

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

# The Fourth Sunday in Lent

## 30 March 2014

10 o'clock in the morning



*Jesus Walks on Water*  
by Ilya Aivazovsky

*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 are so glad you are here at First Congregational Church of Greenwich for worship as we continue our journey through the Lenten Season toward the bright warmth of Easter. May our time together touch your life with inspiring hope and nourish your spirit with peace.

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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**

*Andante in D Major*

*Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ*

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Rev. Mark D. Montgomery*

### **PRAISING GOD**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Hannah Ginste*

*Leader: To you, O God, we lift up our souls.*

*People: O my God, in you we trust!*

*Leader: Make us to know your ways, O God. Teach us your paths.*

*People: Lead us in the truth and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation.*

#### **\*‡HYMN**

*O Sing a Song of Bethlehem*

New Century (black) Hymnal 51

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

*Rev. Avery C. Manchester*

God of all creation, we pause from the stress of daily life to once again seek the restful peace of your spirit. With grateful hearts we praise you for all the beauty in our lives, for the inspiring hope of springtime, and for the warmth of family and friends. May our worship be a time of renewal and hope that our fragmented lives

might be made whole again. We pray in Jesus name, who taught us to pray,

### 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.

### HEARING GOD'S WORD

#### FIRST LESSON

*Jean Watkins*

#### Psalm 103:1-8

**B**less the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—  
who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast  
love and mercy,

who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is  
renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in  
steadfast love.

*From New Revised Standard Version*

#### ANTHEM

*The Lord is my Shepherd*

*The Children's Choir*  
David Allen (b. 1945)  
Vance Briceland, piano

## Matthew 14:22-31

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

*From New Revised Standard Version*

## \*‡HYMN

*Dear God, Embracing Humankind*

New Century (black) Hymnal 502

*(During the hymn, 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

*Heart Facts*

*Rev. John W. Collins*

## ANTHEM

*Heavenly Light*

*The Chancel Choir*  
Alexander Kopylov (1854-1911)

*Sent from heaven, thy rays were given on great and small to shine.  
O light Divine!*

*May each soul in sorrow's night see the heavenly light!  
Thou blessing to all creation, lead us to our salvation!  
All those whose feet may falter, lead unto the sacred altar!  
Oh shine from above, Divine Light of love!  
Show us the way unto our God, we pray!  
Thou our beacon and guide shalt be!  
Light Divine, we praise Thee!*

## **RESPONDING TO GOD**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **CALL TO OFFERING**

*Rev. Daniel B. England*

### **OFFERTORY MUSIC**

*Benedictus (from Mass in G)*

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

*Lynette Pfund, soprano*

*Christopher Pfund, tenor*

*Thomas Woodman, bass*

### **\*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**

*Jesus, Still Lead On*

New Century (black) Hymnal 446

### **\*BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

*Allegro Con Moto*

Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)

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

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We have **child care for babies and toddlers** every Sunday in our Preschool classrooms. 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.

***Save the Date!***

**Church Hall Meeting**  
***Sunday, April 13***

Immediately following the 10:00 am worship service in the auditorium to discuss *First Church Alive* updates. Child care will be available.

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***Calendar***

**TODAY**

**Church School**

Most classes will hear the details of what took place in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday from Jesus' request for a donkey to ride, to the crowds putting palms and cloaks on the road, to shouts of "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!" Our Third Graders will hear about several of Jesus' parables. Mark will be in class with the Middle School kids. We hope your children are enjoying the "fccog kids" totes filled with activities for church. Also, there are books to read on the shelves in the aisle on the way to the chapel.

**Bible Study**

Bible Study will be held today in the Lounge after church (11:20) and be done by 12:30 pm, if not before. We will consider the story

of Saul the King's attempts to kill David and also learn about the beautiful friendship between David and Jonathan. The scripture passage is I Samuel 15-20 and the associated psalm is 59. So: today, intrigue, attempted murder, passion, a wedding and an escape out the window. Don't miss it.

### 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 am 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.

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## THIS WEEK

### *Hats Off* Book Discussion Group

Our *Hats Off* book group has just started their first spring read, *The Secret Keeper* by Kate Morton. Come join in on Thursday mornings from 10-11:30 am in the Lounge. Books are available in the Church Office. Please call Debbie Berner at 203-629-1110 with any questions.

