

*The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Celebrating 350 Years
1665-2015*

Palm Sunday



*29 March 2015
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 Palm Sunday service of worship at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich. We hope that this time together offers you strength and encouragement for your faith journey.

Palm Sunday
29 March 2015
10 o'clock in the morning

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

Trumpet Tune in D

*Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ
Flor Peeters (1903-1986)*

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

PRAISING GOD

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

God Loves You, God Loves Me

*The Cherub Choir
Margaret C. McNeil
Donald Haviland, conductor
Debbie Berner, piano*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Cry out people of faith! Rejoice and praise God!

People: If we did not sing praise, the very stones would cry out!

Leader: Cry out people of faith, for Christ draws near to Jerusalem.

People: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Leader: Blessed is the Christ, who did not turn back for fear of the cross, but poured out all that he had for love.

People: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

* HYMN

All Glory, Laud and Honor

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 155

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Humble and riding on a donkey,

we greet you;

Acclaimed by crowds and caroled by children,

we cheer you;

moving from the peace of the countryside to the corridors of power,

We salute you: Christ our King.

You are giving the beast of burden

a new dignity;

you are giving majesty

a new face;

you are giving those who long for redemption

A new song to sing.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Grant David Doyle,

son of Susan Bonney Doyle and Sean Wagstad Doyle

BAPTISM PRAYER *(in unison)*

Gracious God, giver of life, you have called us by name, and pledge to each of us your faithful love. We pray today for your blessing on **Grant** that you will watch over him and guide him as he grows in faith. Remind us of the promises of our own baptism, and renew our trust in you. Make us strong to obey your will and to serve you with joy, through the power of your Holy Spirit. All of this we pray as Jesus taught us 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.

BAPTISMAL RESPONSE

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

New Century (black) Hymnal 325

*Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit's sign;
With this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace divine.*

(During the Baptismal Response, our children and helpers will go to the Daniels Center for an all-age one-room schoolhouse service event and will learn more about Palm Sunday, including what to do with those palms! There is a regular Church School class for our 3's and 4's in the Purple Door Classroom.)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

THE LESSON

Mark 11:1-11; 14:3-12

Jean Watkins

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his

disciples and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Stuart McCalley

While Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger, “Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.” And they scolded her. But Jesus said, “Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

From New Revised Standard Version

* HYMN

The Palms (words and music at back of bulletin)

SERMON

Holy Waste

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Way to Jerusalem

The Chancel Choir
Harold Friedell (1905-1958)
Thomas Woodman, bass

And it came to pass when the time was come that he should be received up, he steadfastly set his face to Jerusalem. And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way. Others cut down branches from the trees and strewed them in the way. And the multitudes that went before and that followed, cried, saying "Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest."

And when he was come near, he beheld the city and wept over it, saying, "If thou had'st known, even thou. At least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace, but now they are hid from thine eyes, Jerusalem!" Who watched while Majesty rode on to die, crying hosanna in a joyful song. Could'st thou not heed the distant warning cry of heaven's apprehensive, waiting, throng?

Hosanna to the King! Thine acclamations ring, while God the Father veils his face, and God the Son his griefs embrace, sing thine own griefs, Jerusalem! Jesus saith, "Father, save me from this hour; but for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify thy name."

And there came a voice from heaven saying "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again." Jesus answered and said, "this voice came not because of me, but for your sakes."

*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

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

* HYMN

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty New Century (black) Hymnal 215

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Postlude in C Major

Arthur Foote (1853-1937)

* * *

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.

The calla lilies in the Meetinghouse on this Palm Sunday are given in loving memory of our parents, Margaret and Carleton Gisborne, by Claire Henry and Ruth Reed and our families.

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in celebration of the baptism of Grant David Doyle by his parents, Susan Bonney Doyle and Sean Wagstad Doyle.

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. On Church School Sundays we also have a class for 3 and 4-year olds during the entire 10:00 am service. Please see an usher if you need directions to child care or Church School.

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 our children in Kindergarten and older will be in the Daniels Center for a one-room schoolhouse activity. Our 3- and 4-year-olds will have their regular class in the Purple Door. Next Sunday, Easter, there will be child care for infants through 4-year-olds. The following Sunday, April 12, will, again, be a Service Sunday. April 19 and 26 will be a two week Rotation Program about Communion.

Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, R.N. is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations in Room 203 following today's Worship Service.

Choir Rehearsals

Choir rehearsals today are: Cherub Choir from 11:15 to 11:45 am in Room 104, Children's Choir from 11:15 am to 12 Noon in Room 303 (Craig's office) and Youth Choir from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm in the Choir Room.

