





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**

O Man, Bewail Thy Grievous Fall

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

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

Rev. Patrick Collins

#### **CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

Halle, Halle

The Cherub Choir

Traditional

Carol Woodman, director

Andrea Oskar, ukelele

### **PRAISING GOD**

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

Rev. Patrick Collins

Leader: Jesus invites us to a way of celebration, meeting and feasting with the humble and poor.

**People: Let us walk this pathway with humility and joy.**

Leader: Jesus beckons us to a way of risk, letting go of our security.

**People: Let us walk this pathway with humility and joy.**

Leader: Jesus challenges us to listen to the voices of those who have nothing to lose.

**People: Let us walk this pathway with humility and joy.**

Leader: Jesus points us to a way of self-giving, where power and status are overturned.

**People:** Let us walk this pathway with humility and joy.

**Leader:** Jesus calls us to follow the way of the cross, where despair is transformed by the promise of new life.

**People:** Let us walk this pathway with humility and joy.

## \* PASSING OF THE PEACE

## \* HYMN

Christian, Rise & Act Your Creed    New Century (black) hymnal 537

## GATHERING PRAYER

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

**On this journey of life, O God, be our companion, be our guide. Show where to go. Wherever we are, in the journey from birth to death, grant us your peace. We thank you for each other, our companions in the adventure of faith. We pray for those with whom we travel on this planet as it makes it rounds of the sun. Bring us together to a new world of peace, through Jesus Christ, who lived and died that all might be one. Amen.**

## ANTHEM

For Love Shall be Our Song

The Children's Choir  
Douglas Wagner (b. 1952)  
Vance Briceland, piano

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## 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.**

(After the Children's Message, the Rotation Workshop classes begin in the Lounge and then go to their classrooms where they will be after church. (Kindergarten and 1st graders go to the Preschool Red Door; 2nd to the Daniels Center today, 4th and 5th graders to the Lounge.) Other classes go directly to their classes: 3rd graders go the Rainbow Door. 6th graders to Patrick's Office on the 3rd floor and 7th & 8th graders go to the Woodman Youth Room just past the Lounge.)

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### FIRST LESSON

Jean Watkins

#### **Isaiah 55: 6-11**

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

—New Revised Standard Version

#### **SOLO**

Going Home

Thomas Woodman, bass  
Antonin Dvorak (1841-1904)

### SECOND LESSON

#### **Mark 8: 27-35**

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. — New Revised Standard Version

**SERMON**

Never Again

Rev. Patrick Collins

**\* HYMN**

Let Us Hope When  
Hope Seems Hopeless

New Century (black) hymnal 461

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

**RESPONDING TO GOD**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

If We Ever Needed the Lord Before Thomas A. Dorsey (1899-1993)

The Chancel Choir

**\* 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**

Children of God

New Century (black) hymnal 533

**\* BENEDICTION**

**\* CHORAL RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee

J.S. Bach

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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.

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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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### **Church School**

Regular Church School classes resume today after the Children's Message. Classes following the Rotation Workshop curriculum will begin a four week study about the events of Holy Week. All other classes will follow their specific curricula.

### **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.

### **Sunday Afternoons Live**

Beginning today, 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.

#### **TODAY: 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 renown Austrian saxophonist and flutist Gottfried Stoger, bass virtuoso Ratzon Harris and a Grammy nominated drummer and producer Gerry Gibbs.

### **Choir Rehearsals**

The following choirs will meet today in their normal places/times:  
- Youth Choir: Choir Room (3rd floor) 11:15-12:15

## UPCOMING

### **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 26:** Three day store-wide 50% off clearance sale Monday through Wednesday!

**Thursday, March 1st:** First Day of Bag Sale Bargains: Each full bag will be \$15 per bag.

**Friday, March 2nd:** Second Day of Bag Sale Bargains: \$8 per bag.

**Saturday, March 3rd:** Third and last day of Bag Sale Bargains: \$1 per bag. The Rummage Room will be emptied over the weekend and restocked Monday morning.

**Monday, March 5th:** The Rummage Room reopens at 1:00 pm with “all-new” spring clothing and accessories.

**Mgr. Leanne’s Wish List:** Spring clothing; shoes; handbags; jewelry.

**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.

**Thought for President’s Day:** Thanks for supporting the Rummage Room, which has helped provide funds for women and children’s organizations during this hard winter. When we lose hope and think winter will never end, God is sure to smile and say, “Relax, my child, it is just a bend in the road. Spring is coming!”

## **Volunteer Opportunity**

Greenwich Hospital is seeking volunteers to spend time with their oncology patients to offer companionship, compassion, and assistance. A training session will be provided, and volunteers are asked to sign up for a three hour weekly shift during the day or evening. For further information, contact Stacey Green, Director of Volunteers (203) 863-3222 or [Stacey.Green@greenwichhospital.org](mailto:Stacey.Green@greenwichhospital.org).

## **CPR Certification course: Saturdays, March**

**10 & 17, 9 am - 12 noon**

CPR Certification Classes, which include the use of an AED (defibrillator), are offered for church members and others who frequent our church. Greenwich EMS will provide American Heart Association certified training. Participants need only attend one class. There is no charge for regular church attendees. Space is limited. Please contact Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse at phone extension 821 or email [susana@fccog.org](mailto:susana@fccog.org) if you are interested in participating. We appreciate you considering this service to enhance the safety and wellbeing of all who come to First Church.

## **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, March 4**

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr., preaching

Music by the Chancel Choir  
O Jesus Christ, My Life & Light—J.S. Bach  
Mark Sophia & Dorothy Darlington, oboes

Music by Drew Seigla, tenor



## **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