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## NEXT WEEK

### New Member Orientation Opportunities

Would you like to explore becoming a member of First Church? You will have two opportunities in April to participate in a First Church orientation session. Join us next *Sunday, April 6* at 11:15 am in the Senior Pastor's Office or *Sunday, April 13* at 9:15 am in the Lounge (child care will be provided at both sessions). Then if you choose, you can join on Sunday, April 13. You may RSVP to Ginny Breismeister ([ginnyb@fccog.org](mailto:ginnyb@fccog.org)) or John Collins ([collins@fccog.org](mailto:collins@fccog.org)) or call the Church Office at 203-637-1791 if you would like to attend one of these two sessions, or just drop in. *You will be entering a fellowship of people who will support you, pray for you and care for you. We hope you will join us.*



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## NEWS AND NOTICES

### Lenten Offering 2014

God calls us to be a light in the world. How do we live our lives and become a light for those in our community and our world? This year our **2014 Lenten Offering** will allow us to support programs that extend our outreach to those in our community and beyond to be a light in the world. Our contributions this year will be used to help support the *Our Church's Wider Mission* (OCWM) of the CT Conference which helps the wider ministries of the UCC, and **HomeFront** and their mission to keep low-income neighbors in their homes with improved quality of life through the completion of repairs at no cost to them. Join us in being a shining light by giving to our Lenten Offering. More information can be found in the Meetinghouse Monthly and in a mailing which will be arriving in the mail soon.



### New Members Need You!!

The Membership Committee is looking for individuals interested in partnering with new members and their families as part of a "mentoring" program. "Mentors" will serve as a point of contact to provide information on all the wonderful aspects of our church and will remain in contact with the new member as a friendly, caring and experienced FCCOG member. If you are interested in becoming a "mentor" or want more information, please contact Ginny Breismeister at [ginnymb@fccog.org](mailto:ginnymb@fccog.org) or at 203-637-1791 ext. 26.

### Are You Up for a Chili Challenge?

We're looking for a group of chili cookers to represent First Church at the **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Charity Chili Challenge** sponsored by the North Stamford Exchange Club and being held on Sunday, April 27, 1:00-4:00 pm at Trinity Catholic High School in Stamford. The event benefits the Exchange Club Parenting Skills Center, which works tirelessly to help prevent and stop child abuse in Fairfield County while strengthening families. If



you're interested in entering or would like more information, contact Barbara Wilkov at [barbaraw@fccog.org](mailto:barbaraw@fccog.org) or 203-637-1791 x24.

**News from The Rummage Room**  
**191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich**  
**203-637-1865**

**Monday, March 31:** Manager Maria will price two or three merchandise categories at 50% off through Saturday, April 5.

**Tuesday: April 1: APRIL FOOL'S DAY AT THE RUMMAGE ROOM** - The Rummage Room will hold its traditional April Fool's observance with *live* mannequins in the windows to amuse, surprise and trick you from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. A special appearance will include the Reverend John "Cool" Collins and the Reverend Mark "Elvis" Montgomery and their guitars between 2:00 and 2:30 pm. Come and join the fun and do some shopping while you are there! All proceeds go to support women and children in need.

**Manager Maria's Wish List:** Easter clothing for the family, especially children's clothing; bikes; strollers; Mother's Day gifts; Mother's Day cards, Father's Day cards, and other greeting cards needed.

**Shop Hours:** 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday and Saturday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

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

*If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.* - John Quincy Adams, American President (1767 - 1848)

**Tai Chi Fitness with Luis Duarte**

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 \$10 per class, \$8 for seniors. Join us! You'll love it! **All are welcome.**



**Neighbor to Neighbor Special Collection Request**

A Collection barrel/bin remains in the back of the Meetinghouse each week. Neighbor to Neighbor is in great need of several specific items at this time, including:

- Canned fruit (but **not** fruit cocktail or apple sauce)

- Canned meats (such as tuna, Spam, beef stew, ravioli with meat)
- Baby items such as diapers, pull-up diapers, baby lotion, baby wipes, etc.
- Children's clothing especially sizes 2-6 and 10-12 (but **no** infant clothing)
- Men's pants
- Shoes for all ages
- Bed linens (sheets and blankets; comforters and bedspreads) especially large sizes (even King size which can sometimes be used on smaller beds, too).



Please pick up some extra items when you go to the grocery each week and help those in need.

**Next Week at First Congregational Church**

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

***April 6, 2014***

**Music by:**

***The Chancel Choir***

*I Got a Key* by Alice Parker

***Carolyn Paulus, soprano***

***Joshua Hall, oboe***

*Seufzer, Thränen, Kummer, Noth (Sighing, Weeping,*

*Sorrow, Need)* by J.S. Bach

**Rev. John Collins, preaching**

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We're now on [Twitter](#) @FCCOGCT

Check out our new [YouTube](#) page, too!

We're on [Instagram](#) 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 Family Ministries: 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