THIS WEEK

Film Screening Tuesday

First Congregational Church and First Church Preschool are partnering with the Greenwich YWCA and The Junior League of Greenwich to present a new documentary film by Jennifer Siebel

Newsome, director of *Miss Representation*. *The Mask You Live In* is an exploration of young American masculinity and asks the question, "Are we failing our boys?" This one-time-only showing was rescheduled due to inclement weather and is now on *Tuesday, March 31* at Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas, 2 Railroad Ave., Greenwich. Doors



open at 6:30 pm. Tickets \$10 in advance at <http://www.ywcagreenwich.org/events/womens-leadership-seminars/mask-live-movie-screening/>; \$15 at the door. \$5 for 18 and under (film not suitable for children under 13 years).

NEWS AND NOTICES

Lenten Offering Project:

Easter "Spring Basket" for Covenant to Care for Children

In addition to our financial donations, the First Church Lenten Offering "Hands On" project is assembling Easter/Spring gift baskets to brighten the day for boys and girls in crisis, ages 5 to 16. You can help with this fun project by bringing supplies and goodies for the baskets to Church and drop off at the Church Office during Holy Week. *You do not need to bring a complete basket*, feel free to donate any small school supply, toy, etc. Thank you so much for bringing a smile to a child or teen! Any of the following items would be great!

Medium to Large Easter Baskets!: Can be a traditional Easter basket, other basket, new sand bucket, creative or practical container.

Wish List for Contents:

- * **School Supplies:** Pencils, tape, manual sharpener, colored gel pens, safety scissors, paper clips, erasers, glue sticks, etc.
 - * **Small Journals:** (5" x7" fun design, spiral bound or other)
 - * **Small Stuffed Animals (new):** 5" - 10"
 - * **Personal Products:** Fun toothbrush, new brush (travel size?), comb, mirror, travel shampoo, hair accessories, hair bands, *nail polish*
 - * **Gift Cards:** \$10-15 gift cards to movie theater, fast food, Walmart
 - * **Candy:** Hard candy, No nut products!
 - * **New Toys and Amusements**
 - * **Girls:** nail polish, trinket jewelry, small crafts, small dolls, hair accessories
 - * **Boys:** Small cars, squishy footballs, Hackey Sack, small action figures, small crafts, little plastic army guys!
 - * **Both:** Mad Libs books, maze and puzzle books, coloring books, joke books, comic books, sidewalk chalk, bubbles, Play-Doh, crayons, washable color markers. UNO cards, stickers, Slinky, pinwheels.
- What to avoid:** Plastic eggs, plastic grass, candy with nuts or nut products, used toys.

*** Do You Have a Favorite Hymn? Share it with us! ***

Many folks have asked to sing a favorite hymn of theirs over the past few months, so we came up with a new way to help get your favorite hymn in the service. **When you sign the red attendance pad, put your favorite hymn on the line under your name** (hymnal and hymn number) and we will include it in worship, where appropriate, beginning after Easter. The hymn will be designated in the bulletin by "CC" after the hymn, which means "Congregational Choice."

Lenten Offering 2015

Raise up a child in the way they should go and when they are old, they will not turn from it. -Proverbs 22:6

Providing a safe place in which young people can explore who they are and the ways God is working through and with them has long been a goal of those who work with the youngest among us here at First Church. We have sought to raise our children well and our prayer is that we will plant the seeds of faith that serve them their whole lives. This year, our Lenten Offering seeks to offer that same grace to two communities outside of our church walls: **Silver Lake Conference Center** and **Covenant to Care for Children**. Join us during this Lenten journey as we learn more about the ways we may respond to the need of God's children in the world. More information can be found about both communities in the March Meetinghouse Monthly and in a mailing which you should have received in the mail.



News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, March 30: ATTENTION SHOPPERS! The Rummage Room is closing its doors for good on April 1st. All merchandise will be free that day until the shop is empty. The Women's Fellowship opened the doors to The Rummage Room over 50 years ago and it has been a wonderful journey for all who passed through. This includes customers, donors and the many volunteers who have given countless hours of their time throughout the years in order to keep The Rummage Room running and profitable. Thank you one and all for your services in helping to raise money and awareness for

Women's and Children's organizations at home and throughout the world.

Wednesday, April 1: APRIL FOOLS!! Just so you know, the above is just a prank to let you know how it would feel if the RR did close! So 'Happy April Fool's Day' a few days early!!! Fortunately, The Rummage Room is alive and well and plans on keeping their doors open and welcoming for at least another 50 plus years! Join the people who gather year after year outside The Rummage Room to be entertained by the 'live' mannequins who will be rotated in and out of the windows all day long. It is rumored that Associate Pastor of Youth Ministry, Mark 'Cool Hand' Montgomery, and Youth Group Leader, Donald 'Charlie Brown' Haviland will be in the windows for approximately an hour starting at 11:00 am. *You will not want to miss any part of this day ... come early and come often!!!!*

Friday, April 3: The shop will be closed on Good Friday as part of Holy Week.

