

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

6 May 2012

10 o'clock in the morning



Robin's Three Eggs by Torrie Smiley
www.TorrieSmiley.com

WELCOME to this Service of Worship at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich. This morning you will participate in both primary rites of the Christian Church, baptism and communion. From the earliest days of the church, believers in Jesus as Lord have observed these meaningful events, the first that marks entry into the church of Jesus Christ and the other that signifies our continuing life in Christ, here and hereafter. They are both powerful symbols of what we stake our lives on. We are glad you are with us.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Prelude in G

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Charles Villiers Stanford

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Daniel B. England

PRAISING GOD

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 8

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, we have gathered to worship
your wondrous goodness and love,

To celebrate together those rites of the church that stretch
back to the very days the Lord Jesus Christ was on this
earth to redeem it.

We do so solemnly and joyfully lift our praises, glad that you
have called to this place and this people and this day.

Grant your Holy Spirit to be among us and give us rest from
the world and the courage to go into it again.

Amen

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*In Unison*)

O Lord of our hearts
As we confess our sins,
 we know that all sins are not spoken,
 but some are silent.

With looks and gestures we say a lot,
We ignore people without closing our eyes and push them away
 without arms.
We can kick without legs
 and elbow without elbows.

And they get the message.

We shun without a vote,
We exclude without a fence,
We kill without a gun.

Forgive us, we pray, for it is our hearts that betray us.
Help us to be so pure of heart, so full of compassion and welcome
 that our eyes and arms are enough to speak of love.
Just as the eyes and arms and hands and feet of your only Son
 were sufficient for our salvation.

We ask in his name.

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.

‡ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

* CONGREGATIONAL AFFIRMATION OF SUPPORT

We promise to give these parents our support as they encourage this child in the ways of faith. We promise also, to hold this child in our love and in our prayers. Daily, we will strive to build a community rich in the spirit of God in which to nurture and bless this child.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Fischer Craig Hogan, son of Amie Elaine and Wade Tyler Hogan

BAPTISMAL RESPONSE

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise (verse 1)

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.*

(As the response 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

Genesis 8:6-12

At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him.

He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him anymore.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

And Then Shall Your Light Break Forth

The Chancel Choir
Felix Mendelssohn

SECOND LESSON

John 6:1-10

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all.

***‡HYMN**

Come, Thou Almighty King
(verses 1-2)

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 246

SERMON "*The Robins God Sends*"

Rev. Daniel B. England

***‡HYMN**

Come, Thou Almighty King
(verses 3-4)

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 246

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Domine Deus from B Minor Mass

J. S. Bach

*Lynette Pfund, soprano
Christopher Pfund, tenor
Mary Fike, flute*

*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

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (*seated*)

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SERVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (*in unison*)

We thank you, O God, for these moments of communion with you and each other. By these actions, we have renewed our commitment to bear your name and to follow you wherever you lead us. O Lord God, your great name be praised. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION

I Love to Tell the Story

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 317

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

March

John Marsh

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in honor of the baptism of Fischer Craig Hogan by his parents, Amie and Tyler Hogan.

The flowers in the Narthex this morning are given in loving memory of Mildred Ferris Wescott by her children - Ruth W. Duncan, Shirley W. Powers, Nancy Palamarcuik and Jonathan Wescott.

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 classes will be learning about how the disciples grew the church through their healing and their trust in Jesus' words, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am with them." Next week there are no church school classes because it is Music and Friendship Sunday. All the choirs will be singing and it is a great opportunity for your family to invite another family to come to FCCOG with you. Regular church school classes resume on May 20.

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.



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.



Forget Bible Study but Stay for the Movie!

Another movie! Join us today at 11:20 am in the Lounge (note: this is a change of location) for a showing of the movie, *In Time*, the 2011 sensation that has a lot to do with Greenwich (it's mentioned in the movie). In a future where people stop aging at 25, but are engineered to live only one more year, having the means to buy your way out of the situation is a shot at immortal youth. Here Will Salas finds himself accused of murder and on the run with a hostage - a connection that becomes an important part of the way against the system. The movie stars Justin Timberlake and Amanda Seyfried. It is theologically and sociologically important. Discussion to follow and ...popcorn!



Join us today at 5:00 pm in the Auditorium for our linc worship service. Today we will be celebrating Mother's Day a little early (as there is no linc service on May 13) and will take a look at some scripture passages, artwork, stories and song that depict the Mothering aspects of God and faith. The service is casual so come as you are and bring all your friends (and mothers)!

