

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

# The Sunday of Epiphany

6 January 2013

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.*

**O**n this first Sunday of the New Year, we welcome you, glad you have chosen to start your next year with our community of faith. We pray that this year will be full of hope and promise for you and your family.

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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**

*Prelude and Fugue in E Minor*

*Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ*

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Rev. Daniel B. England*

### **PRAISING GOD**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

#### **\*‡HYMN**

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 143

#### **OPENING PRAYER *(in unison)***

O Lord, our God, we have come here this morning eager to face the new year with your blessing and the well wishes of friends.

We are not unaware that many of the issues and problems of last year linger. But we pray for new insights into ourselves and our lives so that the outcomes might be different. Teach us and guide us in the name of the one 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 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

*Al Primo*

Matthew 2:1-6

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

### SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

*The Chancel Choir*

*Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies*

Harold Darke (1888-1976)

*Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only light,  
Sun of Righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.  
Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;  
joyless is the day's return, till thy mercy's beams I see;  
till they inward light impart, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.*

*Visit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
fill me, Radiancy divine, scatter all my unbelief;  
more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.*

SECOND LESSON

*Joe McBride*

2 Corinthians 4:1-7

Therefore, since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God’s word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.

\*‡HYMN

*Tell Me Why*



Tell\_\_ me why\_ the stars do shine.      Tell\_\_ me why\_ the i - vy twine.  
Be-cause God made the stars to shine.      Be-cause God made the i - vy twine.



Tell\_\_ me why\_ the skies are blue      And I will tell you just why I love you.  
Be-cause God made the skies so blue.      Be-cause God made you is why I love you.

*(When the hymn is over, 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**

*In Earthen Vessels*

*Rev. Daniel B. England*

**RESPONDING TO GOD**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

*Rev. John W. Collins*

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*The Chancel Choir*

*Behold a Star from Jacob Shining*

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

*Behold a star from Jacob shining, and a scepter from Israel rising.  
To reign in glory over the nations.*

*Like some bright morning star is he; the promise of the coming day,  
beyond the night of sorrow.*

*Break forth, O Light! We, our joyful hearts uplifting with  
thanksgiving, Hail the brightness of Thy rising.*

**\*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**

**SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER** *Rev. Avery C. Manchester*

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

**RECEIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

**MUSIC DURING COMMUNION**

*Gentle Redeemer*

*Hanna Golodinski, soprano  
G. F. Handel (1685-1759)*

**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**

*Arise, Your Light Is Come*

New Century (black) Hymnal 164

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

*Prelude on "Lobe den herren"*

Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748)

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

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The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in loving memory of Clark Whittemore, Jr. by his family.

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.

*Calendar*

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**TODAY**

## Church School

Church School resumes today. Everyone is learning about Epiphany. Next week is a regular Church School Sunday and the following Sunday, January 20, is a Big Event.

## Contribution Envelopes

For those who requested them, a set of contribution envelopes for the year 2013 will be available in the Auditorium during Coffee Hour every Sunday in January, starting today *Sunday, January 6*. If you neglected to ask previously, but still would like a set, please contact Kirk Young at [kirky@fccog.org](mailto:kirky@fccog.org) or ext. 32; we still have a few left that have not yet been spoken for.

## "Souper Bowl Sunday" Soup Sale – Sign up Today!

Get your soup recipes ready to donate soup for *Sunday, February 3* when the Women's Fellowship Soup Sale takes place. Soup



donations have begun! Please sign up to donate soup **today** at Coffee Hour or anytime in the Church Office (instructions and containers are there as well). Quarts of soup, chili or stew will be sold on February 3 from 11:00

am – 1:00 pm (or as long as supplies last!) in the Auditorium. All proceeds go to support Women's Fellowship projects. For more information call Sue McCalley at 203-273-6526.

## Youth and Cherub Choir Rehearsals

The Youth Choir will rehearse today from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm in the Choir Room and the Cherub Choir will rehearsal from 11:15 to 11:45 am in Room 104.

## 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.

Join us at our *linc* service today at 5:00 pm in the Auditorium. Our theme today is “*Water that Cleanses.*” We’ve just finished the birth narratives (Christmas story) and now we are onto the next story in the Gospels. These Gospels are interested in the Godliness of Jesus. In Matthew 3, Mark 1:1-11, Luke 3:1-22 and John 1:19-34, you’ll see different accounts of Jesus’ baptism. What is the importance of cleansing for us? Why is it that baptism is important at all? This is a casual service good for all ages, so come as you are and bring the whole family!

### Join the First Church Festival Chorus!

Rehearsals for the *Spring Festival of the Arts* performance of the Brahms *Requiem* begin *today, January 6*, from 7:00-9:00 pm. Future rehearsals will be **Feb. 3, March 3, April 7, 14 and 21**, and they culminate in the performance on *April 28* at 4:00 pm. The accompaniment will be Brahms’ own 4-hand piano version with Jayson Engquist and Jon Hunt at the piano, conducted by Craig Scott Symons, Director of Music. Soloists will be Hanna Golodinskii, soprano and John Hummell, bass. We will be using the Schirmer (English) edition and scores will be provided. If you have your own, bring it along. There is no fee required to be part of this exciting choral opportunity. If you would like to join us in singing, please email Craig at [craigs@fccog.org](mailto:craigs@fccog.org). Please share this information with your singing friends and neighbors!