Saturday, April 4: The Rummage Room is open 10 am to 1 pm.

Manager Maria's Wish List: Spring and summer clothing; Easter decorations; handbags; DVDs; bikes; stroller; small furniture.

Shop Hours: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday & 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturday.

Donation Hours: 9:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Thursday & 9:30 am to 12:30 pm on Saturday. Thank you for donating only clean, salable goods.

As we walk with Christ during this Holiest of weeks, may we be inspired to work tirelessly for peace and justice in our troubled world. We are continually faced with a series of opportunities and it is up to us to have the courage to do what we can to meet those tasks.

Tai Chi Classes

TRY IT OUT! Come and experience the many wonderful benefits of Tai Chi and Qi Gong exercises. Classes are held on **Wed** at 8:00 am and **Thurs** at 9:00 am. Only \$10 per class. Drop-ins are welcome.

Neighbor to Neighbor – Food Collection

Please don't forget those in need. **Items especially needed are canned meats, such as Spam, chili, etc.** Tuna is **not** needed at this time. Other items include: Cereal, canned fruit, pasta, peanut butter, and jelly. Sheets and towels are always needed.

Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

April 5, 2015

Easter Services

6:15 am Sunrise Service at Greenwich Point

(Rev. Mark Montgomery, preaching)

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

(Rev. Richard DenUyl, Jr., preaching)

Music by:

The Chancel Choir, Brass, and Organ

Alleluia by Randall Thompson

Christ, Our Passover by Will C. Macfarlane

The Youth Choir

Come, Ye Faithful by R. S. Thatcher



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday Dinner and Service

RSVP Today! This *Thursday, April 2* is **Maundy Thursday**. Join us at 6:30 pm sharp (doors open at 6:00 pm so come early) for a brief Passover Seder followed by Communion in the Auditorium. Our traditional Maundy Thursday soup, including a vegetarian option, will be served. The service will end at 8:00 pm. RSVPs are requested. Please email barbaraw@fccog.org or call the Church Office.

Good Friday Cross Walk

Starting at 12:00 noon on Friday, come encourage the Youth during our annual **Cross Walk** down Sound Beach Avenue to Greenwich Point where the cross will be positioned in the sand on the beach in preparation for the Easter Sunrise Service.

Good Friday Concert

Join us on **Good Friday** at 8:00 pm in the Meetinghouse as we present *Requiem* by John Rutter, featuring The First Congregational Church Chancel Choir and Chamber Ensemble, conducted by Director of Music, Craig Symons. There will be a free-will offering.

Easter Saturday Family Fun

Saturday, April 4 is **Easter Saturday**. Bring the whole family from 10:00 am-12:00 pm in the Daniels Center for Easter egg dyeing (you bring the hard boiled eggs ready to decorate and we'll supply the rest!) as well as other activities to teach the meaning and joy of Easter. Please sign up on the easels in the auditorium or the Preschool. All are invited.

Easter Sunday Services

Join us on Easter for these very special services: **6:15 am** Sunrise Service at Greenwich Point; **9:00 am & 11:00 am** Festival Services in the Meetinghouse with choirs, brass and timpani; child care available.



Easter Memorial/Honor Flowers and Brass

The Chancel Committee invites contributions for flowers in the Meetinghouse this Easter and 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*) by **TODAY, Sunday, March 29**. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY. 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 \$ _____

(Please print names legibly to minimize spelling errors.)

The Palms



O'er all the way green palms and blos - soms gay
His word goes forth, and peo - ple by its might.
Sing and re - joice, O blest Je - ru - sa - lem.



Are strewn this day in fes ³ - tal prep - a - ra - tion.
Once more re - gain free - dom from de - gra - da - tion.
Of all thy sons sing the e - man - ci - pa - tion.



Where Je - sus comes to wipe our tears a - way
Hu - man - i - ty doth give to each his right
Through bound - less love the Christ of Beth - le - hem



E'en now the throng to welcome him pre - pare, Join all and sing, His
While those in dark - ness are restored to light.
Brings faith and hope to thee for - ev - er - more.



name de - clare, Let ev' - ry voice re - sound with ac - cla - ma - tion, Ho



san - na! Praise to the Lord! Bless him who cometh to bring us sal



va - - - tion!

Where to find us:

www.fccog.org

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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.

Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry: Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

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

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Family Ministries: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Church Administration & Finance: Steve Summerton

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Director of Communications: Barbara Wilkov

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Stiers and Rev. Sally Colegrove

Director of Music Emeritus: Dr. John Stansell