

# *The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*

*Founded in 1665*

## **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**18 March 2018**

10 o'clock in the morning

*Kindness*

*Naomi Shihab Nye*

*Before you know what kindness really is  
you must lose things,  
feel the future dissolve in a moment  
like salt in a weakened broth.*

*What you held in your hand,  
what you counted and carefully saved,  
all this must go so you know  
how desolate the landscape can be  
between the regions of kindness.*

*How you ride and ride  
thinking the bus will never stop,  
the passengers eating maize and chicken  
will stare out the window forever.*

*Before you learn the tender gravity of kindness  
you must travel where the Indian in a white poncho  
lies dead by the side of the road.*

*You must see how this could be you,  
how he too was someone  
who journeyed through the night with plans  
and the simple breath that kept him alive.*

*(continued)*

*Before you know kindness as the deepest thing inside,  
you must know sorrow as the other deepest thing.  
You must wake up with sorrow.  
You must speak to it till your voice  
catches the thread of all sorrows  
and you see the size of the cloth.  
Then it is only kindness that makes sense anymore,  
only kindness that ties your shoes  
and sends you out into the day to gaze at bread,  
only kindness that raises its head  
from the crowd of the world to say  
It is I you have been looking for,  
and then goes with you everywhere  
like a shadow or a friend.*

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**

Prayer

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, director

Leon Boellmann (1862-1897)

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

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

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

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

He's My Rock

The Cherub Choir

Traditional

Carole Woodman, director

Debbie Berner, piano

### **PRAISING GOD**

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

Rev. Patrick Collins

Leader: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord,.

People: **that he may teach us his ways and we may walk in his paths.**

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

#### **\* HYMN**

Who Trusts in God a Strong Abode

Pilgrim (red) hymnal 355

## **GATHERING PRAYER**

Rev. Patrick Collins

**O Lord our God, teach us temperance and self-control,  
That we may live in the Spirit and be mindful of all that  
Jesus endured and sacrificed for our sake, and how he was  
made perfect through suffering. Help us so to keep the fast  
that you have chosen, that we may loosen the bonds of  
wickedness, undo the heavy burdens, and let the oppressed  
go free: through the grace of Christ Jesus our crucified and  
risen Savior, who taught us to pray,                   --Henry Van Dyke**

## **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 will go directly 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. 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**

Joe McBride

#### **Jeremiah 31: 31-36**

“That’s right. The time is coming when I will make a brand-new covenant with Israel and Judah. It won’t be a repeat of the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took their hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant even though I did my part as their Master.” God’s Decree.

“This is the brand-new covenant that I will make with Israel when the time comes. I will put my law within them—write it on their hearts!—and be their God. And they will be my people. They will no longer go around setting up schools to teach each other about God. They’ll know me firsthand, the dull and the bright, the smart and the

slow. I'll wipe the slate clean for each of them. I'll forget they ever sinned!" God's Decree. —The Message

## **ANTHEM**

The Day Is Coming

The Youth Choir  
Mark A. Miller  
Carolyn Paulus, director  
Vance Briceland, piano

## **SECOND LESSON**

### **John 12: 20-36**

There were some Greeks in town who had come up to worship at the Feast. They approached Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee: "Sir, we want to see Jesus. Can you help us?" Philip went and told Andrew. Andrew and Philip together told Jesus. Jesus answered, "Time's up. The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

"Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. In the same way, anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you'll have it forever, real and eternal.

"If any of you wants to serve me, then follow me. Then you'll be where I am, ready to serve at a moment's notice. The Father will honor and reward anyone who serves me. Right now I am storm-tossed. And what am I going to say? 'Father, get me out of this'? No, this is why I came in the first place. I'll say, 'Father, put your glory on display.'"

A voice came out of the sky: "I have glorified it, and I'll glorify it again."

Jesus said, "For a brief time still, the light is among you. Walk by the light you have so darkness doesn't destroy you. If you walk in darkness, you don't know where you're going. As you have the light, believe in the light. Then the light will be within you, and shining through your lives. You'll be children of light." Jesus said all this, and then went into hiding. All these God-signs he had given them and they still didn't get it, still wouldn't trust him. — The Message

**SERMON**

“Listen Carefully”

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

**\* HYMN**

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

New Century (black) hymnal 197

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

**RESPONDING TO GOD**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

As Truly As God Is Our Father

The Chancel Choir

William Mathias (1934-1992)

**\* 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**

The Church of Christ in Every Age

New Century (black) hymnal 306

**\* BENEDICTION**

**\* CHORAL RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

Trumpet Tune in C Major

David Lasky

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Flowers in the Meetinghouse are given in loving remembrance of  
Catherine G. Weigner on the occasion of her birthday by her late

husband Arthur C. Weigner, and sons Stephen A. and Ronald C. Weigner.

Flowers in the Meetinghouse are given in honor and celebration of Virginia Liddel on the occasion of her birthday by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren

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**

Today's classes are the last ones before Easter. Classes following the Rotation Workshop curriculum will be winding up their lessons about the events of Holy Week. All other classes will follow their specific curricula. Church School resumes on Sunday, April 8. Be

sure to come to the special event on Easter Saturday, March 31 from 10 am to noon in the Daniels Center and the Auditorium. See details in the paragraph below.

### **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:

- Children's Choir: Music Room (3rd floor) 11:15-12:00
- Youth Choir: Choir Room (3rd floor) 11:15-12:15

## **UPCOMING**

### **March for Our Lives**

You are invited to join the youth and families of First Church in New York City for the March for Our Lives rally on Saturday, March 24th. Please consider supporting the youth of our church as they join with thousands of youth across the country to make their voices heard. The march begins at 10 am in Central Park West and a group from the church will take the 8:05 am train into the city. This invitation is open to all members of the church. Please contact Patrick Collins if you would like to join us.

### **Nutritional Talk: The Benefits of the Mediterranean Diet**

**Monday, March 26, 10:00 am to 11:15 am**

Denise Addorisio, a Registered Dietitian from Greenwich Hospital, will present what is included in a Mediterranean diet. She will also explain the benefits of a Mediterranean-style eating pattern such as improved weight loss, better control of blood glucose (sugar) levels and reduced risk of depression. A healthy snack will be provided. Seating is limited so please RSVP to Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse at extension 821 or [susana@fccog.org](mailto:susana@fccog.org).

### **Good Friday and Easter Saturday for All**

Bring your children and grandchildren to the annual Easter Saturday (March 31) program. From 10 am to Noon, bring your own hard

boiled eggs to the Daniels Center for egg dyeing. We will have all the supplies—you can bring the fuss to us! Also, beginning at noon on Good Friday and continuing through Saturday afternoon, all are invited to visit the Auditorium where you will experience Holy Week for yourself. This is for adults and children - feel, taste, smell, hear and see the journey Jesus traveled between Palm Sunday and Easter. The Labyrinth will be part of this program, too.

### **Piano Players Needed**

... for 45-60 minute shifts at our upcoming Red Cross Blood drive on April 4, from 1-6 pm. Please contact Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse if you are able to volunteer to lift the mood of the donors and staff.

### **News from the Rummage Room**

**191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich**

**Monday, March 19:** The first day of spring is just one day away! Come in any day and treat yourself to everything spring for both yourself and your family. It has been a long, cold winter, so now is the time to celebrate and have some fun! It takes a village to keep the Rummage Room well-stocked; please bring in your donations of spring and summer clothing and items for Easter.

**Mgr. Leanne's Wish List:** Jewelry, spring handbags, men's spring suits.

**Shopping Hours:** Monday through Friday, 10 to 5 and 10 to 12:30 Saturday.

**Donation Hours:** Monday through Thursday 9:30 to 4:30 & Saturday 9:30 to 12:30. Please do not leave donations outside when the Rummage Room is locked.

**Thought for Every Day:** As the days grow longer, let us remember that life consists less in the length of the days than in what we can give, not only for ourselves but what we can give to others to make this a better world. Life is short and we should never lose sight of that fact.

### **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 25**

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, preaching

Music by the Children's Choir  
We Are Children of the Lord—Michael Jothen

Music by the Chancel Choir  
Lord, Come Away—John Huston  
Hanna Golodinskii, soprano

Music by Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano



## **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