

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Third Sunday after Epiphany

22 January 2012

10 o'clock in the morning



Artwork credit, www.franto.com

WELCOME to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church as we celebrate God's presence and love in our midst. May this hour of praise to God equip you for living in the tensions and struggles of life as well as deepening your sense of gratitude to the giver of all gifts.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE
Fantasia

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ
Samuel Scheidt

CALL TO COMMUNITY
Please sign and pass the red book.

Dr. David D. Young

CALL TO THE 341ST ANNUAL MEETING

Phoebe Griffith

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

New Century Hymnal (black) Hymnal #4

OPENING PRAYER

God almighty, Eternal, Righteous, and Merciful.

Give us to do for your sake all that we know of your will
and to will always what pleases you, so that inwardly
purified, enlightened and kindled by the fire of the Holy Spirit,
we may follow in the footprints of your well-beloved Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

St. Francis of Assisi

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of Laughter,
we confess our attachment
to the somber tones of seriousness,
where all is measured
by calculating the cost in events.

O God of light,
We confess our compromise
with the darkness of limited vision,
where our expectation is controlled
by framing your promises
with limitations.

O God of lift,
We confess our preoccupation
with carrying the burdens of our journey,
in casual neglect
of your power to see us through.

Forgive us
In this time of reflection,
for all those moods in us
which deny
the joy,
the radiance,
the power,
of your presence
in our midst,
for we would be renewed
in the Way that is Christ this day.

And now we offer the prayer
he 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.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

‡**Congregational Response** New Century (black) Hymnal 32
*Jesus! The name that calms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
Is music in the sinner's ears, is life, is health, and peace!*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(At the end of the Children's Message, 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 LESSONS

Sue McCalley

Exodus 32:15-26a

Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain, carrying the two tablets of the covenant in his hands, tablets that were written on both sides, written on the front and on the back. The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved upon the tablets. When Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, "There is a noise of war in the camp." But he said, "It is not the sound made by victors, or the sound made by losers; it is the sound of revelers that I hear." As soon as he came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses'

anger burned hot, and he threw the tablets from his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. He took the calf that they had made, burned it with fire, ground it to powder, scattered it on the water, and made the Israelites drink it.

Moses said to Aaron, “What did this people do to you that you have brought so great a sin upon them?” And Aaron said, “Do not let the anger of my lord burn hot; you know the people, that they are bent on evil. They said to me, ‘Make us gods, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ So I said to them, ‘Whoever has gold, take it off; so they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!’ When Moses saw that the people were running wild (for Aaron had let them run wild, to the derision of their enemies), then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, “Who is on the Lord’s side?”

Romans 8:6-14

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

From The End of the Earth

The Chancel Choir
Jayson Engquist, Organist
Alan Hovhaness

SECOND LESSON

Mark 6:17-29

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

*‡HYMN

This Joy I Have

New Century (black) Hymnal 524

SERMON: "*A Christian Celebration – or – On with the Show*"

(Enthusiasm vs. Entertainment) *Dr. David D. Young*

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God –

A smiling, hurting, loving God;
who has given me everything and
who knows all my sins and loves me still.

I believe in Jesus Christ –

who came to earth with human joys
sorrows, hungers, thirst, and with
the perfect love of God in his heart
and the perfect way of life to share
with all people.

I believe in the Holy Spirit –

as the spark of the divine in each of us
that is fanned into flame to strengthen
and support us –
our connecting link to God.

I believe that because of these beliefs

I should joyfully share my hands in service,
my mind, heart, and voice in prayer,
and my life in love to all God's people
whether near or far.

And I believe that should all others serve
in this way, we would see the
kingdom of God here and now.

***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.*

CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Sing A Song of Joy

*The Chancel Choir
Jayson Engquist, organist
Jane Marshall*

*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

*CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION

Praise With Joy the World's Creator New Century Hymnal 273

*CLOSING SENTENCES

*Leader: It requires moral courage to grieve;
 it requires religious courage to rejoice..*

*People: Look at this world then, with a happy eye
 from a sober perspective.*

*Leader: The one who binds himself to a joy
 does the winged life destroy;*

*People: But the one who kisses the joy as it flies
 lives in eternity's sunrise.*

W. H. Auden / Soren Kierkegaard / William Blake

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

March

John Marsh

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

Today in Church School

Regular classes today. Next Sunday there will be Child Care and lunch during the Annual Meeting - so we are looking for some high school helpers. Also, the church School is collecting Pennies for Panama for the next two Sundays to help support the Youth Mission Trip in February.

Parish Nurse

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.

Annual Reports

Annual reports are available in the Narthex in anticipation of the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29th. A Financial Addendum will be available in the Church's Front Office later this week.

