

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

## The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

29 July 2012

10 o'clock in the morning



*The Workers in the Vineyard* by Kazakhstan artist, Nelly Bube



**W**elcome to First Congregational Church of Greenwich. We trust this service of worship will give you encouragement, engender hope and lead to friendship and a renewed spirit. If you are visiting with us, please make yourself known to one of the pastors and feel free to join us for a time of fellowship and refreshment immediately following the service.

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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**

*Mark Swicegood, guest organist/director*  
*Symphony III: Allegro Maestoso* Louis Vierne

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Rev. John W. Collins*

### **PRAISING GOD**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Leader: Hallelujah!*

*People: Hallelujah!*

*Leader: Give thanks to God with everything you have.*

*People: Whenever people gather in a congregation of gratefulness,  
God is with us.*

*Leader: The Lord is good.*

*People: Praise his holy name.*

*Leader: Let us worship God.*

#### **\*‡HYMN**

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

*Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 366*

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

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

O Lord, our God, you have called us from places of darkness and doubt into the light and refreshment of your grace, through Jesus Christ. We gather in gratefulness and humility to hear your word, to lift beautiful anthems to your ears, and to unburden our hearts so we may live life to the fullest. We ask your blessing on each person here this morning. Help us to seek and remember that which is truly important; our purpose and your salvation. And so we pray together the prayer that Jesus wanted for his disciples, 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**

*Daniel Lepoutre*

**Psalm 82**

**G**od calls the judges into his courtroom,  
He puts all the judges in the dock.

"Enough! You've corrupted justice long enough,  
you've let the wicked get away with murder.  
You're here to defend the defenseless,  
to make sure that underdogs get a fair break;  
Your job is to stand up for the powerless,  
and prosecute all those who exploit them."

Ignorant judges! Head-in-the-sand judges!  
They haven't a clue to what's going on.  
And now everything's falling apart,  
the world's coming unglued.

"I commissioned you judges, each one of you,  
deputies of the High God,  
But you've betrayed your commission  
and now you're stripped of your rank, busted."

O God, give them their just desserts!  
You've got the whole world in your hands!

*From The Message*

#### SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

*The Summer Choir*

John Rutter

#### SECOND LESSON

*Peter Schay*

#### Matthew 20: 1-16

“God's kingdom is like an estate manager who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. They agreed on a wage of a dollar a day, and went to work. Later, about nine o'clock, the manager saw some other men hanging around the town square unemployed. He told them to go to work in his vineyard and he would pay them a fair wage. They went.

He did the same thing at noon, and again at three o'clock. At five o'clock he went back and found still others standing around. He said, 'Why are you standing around all day doing nothing?'

They said, 'Because no one hired us.' He told them to go to work in his vineyard.

When the day's work was over, the owner of the vineyard instructed His foreman, 'Call the workers in and pay them their wages. Start with the last hired and go on to the first.'

Those hired at five o'clock came up and were each given a dollar.

When those who were hired first saw that, they assumed they would

get far more. But they got the same, each of them one dollar. Taking the dollar, they groused angrily to the manager, 'These last workers put in only one easy hour, and you just made them equal to us, who slaved all day under a scorching sun.'

He replied to the one speaking for the rest, 'Friend, I haven't been unfair. We agreed on the wage of a dollar, didn't we? So take it and go. I decided to give to the one who came last the same as you. Can't I do what I want with my own money? Are you going to get stingy because I am generous?'

Here it is again, the Great Reversal: many of the first ending up last, and the last first." From *The Message*

**\*‡HYMN**

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus* Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 335

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

**SERMON**

*"It's Not Fair!"* *Rev. Daniel B. England*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Count yourself lucky, how happy you must be –  
you get a fresh start, your slate's wiped clean.

Count yourself lucky—  
GOD holds nothing against you  
and you're holding nothing back from him.

When I kept it all inside,  
my bones turned to powder,  
my words became daylong groans.

The pressure never let up;  
all the juices of my life dried up.

Then I let it all out;  
I said, "I'll make a clean breast of my failures to GOD."

Suddenly the pressure was gone—  
my guilt dissolved,  
my sin disappeared.

*Psalm 32:1-5, The Message*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Symphony III: Intermezzo*

Louis Vierne

\*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

*Amazing Grace*  
*(verses 1,2,3 & 5)*

New Century (black) Hymnal 547

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

*Symphony III: Final*

Louis Vierne

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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](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

#### **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. You can meet your children after worship in the Preschool.

#### **Blood Pressure Screening**

A member of the Wellness Committee is available to check blood pressures in Room 203 following the Worship Service.

#### **Summer Bible Study**

There will be two special Summer Bible Studies on the books of 2 Peter and Jude, closely related in many ways, but often ignored. The first will be today at 11:20 am after worship and the second will be *August 12*. To prepare, please read the two books -- it won't take you long -- and see if you can figure out why they were written and possibly to whom. There are clues all over the place. Still, they were latecomers to the New Testament and it will be fun to try to figure out why and why they don't get much air time these days. Led by Dan England.



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### NEXT WEEK

#### **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. Also, on *August 5*, anyone who would like an extra rehearsal of the anthems for that month is welcome to meet in the Choir Room at 11:15 am to get a jump-start

on the upcoming anthems. No reservation is needed and anyone is welcome.

**August 5:** *Hallelujah, Amen*, G. F. Handel

**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



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## 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](mailto: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.

### 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 closed yesterday, Saturday, July 28 for a month of 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 the 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.

To the family and friends of those who recently lost their lives in Colorado: *Death leaves a heartache no one can heal. Love leaves a memory no one can steal.* - Author Unknown.

### 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)
- Jelly

If you’ve forgotten your food items this morning, feel free to email [fccoghungermission@gmail.com](mailto: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.



## New ways to connect with FCCOG



[Join us on Facebook](#) (and “like” the page)



[Join us on Twitter](#) @FCCOGCT

Visit our [Forum](#) at [www.fccog.org/forum](http://www.fccog.org/forum)

### *Next Week at First Congregational Church*

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

**Choral Music by The Summer Choir:**

*Hallelujah, Amen* by G. F. Handel

**Solo by Donald Haviland, tenor:**

*Deep River*

**Rev. John Collins, preaching**

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**8:00 am Inlc 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](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 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