Y! Program

Hippie-Luscious! Tonight is tie-dye night! Bring a white cotton t-shirt to make your own design. You can even do a couple! Join us at 6:00 pm in the Youth Room.

THIS WEEK

Final Concert of *First Music and Arts*

Our Spring Music Festival concludes this *Friday, May 11*, at 8:00 pm, with a recital by German organist Thomas Dahl. His program includes organ works by J. S. Bach, Jon Laukvik, Max Reger, and others. The concert wraps up with an improvisation on a submitted theme. Aficionados of organ music will certainly want to mark their calendars for this special program. Share this information with all your friends and neighbors who you think would enjoy this program.



NEXT WEEK

Women's Fellowship Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Notice of Women's Fellowship Annual Meeting/Luncheon *Wednesday, May 16*, 11:30 am in the Auditorium. Quilt Raffle will take place at noon followed by a catered luncheon. Business to be conducted: election of officers and vote on Women's Fellowship Allocations (proceeds from The Rummage Room and Kettle Quilters). Program will be presentations by representatives of four organizations who are recipients of Allocations:

- **Home for the Brave:** Shelter for returning women vets who are homeless.
- **Mercy Learning Center:** A place for women to get their GED and learn parenting skills. It serves 675 women, 98% of whom are below poverty level.
- **Friends of Edna's Hospital:** Edna's Maternity Hospital is located in Somaliland and is one of our international recipients. The money from us helps pay the expenses (books, living expenses) for 2 medical students who will be working at Edna's hospital upon graduation.

- **Planned Parenthood:** 97% of their programs provide for the health care of women and children.

Reservations by check for \$10.00/person are a MUST. Please make checks payable to Women's Fellowship, Att: Irene Savage, and send or leave at the Church Office by Sunday, May 13. We regret that we cannot accommodate reservations by phone, walk-ins or reservations without payment.

Annual Quilt Raffle Sale!

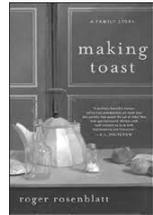
Tickets for the 42nd Annual Quilt Raffle can be purchased during Coffee Hour or at the Church Office. Tickets are \$5 and the drawing will take place at the Women's Fellowship Spring Luncheon on *Wednesday, May 16* at noon. You do not need to be present to win. The Kettle Quilters have created a beautiful queen size quilt in a colorful "Ocean Waves" pattern this year. An order form is also included in the May Meetinghouse Monthly. All proceeds are donated to local charities that benefit women, children and families.



NEWS AND NOTICES

“Hats Off” Book Discussion Group

Our "Hats Off" book study group is currently reading *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery. Our novel's setting is Paris, France and the writing is both challenging and beautiful! We will finish our spring reading with *Making Toast, A Family Story*, written by another fine author, Roger Rosenblatt. Come and join us on Thursday mornings from 10:00-11:30 am. Any questions, please call Debbie Berner at 203-629-1110.



New FCCOG Forum

Churches run on communication. Even as we try to make sure that transparency is a normal part of our meetings and decision making, still there are bound to be "parking lot" conversations that really make a difference. But "parking lot" conversations aren't transparent. So we have created the *First Congregational Church Forum*, 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. Politely, of course. You can even let everyone know what you think of the FCCOG Forum *on* the FCCOG Forum. We're trying to move our conversation from the parking lot to the serious conversation lot (if there is such a thing). Please help us get this initiative started. Maybe Google will buy it! 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

Sunday, May 13 - Happy Mother's Day!

Monday, May 14 through the end of May - The Rummage Room invites you to come in and look at our prom and graduation clothing along with accessories you may need this month. We have tuxes, tuxedo shirts, dress shirts, bow ties, regular ties, sport jackets and slacks for the guys, and dresses, both long and short, handbags, shoes and jewelry for the ladies. Come in and make your selection early.

Wednesday, May 16 - The Women's Fellowship Luncheon at 11:30 am. Make your reservations now.

Monday, May 28 - The Rummage Room will be closed for Memorial Day and reopen on Tuesday, May 29, at 10:00 am.

Manager Maria's Wish List - Gifts for Father's Day, proms, graduations, June weddings.

On Mother's Day we wish to honor all Mothers. To those whose Mothers have passed, we know their death leaves a heartache no one can heal, but their love leaves a memory no one can steal.

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.**



Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Music & Friendship Sunday

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