

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

20 May 2012

10 o'clock in the morning



Psalm 1:3

*Tree and Stream by Jon Brunette, New Zealand
www.brunette.co.nz*

WELCOME to this Service of Worship at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich during this Easter season! We are glad that you are here and hope that this time of worship, music, reflection and community is restorative for you. May the blessing of this community and the blessings of God's love greet you today.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Improvisation on Diademata

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

C.S. Symons

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

PRAISING GOD

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 199

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, who knows us fully, be with us now and remind us who we are. Compassionate God who has been made known to us in the person of Jesus Christ, bring healing, restoration, joy, love and grace to us now so that we may experience you fully and be open to your will for us and your world.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*In Unison*)

O God, we confess that there are times that we have experienced your grace but find ourselves reluctant to share it with others.

There are times when we have witnessed resurrection but are afraid of sharing that story for fear of being judged by others.

There are moments when love so consumes us that we are a changed people but we shy from sharing that love with others.

Empower us today so that the grace we have known, the resurrection we have seen, and the love that has filled us may flow from us transforming us as individuals and communities.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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.

(As the music 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.)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Jean Watkins

John 13:34-35

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone

will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM
Praise His Holy Name

The Chancel Choir
Keith Hampton

MUSICAL LESSON

Psalm 1

Hal Hopson



Hap - py are they who love the law of the Lord.

SECOND LESSON

1 John 4:7-12

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

*‡HYMN

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

New Century (black) Hymnal 400

SERMON “*The Pelican and the Grasshopper*”

Rev. Da Vita McCallister
Associate Conference Minister for Youth and Young Adult Ministries
The UCC Connecticut Conference

*‡HYMN

They'll Know We Are Christians

Peter Scholtes

*We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored*

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
They will know we are Christians by our love.*

*We will work with each other, we will work side by side
We will work with each other, we will work side by side
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride*

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
They will know we are Christians by our love.*

*We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land*

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
They will know we are Christians by our love.*

CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

All That Hath Life and Breath

The Chancel Choir

Rene Clausen

Hanna Golodinskii, soprano

***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

***CLOSING HYMN AND RECESSION**

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 202

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on Duke Street

C.S. Symons



Music Notes:

Praise His Holy Name was composed by the Chicago conductor/composer, Keith Hampton, in 1998. Keith is founder/conductor of the Chicago Community Chorus and Director of Music at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Chicago, and holds degrees from Westminster Choir College and Northwestern University. This work has catapulted him to fame as one of the most energizing sacred pieces composed in the last 15 years.

All That Hath Life and Breath was composed by another outstanding American composer and conductor. Rene Clausen is the conductor of The Concordia Choir, the top choir at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. Born in 1953, Rene has forged a niche for himself

in the sacred music catalog of the United States, as well as the world over. Educated at St. Olaf College and U of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign, his compositional output is extensive, with hundreds of published works. He founded the *Rene Clausen Choral School* in 1998, where students gain a rich education from his wisdom and can pick the brain of one of the best known contemporary choral composers.

CORRECTION: The flowers in the Meetinghouse last Sunday for Music and Friendship Sunday and Mother's Day were given in loving memory of her mother and father, Dorothy and Frank Crabill by Linda Dowling. We are sorry for the omission.

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. 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

Most of our children will be learning about Pentecost today. Pentecost is next Sunday but there is no Church School because it is Memorial Day weekend. There is only one more regular Church School Sunday on June 3. Then June 10 is Church School Recognition Sunday when we thank our teachers, congratulate our

graduating seniors and give Bibles to our third graders. Summer Church School begins on June 17. We need many more teachers for next year. Sign-up is at Coffee Hour.

Youth and Cherub Choir Rehearsals

The Youth Choir will rehearse today from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm in the Choir Room and the Cherub Choir will rehearse from 11:15 to 11:45 am in Room 104.

Bible Study

Today Bible Study resumes with Paul's first (actually second) letter to the Corinthians. This week Paul comments on the following



subjects: *Harry's Law, Pretty Woman, Happily Divorced, The Civil War, Married with Children, American Idol* and *Amazing Race*. So join us in the lounge at 11:20 am for a look at the not-so-different world of a first century church and the beleaguered man trying to give them guidance.



Sue Asselin, RN is available in Room 203 after the Worship Service. Stop in to have your blood pressure checked or discuss any health concerns.

Friendship Quilt for Michelle and David Young

First Step: Sign a square at Coffee Hour today and each Sunday during May. Signing will be limited to the month of May as we need a definite number of squares before we assemble the blocks.



Today at our 5:00 pm linc worship service we will be celebrating Memorial Day early, complete with hot dogs, chips and traditional Memorial Day fixings ... all while exploring how our faith story and those of our country coincide. Please join us. This service is casual so come as you are and bring all your friends. (**Note:** there is no linc service next *Sunday, May 27*)

Y! Program

Party on people! It's party night!!! Join us at 6:00 pm!

THIS WEEK

Nights Off

The *Nights Off* women's group is meeting tomorrow, *Monday, May 21* at 5:30 pm at Greenwich Point. Park at the first parking lot after the Old Greenwich Yacht Club and the Sailing School. We will gather at the first set of picnic tables as you walk up the path. Please bring an appetizer to share and whatever you would like to drink. All women of the church are welcome to join in. If you are not on the *Nights Off* regular email list, please email Shirley Flierl at FBTworld@aol.com with "*Nights Off*" in the subject. Or you can call Shirley at 203-629-4939 with any questions. It is great fun meeting and chatting with other women from the church in this informal setting, so please be sure to join us!



NEWS AND NOTICES

New FCCOG Forum

Have you checked out the *First Congregational Church Forum* yet?



It's a place where members and friends of FCCOG can post thoughts, observations and opinions and others can respond to form an online conversation. To get started, simply register and tell people what is on your mind.

Please help us get this initiative started. To register go to www.fccog.org/forum (or you can click on the forum link at the top of the homepage). For more details on how to register, check out the May MHM.

News from The Rummage Room

Monday, May 21 to Saturday, May 26 - If you are looking for graduation clothes, wedding gowns, Memorial Day outfits or summer clothing, The Rummage Room is your destination for shopping. We have it all and suggest you come in early this week and see for

yourself. In addition, Manager Maria will have three or four items on sale at 50% off throughout the week.

Manager Maria's Wish List - Gifts and men's clothing for Father's Day on June 17; handbags; summer clothing for men, women and children. Memorial Day weekend will be a great time to go through your closets and clean out those items you haven't worn in the past year.

We need your continued help so the Allocations Committee can meet the goals set for 2012 to aid the long list of organizations who need our support here in the community and around the world.

Life is a series of thousands of tiny miracles! - 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 with your contact information and someone will pick up the food from your home and deliver to the Church for Neighbor to Neighbor.

Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Pentecost Sunday

The Chancel Choir sings:

Come Down, O Love Divine by William Harris

Come, Holy Ghost by Thomas Attwood

Rev. Mark Montgomery, preaching

No linc worship service next *Sunday, May 27.*

linc will resume on Sunday, June 3

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

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