

*The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*  
*Founded in 1665*

**11 February 2018**

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 service of worship at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich on this Sunday morning. Please join us after worship for our Community Hour in the auditorium.

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### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

\*All who are able please stand.

#### **PRELUDE**

Trio

Steven Russell, guest director/organist  
Josef Rheinberger

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

(Please sign and pass the red Fellowship Pad found at the end of your pew.)

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

### **PRAISING GOD**

#### **\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary!

**People: Praise him in his mighty firmament!**

Leader: Praise him for his mighty deeds;

**People: Praise him according to his surpassing greatness!**

Leader: Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!

**People: Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!**

Leader: Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

**People: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!**

#### **\* PASSING OF THE PEACE**

## **\* HYMN**

We Have Come at  
Christ's Own Bidding

New Century (black) hymnal 182

## **GATHERING PRAYER**

Rev. Patrick Collins

**God of glory and mercy, before his death in shame your son went to the mountain top, and you revealed his life in glory. Where prophets witnessed to him, you proclaimed him your Son, but he returned to die among us. Help us face evil with courage, knowing that all things, even death, are subject to your transforming power. We ask this through Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray, 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.**

(Children are invited to join Rosemary in the Daniels center for a one-room schoolhouse program.)

## **HEARING GOD'S WORD**

### **FIRST LESSON**

Barbara Norrgard

#### **2 Corinthians 4: 3-6**

If our Message is obscure to anyone, it's not because we're holding back in any way. No, it's because these other people are looking or going the wrong way and refuse to give it serious attention. All they have eyes for is the fashionable god of darkness. They think he can give them what they want, and that they won't have to bother believing a Truth they can't see. They're stone-blind to the dayspring brightness of the Message that shines with Christ, who gives us the best picture of God we'll ever get.

Remember, our Message is not about ourselves; we're proclaiming Jesus Christ, the Master. All we are is messengers, errand runners from

Jesus for you. It started when God said, “Light up the darkness!” and our lives filled up with light as we saw and understood God in the face of Christ, all bright and beautiful. —The Message

## **SOLO**

Come unto Christ

Drew Seigla, tenor  
Sally DeFord

## **SECOND LESSON**

### **Mark 9: 2-9**

Six days later, three of them did see it. Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain. His appearance changed from the inside out, right before their eyes. His clothes shimmered, glistening white, whiter than any bleach could make them. Elijah, along with Moses, came into view, in deep conversation with Jesus.

Peter interrupted, “Rabbi, this is a great moment! Let’s build three memorials—one for you, one for Moses, one for Elijah.” He blurted this out without thinking, stunned as they all were by what they were seeing.

Just then a light-radiant cloud enveloped them, and from deep in the cloud, a voice: “This is my Son, marked by my love. Listen to him.”

The next minute the disciples were looking around, rubbing their eyes, seeing nothing but Jesus, only Jesus.

Coming down the mountain, Jesus swore them to secrecy. “Don’t tell a soul what you saw. After the Son of Man rises from the dead, you’re free to talk.” They puzzled over that, wondering what on earth “rising from the dead” meant. —The Message

## **SERMON**

Listen to Him!

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

## **\* HYMN**

O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair New Century (black) hymnal 184

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

## RESPONDING TO GOD

### CALL TO OFFERING

#### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Sing Praise to God

The Chancel Choir

Lawrence Curry

#### \* DOXOLOGY

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 515

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

#### \* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

#### \* HYMN

Jesus Take Us to the Mountain

New Century (black) hymnal 183

#### \* BENEDICTION

#### \* CHORAL RESPONSE

#### POSTLUDE

All Hail the Power of Jesus Name

Heinrich Fleischer

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Directly following the service, one of our pastors will remain in the Chapel to be available to anyone who has a pastoral care concern.

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are in loving memory of Catherine G. Weigner and Arthur C. Weigner by their sons, Stephen A. and Ronald C. Weigner.

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### **A Note to Parents**

Relax! God put the wiggle in children, do not feel you have to suppress it during worship. The presence of children is a gift to the church, which offers hope for all. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me." At First Church we believe that the way we welcome children in worship directly affects the way they respond to God, the church, and to one another. To the members of our congregation, please know that a smile of encouragement is always welcome to parents with small, active children.

For those who are interested, we do have child care available for babies and toddlers every Sunday, for the entirety of the church service, in the preschool classrooms.

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.

### **NEWS AND NOTICES**

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#### **TODAY**

##### **Church School**

Church School today is in the Daniels Center where we will have a one room schoolhouse program. Three and younger four year olds are welcome in child care in the Blue Door. Older youth (5th, 6th, 7th, 8th) are needed to help in the Daniels Center. Next week, February 18, we will all be in worship. No Church School. Child Care only. We resume our regular Church School classes on February 25.

##### **Parish Nurse**

Sue Asselin, RN will be available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations during Community Hour, following today's worship service. During the week, she is available on Tuesdays and

Wednesdays by appointment, which can be made by calling extension 821.