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## NEXT WEEK

### Bible Study in the New Year

Among those New Year Resolutions you plan to make may be one to tone up your spiritual life by being a more informed Christian through Bible Study. But Bible Study on your own can be daunting, which is why you don't do it. So why not get into shape with others in a brand new Bible Study starting next *Sunday, January 13* right after church?



Besides meeting a lot of nice people and hearing some really interesting insights and discussions, you can be home in front of your

roast beef way before 1 o'clock (the class runs from 11:20 am to 12:30 pm). This winter, we're going to start with the book of James, probably the earliest piece in all the New Testament. James, of course, is Jesus' brother and you have to think that what James writes is not very far from conversations he must have had with Jesus.

Therefore, it is a fascinating addition to what we know about Jesus and his teaching - but outside the four gospels and the letters of Paul.

And because there is a strong ethical content in James, it fits nicely into our consideration of *Generous Justice* by Timothy Keller (available on Amazon), probably picking up with Chapter 6 two or three weeks after we look at James. So, resolve now to come and give your spirit a lift. Led by Dan England.

### A Call to Moms

If you're the mother of one or more young children, some days can be challenging and even a bit lonely. Well, the church would like to give you a boost, if you're willing. Join us *Friday, January 18* at 9:15 am in Room 104 for the initial meeting of MOYC, Mothers of Young Children.



This is not a play group, as such, but a chance for mothers of infants and toddlers to meet, to talk and generally, to give each other a little support for what you all do. From time to time, if the group decides on it, there may be a program, say, on parenting or some other kind of activity. But to begin with, you are invited to come along on the 18th and find out more about how such a group might give you a lift to your spirit and maybe an idea or two of how to cope with complicated family lives these days. For more information, contact Kristen Jacks at 203-344-1961.

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## NEWS AND NOTICES

### Call to the 342nd Annual Meeting

The 342nd Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, is hereby called for *Sunday, January 27, 2013*, immediately following the worship service. The meeting will be held in the Meetinghouse:

- To hear and act upon the annual reports of the pastors, officers and committees;
- To hear and act upon the report of the Nominating

- Committee, and to elect officers for the coming year;
- To adopt the budget for 2013;
  - To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

### **Ordination of Jack Davidson**

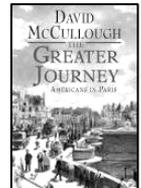
*Friday, February 1, 2013, 7:30 pm*

Many of you had the privilege of being a part of Jack Davidson's Ecclesiastical Council. It was a wonderful event, resulting in the unanimous recommendation that Jack be approved for ordination. We now have the great honor of hosting a *Service of Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament* for Jack. This is the final step in Jack's journey toward Ordination and Full Standing within the Fairfield West Association and the United Church of Christ as a Pastor. Please join us *February 1, 2013* at 7:30 pm in the Meetinghouse for this service. A reception will follow.



### ***Hats Off* Book Discussion Group**

*Hats Off* just started a new book, *The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris* by David McCullough. 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.



### **Happy New Year from The Rummage Room**

*191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich*

**Monday, January 7:** The Rummage Room is open for business with a good selection of winter clothing; ski wear; home goods; shoes; jewelry; bric-a-brac; handbags; children's apparel; books; and more. Donations have been steady since the shop reopened on January 2.

**Hours of Operation:** Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and on Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

**Donations Hours:** Monday through Thursday from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm and on Friday and Saturday from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

**Manager's Wish List:** Ski wear; large shopping bags; belts; hats; scarves; mittens and gloves; sleds. **NOT ACCEPTED:** Skis, ski boots or ski poles.

**Want to Volunteer?** Call Manager Maria at 203-637-1875 and find a time that fits your schedule. Any amount of time is appreciated.

**Mission Objective:** Proceeds from The Rummage Room go to Women's, Children's, and Family organizations in CT and around the world.

Gene Rosen, Newtown CT, after he sheltered Sandy Hook children in his home the day of the shootings: *"They are just so sweet and so innocent. These children are always in my prayers. I want to meet them in the light, because we came together in the darkness."* May we, as a nation, strive to keep our sweet and innocent children in the light as we pray that God's will be done on earth as in heaven!

***Next Week at First Congregational Church***

**10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse**

**Choral Music by The Chancel Choir:**

*Lord, Make Me Know Thy Ways* by William Byrd

*O Splendor of God's Glory Bright* by David Ashley White

**Rev. Avery Manchester, preaching**

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**linc Worship Service 5:00 pm in the Auditorium.**

**Theme:** *Water of Life* – John 7:37-44

This story of life-giving water is amazing. As the story goes, Jesus shares just a few words with the crowd but something about the way he said it, the fact that they had never heard anything like this, or maybe just that they really understood a water image...something about the story opened people's eyes to the importance of Jesus for the first time.

Rev. John Collins preaching.

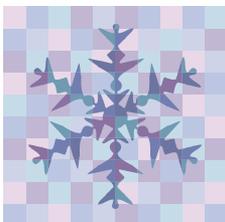
**Our *linc* worship is casual, so just come as you are!**

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