

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

17 March 2013

10 o'clock in the morning



The Demise of Enmity (stained glass) by Edie Martin
<http://www.ediemartinstainedglass.com/>

* * * *

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 sincerely and warmly welcome you to this service of worship at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich. We are glad you are here and we hope that your heart will be filled with the joy, strength and comfort of God because you have chosen to be here this morning. Please join us for coffee following the service in the Auditorium, which is out the back and up the stairs.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

‡Seating of latecomers.

PRELUDE

Romanza

Jayson Engquist, organ

William Walton (1902-1983)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

CALL TO THE SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

MOMENT OF OPPORTUNITY – Lenten Offering Appeal

Jacquelynn Velez, William Burdick, Young Mariners Foundation

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come let us worship God.

People: Our God is not far from us but near us and we call out his name.

Leader: Holy Spirit, be among us.

People: Even as Jesus was among us on the earth.

All: Alleluia, Amen.

***‡HYMN**

God of Grace and God of Glory

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 366

OPENING PRAYER *(in unison)*

Rev. Daniel B. England

Oh God of life, who has given us the capacity for love, compassion and goodness, help us this day to worship you and to understand more deeply the dimensions of your grace to us. We pray for those who surround us in this place that we may be Christ to them and they might be Christ for us. Bless, we pray, this congregation and all that we undertake in your name. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, 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.

*RESPONSE

New Century (black) Hymnal 208 (verse 1)

God loved the world, and loving gave a wondrous gift, the lost to save, that all who would in Christ believe should everlasting life receive.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Sue McCalley

Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the

calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. *From NRSV*

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

A Litany

The Chancel Choir

Philip Moore (b. 1943)

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 1:8b-14

With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory. *From NRSV*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rosemary Lamie

***‡HYMN**

Seek Ye First (words and music on next page)

(As the hymn begins, 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.)

Seek Ye First

D F#m G D G
Al - le - lu - ia, Al -

1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God and his
2. Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and

D Em7 A7 D F#m
le - lu - ia, Al - le -

righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be
ye shall find; knock, and the door shall be

G D G D A7sus A7 D
lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

SERMON

Joy to the World

Rev. Daniel B. England

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. John W. Collins

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Restore My Soul

The Chancel Choir
Robert J. Powell (b. 1932)

*Restore my joy, O Lord, My heart is standing still.
O touch me, reach my emptiness, Retrieve my broken will.*

*O God, who sees beyond our sight, who hears our every prayer,
Remake our foolish human faith, For always you are there.*

*Accept my life, O Lord, My heart: flawed, frail, and spent,
Requires the comfort of thy love to mend life's discontents.*

Philip Moore is a British composer and has served in several major cathedrals in England, including Guildford, Canterbury, and York Minster. Moore has a Greenwich connection as he regularly works with the choristers at Christ Church. The anthem uses the poignant poem from Phineas Fletcher (1582-1650):

*Drop, drop, slow tears, and bathe those beauteous feet,
which brought from heaven the news and Prince of Peace.*

*Cease not, wet eyes, his mercies to entreat;
to cry for vengeance sin doth never cease.*

*In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears
nor let his eye see sin, but through my tears.*

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in memory of Catherine G. Weigner by her husband, Arthur C. Weigner and son, Stephen A. Weigner.

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. A bulletin can be found there as well as a link to the live broadcast. Previous sermons may also be found there.

Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath March 15-17

This weekend, places of worship are uniting to lift our voices in common prayer, action and idea-fostering to respond to the issue of gun violence in our communities. This morning, may your own prayers be added to our collective ones. It is the hope of many that our congregation may find a way to be a voice of compassion and reason in what will surely be an ongoing dialogue to find the best responses to gun-violence. To that end, if you would like to be a part of some grassroots conversation regarding gun violence, gun control and how our congregation may respond, please join us on *Thursday, April 11* at 6:30 pm in the Lounge. We hope to have a diversity of voices and ideas and look forward to where the spirit may lead our conversation and our action. If you plan to attend, please contact the Church Office to let us know.

Church School

Our children will be learning about Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane after the last supper. The emphasis here is on prayer – Jesus prayed to God when he was scared and so can we; Jesus prayed to God to ask that “Thy will be done” just as we do. Next Sunday, Palm Sunday, there are no regular Church School classes but children will have the option to come to Room 104 before the sermon and watch an Easter video. They are also welcome to stay in the Meetinghouse for the entire service. After church, there is a special church meeting and there will be child care and snacks for children during that time.

Choir Rehearsals

Choir rehearsals today are: Cherub Choir from 11:15 to 12 Noon in Room 104 and Youth Choir from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm in the Choir Room. There is no Children’s Choir rehearsal today.

2013 Church Telephone Directory

The Telephone Directory of Members and Friends 2013 will be available at Coffee Hour today. Please pick up your copy. If you prefer to

have it mailed, please contact Donna White at 203-637-1791 ext. 14 or donnaw@fccog.org.

Wellness Second Hour – Today at 11:15 am

The Wellness Committee is pleased to welcome Lise Jameson, LCSW, Executive Director of *At Home In Greenwich, Inc.*, an organization that assists senior residents of Greenwich with both the practical means and the confidence to live their lives to the fullest in their own homes as they grow older. They provide peace of mind by offering many services including referrals (from healthcare to home repair), social work assessments, and varied social events. Ms. Jameson will explain this unique local program and answer our questions. We hope you can join us in the Lounge after the Worship Service (approximately 11:15 am).

Friendship Quilt

The friendship quilt for David and Michelle Young is completed! Thanks to all of you who completed a square, stitched and quilted. The quilt will be on display for the last time at Coffee Hour today then mailed to the Youngs.