### **Choir Rehearsals**

The following choirs will meet today in their normal places/times:

- Cherub Choir: Rainbow Room (basement) 11:15-11:45
- Youth Choir: Choir Room (3rd floor) 11:15-12:15

## **UPCOMING**

### **Ashes to Go: February 14 from 7-9 am**

Start your morning on Ash Wednesday, February 14 with a new approach to a centuries-old Christian tradition, in the parking lot of the First Congregational Church from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.

We are taking part in a new nationwide movement that has clergy and lay people visiting transit stops, street corners, coffee shops, and college campuses to mark the foreheads of interested passers-by with ashes and invite them to repent of past wrongdoing and invite them to experience the power of God's eternal love and grace in an informal way

### **Sunday Afternoons Live**

Beginning February 18, our series returns with new and familiar faces, in the splendor of the First Church Auditorium. Each performance is \$25 for adults, free admission for school aged youth, and comes with coffee, tea, and homemade sweet treats, served by our Music Committee and friends. Our programs always offer something for everyone and this year is no exception.

### **Sunday February 18: New York Kammermusiker**

Immerse yourself in the unique sounds of The New York Kammermusiker, a double-reed (oboes, English Horns, bassoons) chamber ensemble that has attracted international attention for their extensive travels and recordings. The members of the group combine a unique repertoire of music from the Renaissance and Baroque through Contemporary eras with an informal stage manner, inviting the audience to know more about the works performed and the instruments used.

### **Sunday February 25: Andrew Armstrong, Piano**

Taking advantage of the cozy and friendly atmosphere in the First Congregational Church's auditorium we will try to evoke the old salon concerts of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Each piece will tell a story or paint a picture for the listener, starting with the main course, Beethoven's Sonata op. 81s, "The Farewell," in which the composer vividly depicts the parting of a dear friend in three movements titled The Farewell, The Absence, and The Return. From there, we will enjoy many shorter pieces, like a spontaneous string of encores, with personal remarks about each piece along the way.

### **Sunday March 4: A Two of Harps—Wendy Kerner and Teresa Mango**

A Two of Harps loves sharing the enchantment of their two magnificent instruments totaling 94 strings, and the fun of making music together. Their performances have taken them to diverse settings throughout the Northeast.

### **Sunday March 11: Ron Petrides Quartet**

Known for his blazing technique, jazz guitarist Ron Petrides joins forces with renowned Austrian saxophonist and flutist Gottfried Stoger, bass virtuoso Ratzon Harris and a Grammy nominated drummer and producer Gerry Gibbs.

### **At-Home Dinners: Just for the Fun of It!**

The Welcoming Committee of First Church invites everyone to attend an at-home dinner . . . just for the fun of it! All are welcome! We are looking for six to eight folks who will be willing to host a group the size of your choosing in your home between the dates of March 9th to the 18th. The dinner will be pot luck or perhaps a wine and cheese gathering if you prefer. There is no charge. No agenda. It was suggested that we might encourage having a singles opportunity if there is interest. What a wonderful time to meet and greet friends who are not quite friends yet and folks from other generations. We would appreciate a quick response from hosts and hostesses so we can start signup sheets in the auditorium. Please contact Ginny Breismeister at [ginnyb@fccog.org](mailto:ginnyb@fccog.org) to volunteer to host, or with questions.

## **News from the Rummage Room**

**191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich**

**Monday, February 12:** 50% off all Valentine's clothing and everything red!

**Wednesday, February 14:** Come in and visit this week ... especially on Valentine's Day. Hopefully, this brutal weather will be passing and spring will soon be here! Love does no wrong to anyone, and that is why we shop and donate to The Rummage Room. And speaking of donations—Mgr. Leanne needs your donations! Please bring your donations as soon as you can!

**Mgr. Leanne's Wish List for February:** St. Patrick's Day decorations; clothing for the famous Rummage Room Bag Sales in Late February

**Shopping Hours:** Monday through Friday, 10 to 5 and 10 to 1 Saturday.

**Donation Hours:** Monday through Thursday 9:30 to 4:30 & Saturday 10 to 12:30.

**Words to live by:** Hate is always wrong and love is always right. Happy Valentine's Day!

## **Caregivers Support Group**

Please join us for the Caregivers Support Group for those who currently are, recently have been, or no longer are, a caregiver for a family member or friend. The group offers a confidential place where participants can share experiences, learn new information, and receive emotional support and comfort from others in similar situations. The group meets on the second Sunday of the month from 11:15 am - 12:15 pm in the Binney Conference Room. Dorothy Mueller, FCCOG Stephen Minister, is the group facilitator. For more information, please call Dorothy at (203) 588-9896, or email: [dorothymueller1@gmail.com](mailto:dorothymueller1@gmail.com).

**Next Week at First Church  
Sunday, February 18**

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr., preaching

Music by the Chancel Choir  
Thou Wilt Keep Him in Perfect Peace—Charles Wesley

Music by Hanna Golodinskii, soprano  
O Divine Redeemer—Charles Gounod



## **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

Senior Pastor: Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

Associate Pastor: Rev. Patrick Collins

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

Administrative Assistant - Operations: Donna White

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner

Publications Coordinator: Vance Briceland

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

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