

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

## **The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

**30 June 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.*



Welcome to this service of worship at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich. As we begin our time of worship together today, we invite you to reflect on the word “freedom.” We hear it a lot around Independence Day, but what does freedom mean to you? What does it mean to be a “free spirit”? How does freedom affect your faith? We are certainly called by God to rich, rewarding lives, but how do we get there?

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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 on *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

*Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ*

Emma Lou Diemer (b. 1927)

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Rev. Mark D. Montgomery*

### **PRAISING GOD**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP** (*in unison*)

We gather freely to worship, recognizing that it is a privilege to raise our voices in gratitude to God. May the fullness of this hour bind us one to another, empowering us to be advocates for peace, seekers of justice, and agents of hope. Together, our voices raised, let us sing the songs of freedom for all God’s people, not only within these church walls, but throughout the world.

#### **\*‡HYMN**

*God of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand*

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 433

#### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

*Rev. Avery C. Manchester*

## 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

*Donald Haviland*

### 2 Kings 2:6-14

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, “Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?” When he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

From *NRSV*

## SECOND LESSON

### Galatians 5:1; 13-18

**C**hrist has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you.

It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows. For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom. If you bite and ravage each other, watch out—in no time at all you will be annihilating each other, and where will your precious freedom be then?

My counsel is this: Live freely, animated and motivated by God's Spirit. Then you won't feed the compulsions of selfishness. For there is a root of sinful self-interest in us that is at odds with a free spirit, just as the free spirit is incompatible with selfishness. These two ways of life are antithetical, so that you cannot live at times one way and at times another way according to how you feel on any given day. Why don't you choose to be led by the Spirit and so escape the erratic compulsions of a law-dominated existence?

From *The Message*

## SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

*How Shall I Sing That Majesty?*

*The Summer Choir*

J. R. Daniels

## SERMON

*Living by the Spirit*

*Rev. Mark D. Montgomery*

## RESPONDING TO GOD

### \*‡HYMN

*This is My Song*

New Century (black) Hymnal 591

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother, and to whose deeds we testify:

God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.

God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

*United Church of Christ Statement of Faith* - adapted by Robert V. Moss

### CALL TO OFFERING

### ORGAN OFFERTORY

*O God of Every Nation*

Emma Lou Diemer

### \*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.*

## GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

### \*HYMN

*O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 440

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*CHORAL RESPONSE

### POSTLUDE

*Procession*

C. S. Lang (1891-1971)

*Please join us for Coffee Hour following the worship service.  
Weather permitting, we will meet in the Memory Garden.*

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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

**Summer Church School** (*Bible Stories at the Beach*) is held at the 8:00 am Beach Service during June and July. **At 10:00 am** we have Child Care for infants through 4 years old. If you have questions or concerns about your child in worship, please confer with the adult in charge in the Undercroft. Ushers are able to direct you. Also, Church School teachers are still needed for the 2013-2014 program year. Please contact Rosemary Lamie at 203-637-1791 x 20 or [RosemaryL@fccog.org](mailto:RosemaryL@fccog.org) for more information or to sign up.



*linc* has moved to the Beach! Our 5:00 pm service is done until the fall, but *linc* is now taking place at 8:00 am at Greenwich Point weather permitting. Be sure to join us!

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## NEXT WEEK

### Summer Choir

Please join us on Sunday mornings this summer at 9:00 am in the Meetinghouse for a warm-up and rehearsal for the music being done that Sunday. Everyone is welcome to come before the start of the service to learn a simple anthem. Come any Sundays that you are available to help lead the congregation in worship. It's also a chance to experience worship from the choir loft. If you have any questions, please contact Craig Symons (ext. 22).



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## NEWS AND NOTICES

### Daily Devotions from the UCC

For a daily faith-filled moment, the UCC has the *Stillspeaking* Daily Devotional that can be emailed directly to you. Sign up at <http://www.ucc.org/feed-your-spirit/daily-devotional/> for this daily inspirational message.

### Memorial Donations for Tim Manchester

A number of people from our church family have inquired about making memorial contributions for Tim Manchester, Avery's son, who died tragically last month. To honor Tim's life, a Family Planning Center is being created in Tanzania to further the important work that Tim felt so passionately about. It is called the **Tim Manchester CCBRT Family Planning Center** and you can make a gift online by visiting: <http://www.crowdrise.com/TimManchesterCCBRT/fundraiser/ChloeManchester>. You can also send a gift to: **Kupona Foundation - Tim Manchester Family Planning Center, 37 West 72nd Street, 3D New York, New York 10023**. To learn more about Tim and his impressive professional accomplishments please visit:



<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2813%2961234-9/fulltext>. Hard copies of this article are also available in the Church Office.

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

**Monday, July 1:** The Rummage Room will be open Monday, July 1 through Wednesday, July 3 with 50% off all red, white or blue merchandise.

**Thursday, July 4:** The Shop will be closed for the celebration of Independence Day. Have a great day and stay safe!

**Friday and Saturday, July 5 and 6:** The Rummage Room will be open at 10:00 am.

**NOTE:** Early 3:00 pm closings begin Friday, July 5 through July 26.

**July Shopping Hours (starting July 5):** 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Thursday; 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Friday; 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturday.

**July Donation Hours (starting July 5):** 9:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Thursday; 9:30 am to 2:30 pm Friday; 9:30 am to 12:30 pm Saturday.

**Wish List for July:** Musical instruments including an accordion; bikes for all ages; weights between 4 - 10 lbs; cashmere sweaters; jewelry; handbags.

**Saturday, July 20:** LAST DAY FOR DONATIONS UNTIL TUESDAY, AUGUST 27 AT 9:30 AM.

The Rummage Room will CLOSE ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 31 at 5:00 pm for cleaning, repairs and restocking for the reopening. The Rummage Room will celebrate its Grand Reopening on **Monday, August 26**, at 10:00 am.

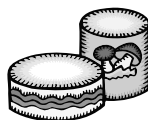
*The nicest place to be is in someone's thoughts. The safest place to be is in someone's prayers, and the best place to be is in the hands of God.*

**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 will be held on **Thursdays** at 9:00 am throughout the summer. (Wednesday morning classes will return in the fall). 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

There continues to be great need for food at Neighbor to Neighbor. Please remember to contribute each week. The Food Collection Barrel remains in the back of the Meetinghouse.



### *Next Week at First Congregational Church*

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Music by:

The Summer Choir

*Praise Christ, Alleluia* by Eugene Butler

Christopher Pfund, tenor

*A Simple Song* by Leonard Bernstein,

Rev. Mark Montgomery, preaching

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### **drillinc** Beach Service

Beach Services are held each Sunday at 8:00 am at Greenwich Point (weather permitting). Communion is served. Come and join us for this casual service.

*Bible Stories at the Beach*, our Summer Church School, also takes place at this time down at the beach, so bring the whole family!

The 5:00 pm *linc* service will resume in the fall.



Find us on [Facebook](#) and LIKE the page!  
We're now on [Twitter](#) @FCCOGCT  
Check out our [YouTube](#) page, too!



## *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