

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Second Sunday after Christmas

3 January 2016

10 o'clock in the morning



Hourglass, Xiao Mei Lin

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 worship this morning at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich as we begin a new year – may we have an Epiphany. Challenges are many but in Christ’s fellowship we find strength, understanding, wisdom, peace and joy. Let’s walk together in and with the light and love of Christ.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

Prelude in B Minor

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ
Cesar Franck (1822-1890)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

FIRST CHURCH FLASHBACK

Ginny Breismeister

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

People: A time to be born, and a time to die;

Leader: A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

People: A time to break down, and a time to build up;

Leader: A time to weep, and a time to laugh;

People: A time to mourn, and a time to dance;

Leader: A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

People: A time to seek, and a time to lose;

Leader: A time to keep, and a time to throw away;

People: A time to keep silence, and a time to speak.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 Selected Verses

***HYMN**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 7

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God,
Thank you for the gift of today.
Invite us to discover your presence
In each person that we meet
And every event that we encounter.
Teach us when to speak and when to listen,
When to ponder and when to share.
In moments of challenge and decision
Attune our hearts to the whisperings of your Wisdom.
When our day goes well, may we rejoice.
When it grows difficult, surprise us with
New possibilities.
When life is overwhelming, call us to
Sabbath moments.
May our living today reveal your Goodness.
We ask this in Jesus' name, whose prayer we 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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Virginia Richards

Luke 12:22-25

He said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?"

From New Revised Standard Version

ANTHEM

Jesus Said Unto the People

The Chancel Choir

John Stainer (1840-1901)

*For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven,
and giveth life unto the world.
Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.
And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life:
he that cometh to me shall never hunger;
and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.*

SECOND LESSON

Joe McBride

Psalm 90:1-6, 12

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;

in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

From New Revised Standard Version

* HYMN

God of Our Life, Through All the Circling Years

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 97

SERMON

The Wise Heart

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

Joe McBride

OFFERTORY

The Chancel Choir

How Great is the Goodness of God

Robert Greene (b. 1957)

*Let all consider what God has given.
All that we have are gifts from God above.
The Lord has not forgotten us.
And we should not forget this love.*

*How great is the goodness of God almighty!
Is there anyone who has not known such goodness?
For all gifts come from God almighty.
All praise and honor belong to our Lord.*

*Oh grant us comfort in time of trouble;
Guide us, oh Lord, through joyful days,
For we would not forget your goodness;
With thankful hearts we sing your praise.*

*O God, let your goodness and love be boundless;
Always remaining before our eyes.
O strengthen us with your great power.
So we may give back to you our lives.*

*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

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RECEIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

In the tradition of our church, let us partake of the bread (gluten-free) as it is served, remembering our individual uniqueness in the eyes of God and our diversity within the Body of Christ. Let us hold the cup (grape juice) until all have been served, remembering our oneness with God and our unity in the Body of Christ.

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

* HYMN

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 1

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

March

Felix Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

* * *

Directly following the service, one of our pastors will remain in the Chapel to be available to anyone who has a pastoral care concern.

Please join us for Fellowship Hour in the Auditorium following the worship service.

We have **child care for babies and toddlers** every Sunday in the Preschool classrooms. Your children are always welcome in child care for the entire worship service or for a respite time if needed. We also now have two rows in the back of the chapel reserved for parents with infants or little ones who are not ready for the Nursery where the parents can be comfortable *and* still be part of worship. Please see an usher if you need help finding either of these locations.

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

Church School

Today in Church School we conclude our learning about Christmas journeys with the Journey of the Magi. Next Sunday we begin a special January series tailored to each grade level.

Caregivers Support Group

Our Caregivers Support Group will meet today from 11:15 am to 12:00 pm in the Binney Conference Room. This group, which meets the first Sunday of each month, is for those who currently are, or recently have been, a caregiver for a family member or friend.

Dorothy Mueller, FCCOG Stephen Minister is the group facilitator and can be reached at 203-588-9896 or email:

dorothymueller1@gmail.com.

THIS WEEK

Hats Off Book Discussion Group

Our book study group, *Hats Off*, begins again this *Thursday, January 7* in the Binney Conference Room (2nd floor of the Church Office building) from 10:00-11:30 am. The first book of 2016 is *American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North*

America by Colin Woodard. This award-winning journalist and historian takes readers on a journey through the history of our fractured continent, offering a revolutionary and revelatory take on American identity, and how the conflicts between them have shaped our past and continue to mold our future. Please contact Jean Bruder at 203-661-1685 to order your paperback. See you there!

NEWS AND NOTICES

Happy New Year from The Rummage Room *191 Sound Beach Avenue*

Monday, January 4, 2016: The Rummage Room rings in the year 2016 with a 50% off Winter Clearance Sale and 75% off Christmas Merchandise Sale. See 50% off merchandise for sale at www.fccog.org/the-rummage-room/.

Manager Leanne's Wish List: Handbags, gloves, adult and children's sweaters, and shopping bags in all sizes.

Shop Hours: 10 am-5 pm Monday-Friday & 10 am-1pm Saturday.

Donation Hours: 9:30 am-4:30 pm Monday-Thursday & 9:30 am-12:30 pm Friday and Saturday. The Rummage Room cannot accept skis or ski boots, but we *do* accept ski clothing, ice skates and sleds.

2016: If you are planning to go on a diet January 1, remember to laugh a lot because, when we laugh, it's like jogging inside our bodies...and, as we all know, jogging is good for us. Have a wonderful New Year. Let's all make it a wonderful year for others by donating, shopping and volunteering at The Rummage Room. All proceeds go to help those in need.

Tai Chi Classes

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 \$10 per class. Drop-ins are welcome.

Neighbor to Neighbor –

Food Collection Barrel in Entrance to the Church

Please don't forget those in need this winter. **Items especially needed are dry beans (kidney, garbanzo, etc.)** Also, cereal, canned fruit, pasta, peanut butter, jelly, sheets & towels. Tuna is **not** needed.

Where to find us:

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

Ministers: The Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Senior Pastor: Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

Transitional Associate Pastor: Rev. Meghan D. Young

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

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Family Ministries: Rosemary Lamie

Youth Coordinator: Donald Haviland

Director of Church Administration & Finance: Steve Summerton

Office Manager/Sr. Administrative Assistant: Donna White

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Director of Communications: Barbara Wilkov

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner