

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

Third Sunday of Lent
4 March 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.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

Adagio & Vivace

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

G. P. Telemann (1681-1767)

Mark Sophia, Dorothy Darlington, oboes

CALL TO COMMUNITY

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

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

PRAISING GOD

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

Leader: Welcome to this place: where children and seasoned citizens sit side by side,

People: where heaven and earth embrace in peace, where God has been, is, and always will be.

Leader: Welcome to this place, as we gather with all of God's children: where we find God's love,

People: where we hear the tender voice of Jesus, where the Spirit teaches us new songs.

All: Welcome to this place, where all is made ready by our God: where we bring our hunger, and find food; where we bring our brokenness, and find healing; where we bring our very selves, and find acceptance.

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*** HYMN**

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Pilgrim (red) hymnal 267

GATHERING PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

We will not find that needed justice in our apathy; we will not find that elusive wholeness with our quarreling; we will not find our hoped-for unity with our doctrines; we will not find our misplaced love with our hating; we will not find that rest we crave in our overflowing planners; we will not find the peace you offer in our well-nursed grudges. But we will find you in the brokenness of the Bread and in the breaking of our hearts; we will find you when we drain the Cup, refill it with our gifts, and offer it to a little child; we will find you when we squeeze closer together, making room at the Table for all your people. Help us to find you, God in Community, Holy in One, even as we pray together, 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.

(At this time, 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 Gold Door, 4th and 5th graders in the Lounge. Other children 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

Mark Mohn

Psalm 113

Praise the Lord!

Praise, O servants of the Lord;
praise the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the name of the Lord
from this time on and forevermore.

From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of the Lord is to be praised.

The Lord is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens.

Who is like the Lord our God,
who is seated on high,

who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth?

He raises the poor from the dust,
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people.

He gives the barren woman a home,
making her the joyous mother of children.

Praise the Lord!

—New Revised Standard Version

SOLO

Drew Seigla, Tenor

Thy Rebuke & Behold,
and See (from Messiah)

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

SECOND LESSON

Mark 9: 33-37

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my

name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me
but the one who sent me.” – New Revised Standard Version

SERMON

When Last Is First

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

*** HYMN**

Won't You Let

Me Be Your Servant?

New Century (black) hymnal 539

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Patrick Collins

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

O Jesu Christ, mein's
leben licht (sung in German)

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Mark Sophia, Dorothy Darlington, oboes

English translation:

Oh Jesus Christ, my life's light,
my refuge, my comfort, my confidence,
on earth I am only a visitor.
and the burden of sin presses heavily upon me.

*** 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**

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

We practice open Communion – all who wish to know the presence of Christ and
to participate in the community of God's people are welcome to receive
Communion, including children of all ages, and regardless of church membership
or denominational affiliation. All are welcome to the table of God.

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

In the tradition of our church, let us partake of the bread (note, gluten-free bread is available) as it is served, remembering our individual uniqueness in the eyes of God and our diversity within the Body of Christ. Let us hold the cup (grape juice) until all have been served, remembering our oneness with God and our unity in the Body of Christ.

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, in gratitude, in deep gratitude, for this moment, this meal, these people. We give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared this sacrament and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*** HYMN**

Here, O My Lord, I See
You Face to Face

New Century (black) hymnal 336

*** BENEDICTION**

*** CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Allegro

G. P. Telemann

* * *

The flowers in the Meetinghouse are given in loving memory of their fathers, James Anderson III and Donald Winston Tufts, by Ty and Cindy Anderson.

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

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. 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

Church School

Regular Church School continues today after the Children's Message. Classes following the Rotation Workshop curriculum will be in week 2 of their lessons about the events of Holy Week. All other classes will follow their specific curricula. Attention 3rd Families! Hold the Date for the annual Bible Breakfast. Sunday, March 18 at 9 am in the Daniels Center. More details will be emailed.

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

Come join us for Sunday Afternoons Live 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: 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:

- Cherub Choir: Rainbow Room (basement) 11:15-11:45
- Children's Choir: Music Room (3rd floor) 11:15-12:00
- 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! **Please sign up for the dinner of your choice during coffee hour.** The dinner will be pot luck. There is no charge. No agenda. What a wonderful time to meet and greet friends who are not quite friends yet and folks from other generations. Please contact Ginny Breismeister at ginnyb@fccog.org with questions.

News from the Rummage Room
191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, March 5th: The Rummage Room will reopen its doors at 1:00 pm with “all-new” spring merchandise. The shop was emptied and restocked over the weekend, so the Rummage Room will definitely be in a “Springtime State of Mind.” Daylight Saving Time begins March 11 . . . as far as The Rummage Room is concerned, winter is over! Do come in this week and you will have an early advantage at the spring goods, plus more being donated daily. We doff our spring Hats to longer, warmer days, especially after the cold wintery weather we have had. Thank you donors, for continuing to separate your donations and bring in only clean, salable goods.

Mgr. Leanne’s Wish List: Lamps, small electric items, and spring shoes.

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: Thought for March: Just as out of the dark, snow covered ground comes the beautiful blossoms of spring, God comes out when the dark, cold dilemmas of life need His warm, all-encompassing love. Hallelujah! Amen!

A Farewell to Friends: This Tuesday at the Rummage Room

After thirty-seven years of volunteering at the Rummage Room, Lea and Ben Menegon have decided to stay in their new neighborhood of Branford instead of making the weekly trip back to Old Greenwich. Lea will be sorely missed in so many ways by all of us who have grown to love her. Please plan to stop by the Rummage Room on Tuesday afternoon between 1-3 pm to enjoy a refreshment and bid them farewell.

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 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.

Be Part of the First Church Volunteer Day at Neighbor To Neighbor

Join your friends on Saturday, March 10 from 8:30 – 10:30 or 10:30 - 12:30. We will be stocking the food pantry and sorting and displaying the clothing and linen contributions. Neighbor-To-Neighbor is located at Christ Church in Greenwich (across Putnam Avenue from the YWCA). Please contact Rosemary Lamie (RosemaryL@fccog.org) or go to Sign Up Genius <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094CA4AB2FAAF58-neighbor1> and sign up. This is a great opportunity for a parent/child team or a teen and a friend as well as individuals. Children 12 – 15 need to be accompanied by a parent or another adult. Hope to see you there!

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.

**Next Week at First Church
Sunday, March 11**

Rev. Patrick Collins, preaching

Music by the Palmer Handbells
Jubilant Procession—Mark Ardrey-Graves
Jubilate—Douglas Wagner

Music by the Chancel Choir
Great Day—Howard Helvey
Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano



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. 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