Contribution Envelopes

For those who requested them, a set of contribution envelopes for the year 2012 are available in the Auditorium during Coffee Hour every Sunday in January. If you neglected to ask previously, but still would like a set, please contact Kirk Young at kirky@fccog.org or ext. 32; we still have a few left that have not yet been spoken for.

Youth and Cherub Choir Rehearsals

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

Bible Study

Bible Study will meet hereafter at 11:20, but hereafter next week will not meet (Annual Meeting). We're looking at Mark, C.S. Lewis and perhaps some scientific and historical angles on the resurrection of Jesus. The room is crowded so come early, but there is room for you.

Sunday Afternoons Live Today

Join us today from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in the Auditorium for a very special performance by our very own Chancel Choir members, Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano and Christopher Pfund, tenor. They will be singing a variety of solos and duets. The David Browning performance which had been scheduled for this date has been postponed to a later date. Other fabulous programs will follow on February 12 and February 26. Mark your calendars.

linc

Join us today at 5:00 pm in the Auditorium for our linc worship service. The theme will be *There's No Place Like Home – Stories from Home*. The congregants will share in the preaching. Come as you are and bring all your friends!

Y! - Youth Ministry

The Youth Ministry programs will not meet this Sunday night.

THIS WEEK

Neighbor to Neighbor

FCCOG goes to Neighbor to Neighbor this *Saturday, January 28* from 8:30 am-12:30 pm. We will be filling the volunteer spots for both the Food Pantry and the Clothing Room so several volunteers are needed. There are two time slots available: 8:30 - 10:30 am and 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. We still need more help especially for the 8:30 time slot. Everyone is invited to help - family groups, couples, individuals. Please contact Rosemary Lamie (at ext. 20 or RosemaryL@fccog.org) to sign up.

NEXT WEEK

Call to the 341st Annual Meeting

The 341st Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, is hereby called for *Sunday, January 29, 2012*, immediately following the worship service. The meeting will be held in the Meetinghouse:

- To hear and act upon the annual reports of the pastors, officers and committees;
- To hear and act upon the report of the Nominating Committee, and to elect officers for the coming year;
- To adopt the budget for 2012;
- To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Phoebe Griffith, Church Clerk

NEWS AND NOTICES

"Souper Bowl Sunday" Soup Sale - February 5, 11:00 am-1:00 pm (till soup runs out). Get your soup recipes ready for *Sunday, February 5* when the annual Women's Fellowship Soup Sale will begin. Soup donations have started! Please sign up for soup donations in the Church Office ... instructions are there as well. Quarts of soup will be sold for \$8 each and \$10 for chili and other hearty soups, all proceeds go to support Women's Fellowship projects. For more information call Sue McCalley at 203-273-6526.

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!**

News from The Rummage Room

Due to the spring-like weather we have had in December and January, The Rummage Room has an abundance of winter coats, ski clothing, cashmere sweaters, and other winter clothing. We **will** eventually have snow and cold weather, of course, so come in and take advantage of our 50% off sales before we make way for spring clothing.

Manager Maria’s Wish List: Valentine’s Day and St. Patrick’s Day decorations and clothing; a 10 year-old-child’s mountain bike; a sewing machine; a wooden doll house; a baby carrier; good jewelry; good handbags; spring clothing.

Hours: The Rummage Room is open Monday through Friday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and on Saturday, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Donations accepted Monday through Thursday, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm and on Friday and Saturday, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

The Allocations Committee, headed by Judy Miller, has begun their study and planning sessions to determine what organizations should receive a grant from the money raised through The Rummage Room operations. The committee’s recommendations will be presented and approved by the general membership of the Women’s Fellowship before the funds are released. Either because of or in spite of the general economy, The Rummage Room raised more money in 2011 to support our women’s and children’s charities than it did in 2010. Each new year is a new challenge so, although we are off to a good start in 2012, we continue to need the support of donors, volunteers and shoppers to keep this cycle of achievement moving forward. Make 2012 another year in which you make a difference in so many lives by donating, volunteering and shopping at The Rummage Room. Thank you.

Food Collection

The Food Collection barrel remains in the back of the Meetinghouse. When you’re doing your grocery shopping, adding a few items will

make a significant difference at Neighbor to Neighbor. They continue to need:

- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Pasta sauce
- Dried beans (kidney and black)
- 100% juice
- Canned tomatoes
- Peanut butter (no larger than 28 oz.) and Jelly.

Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Music by The Chancel Choir:

Sing My Soul, His Wondrous Love

Music by The Children's Choir:

It is Good to Give Thanks

Dr. David D. Young, preaching

5:00 pm linc worship service - Auditorium

There's No Place Like Home

Mark Montgomery preaching

Come as you are and bring all your friends!

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. Dr. David D. Young

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

Minister of Communication and Adult Education: Rev. Daniel B. England

Minister of 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