At our *linc* service today Mark Montgomery will be on! Join us at 5:00 pm in the Auditorium. This is a casual service good for all ages, so come as you are and bring the whole family!

THIS WEEK

Nights Off Women's Group

Nights Off will be meeting tomorrow, **Monday, March 18** at 6:30 pm at the home of Sue Asselin. We will be watching the movie, *Get Real, Wise Women Speak* with a short discussion to follow. Please bring a snack to share and whatever you would like to drink. Any questions, call Shirley Flierl at 203-629-4939 or email her at FBTworld@aol.com. All women of the church are



invited to attend. Call a friend and invite them to join us!

New Weekday Bible Study with Rev. Dan England
Starts *Thursday, March 21, 10:15-11:15 am*

This class is great for those who would like to understand the Bible but have no background in it. The class is open to anyone and everyone. Join us twice a month on Thursdays, starting this Thursday, March 21, 10:15-11:15 am in Room 104.



Neighbor to Neighbor

This *Saturday, March 23* is a great opportunity for FCCOG members and friends to volunteer at the Neighbor to Neighbor Food Pantry and Clothing Room. Please let Rosemary know ASAP if you can join us anytime between 8:30 and 12:30 pm by emailing her at RosemaryL@fccog.org. We need several people during the course of the morning.

CPR & Defibrillator Practice

This *Saturday, March 23* there are 2 opportunities to refamiliarize oneself with the church's AED (defibrillator) - 9:00 am and 10:30 am. These one-hour refresher classes are intended for individuals who are currently certified in CPR, and do not result in any further certification. For those individuals who were certified at FCCOG last March, your certification is good for 2 years, and this purely provides practice with our own model of AED and a run through of CPR. Please contact your Parish Nurse, Sue Asselin, at x21 to register.



NEXT WEEK

Call to a Special Congregational Meeting

A Special Congregational Meeting of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, is hereby called for *Sunday, March 24, 2013*, immediately following the worship service. The meeting will be held in the Meetinghouse to adopt the budget for 2013. (Child care and a snack will be available in Room 104). **Note:** After the adjournment of the Congregational Meeting a Church Hall Meeting will be held.

Kathleen McLennan, Church Clerk

NEWS AND NOTICES

Current and Former Ushers Needed

We will need 8 ushers for the two Easter services (9:00 and 11:00 am). If you will be able to help at either service, please call Bobby Littlefield at 203-967-3341 or email her at bobbylitt@aol.com. Your help will be much appreciated!

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Sunday, March 17: Happy St. Patrick's Day - 'Tis-the-Wearin'-of-the-Green-Day!

Monday, March 18: Manager Maria will have 50% off on several selections of spring merchandise through Saturday, March 23.

Wednesday, March 20: First Day of Spring - At last, at last - all's right with the world. To celebrate, come in and shop at The Rummage Room.

Monday, March 25: All Easter decorations will be 50% off for the week.

Friday, March 29: *THE RUMMAGE ROOM WILL BE CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY.*

Saturday, March 30: The shop will be open for last minute Easter shopping from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Maria's Wish List: Particularly needed are good spring handbags, nice jewelry and women's and men's belts! Also, single and double strollers; boys' blue blazer size 14 husky; men's and boys' ties; Mother's Day gifts; Mother-of-the-Bride dress size 6; flower girl dress for a two year old; children's Easter clothing.

Shopping Hours: Monday through Thursday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and on Saturday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. (*Closed Good Friday*).

Donation Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:30 am to 4:30 pm and on Saturday 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

(*Closed Good Friday*).

An Irish Blessing: *May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sunshine warm your face, the rain fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand. Amen.*

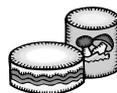


Tai Chi Fitness with Luis Duarte

Improve your balance, health and well being. Come and experience the many wonderful benefits of Tai Chi and Qi Gong. 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! **Good for all levels.** **NOTE:** The Wednesday morning class needs more attendees or it will no longer be available. Please pass this information along to anyone you think might be interested.

Food Collection

There continues to be great need for food at Neighbor to Neighbor. 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. If you've forgotten your food items this morning, feel free to email fccoghungermission@gmail.com with your contact information and someone will pick up the food from your home.



Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse
Palm Sunday

Music by The Chancel Choir:

Hosanna to the Son of David by Tomas Luis da Victoria

The Children's Choir:

Wave Your Branches by Thomas Pavlechko

Rev. John Collins, preaching



linc Worship Service 5:00 pm in the Auditorium.

Rev. Mark Montgomery, preaching

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

Holy Week Schedule

March 24: Palm Sunday

Child care available

March 28: Maundy Thursday

6:00 pm Supper and *7:00 pm* Tenebrae Service

March 29: Good Friday

12:00 pm Cross Walk to Greenwich Point

8:00 pm Service

featuring First Church Chancel Choir Good Friday Concert

March 30: Easter Saturday

10:00 am to 12 Noon Egg Dyeing and Scavenger Hunt

March 31: EASTER

6:30 am Sunrise Service at Greenwich Point (in lieu of *linc* service)

9:00 and *11:00 am* Festival Services in the Meetinghouse
with choirs, brass and timpani; child care available.

No *5:00 pm linc* service



Easter Memorial/Honor Flowers and Brass

The Chancel Committee invites contributions for flowers in the Meetinghouse this Easter and, for the first time this year, the Church Committee also invites contributions for Easter Brass. You may give to one, the other or both. Any amount is welcome. Please deliver the completed form with your check to the Church Office (payable to *The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*) on or before *Sunday, March 24*. Thank you.

Please accept my contribution to (check 1 or both):

_____ Easter Flower Fund _____ Easter Brass

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

By:

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____

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

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