial/Honor Flowers and Decorations

The Chancel Committee invites contributions for decorations for the Meetinghouse this Christmas. Any amount is welcome. The deadline for delivering the completed form with your check to the Church Office (payable to the First Congregational Church Flower Fund) has been extended to *Sunday, December 16.* Thank you.

In Memory/Honor of

---

---

---

By

---

---

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

**Please print names legibly to minimize spelling errors.**



## Celebrate Advent and Christmas at FCCOG

### *The Services of Advent*

Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

*December 2, 9, 16 and 23*

### *Christmas Carol Sing & Dinner*

Sign up today for this favorite  
Christmas event!

Join us for a night of food,  
fellowship and a rousing  
Christmas Carol sing-along.  
*Sunday, December 9, 6 pm*

### *Part I of Handel's Messiah and Hallelujah Chorus*

Our annual candlelight  
performances of this masterpiece  
will be held in the Meetinghouse  
*December 15 and 16 at 4 pm.*

This year the soloists will be:  
Adele Crawford, soprano;  
Linnea Conley, alto;  
Jonathan Blalock, tenor; and  
Daniel Schlorff, bass.

### *Christmas Eve Services*

10:00 am - Children's Service

4:00 pm - Family Service:

*Once in Royal David's City*

5:00 pm - Community Carol Sing

8:00 pm - Carols and Communion

11:00 pm - Candlelight Service



Find us on Facebook and LIKE the page!

We're now on Twitter @FCCOGCT

Check out our new YouTube page, too!

And visit our Forum and start a conversation.



## *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 Church School: 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