

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

**Palm Sunday**  
**25 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.

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### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

\*All who are able please stand.

#### **PRELUDE**

Allegro moderato

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist  
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.  
(Please sign and pass the red Fellowship Pad found at the end of your pew.)

### **PRAISING GOD**

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

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

Leader: Cry out people of faith! Rejoice and praise God!

**People: If we did not sing praise, the very stones would cry out!**

Leader: Cry out people of faith, for Christ draws near to Jerusalem.

**People: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Leader: Blessed is the Christ, who did not turn back for fear of the cross, but poured out all that he had for love.

**People: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

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

**\* HYMN**

All Glory, Laud & Honor                      New Century (black) Hymnal 216  
(In the spirit of Palm Sunday, you are encouraged to wave your palm branches as we raise our voices to welcome and bless Jesus Christ in our midst. Children are invited to join the processional; please follow the Chancel Choir and then return to your seats at the end of the hymn.)

**GATHERING PRAYER**

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

**Humble and riding on a donkey,  
we greet you;  
acclaimed by crowds and caroled by children,  
we cheer you;  
moving from the peace of the countryside to the corridors  
of power,  
we salute you: Christ our King.  
You are giving the beast of burden  
a new dignity;  
you are giving majesty  
a new face;  
you are giving those who long for redemption  
A new song to sing.**

**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.**

**ANTHEM**

We Are Children of Our God

The Children's Choir  
Michael Jothen  
Vance Briceland, piano  
Mary Fike, flute

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### FIRST LESSON

Pat Larrabee

#### **Mark 11: 1-11**

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve. —New Revised Standard Version

#### **SOLO**

Be Still, My Soul

Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

Arr. Sally DeFord (b. 1959)

Text: Hymn 77 in Pilgrim (red) hymnal

### SECOND LESSON

#### **Mark 14: 3-12**

While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have

been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.” And they scolded her. But Jesus said, “Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

– New Revised Standard Version

## **SERMON**

The Passion of the Church

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

## **\* HYMN**

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

New Century (black) hymnal 215

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. Patrick Collins

## **RESPONDING TO GOD**

### **CALL TO OFFERING**

#### **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

Lord, Come Away

The Chancel Choir

John Huston (1915-1975)

Hanna Golodinskii, soprano

Lord, come away; why dost thou stay?

Thy road is ready, and thy paths made straight with longing  
expectation wait the consecration of thy beauteous feet.

Ride on triumphantly: behold,

we lay our lusts and proud wills in thy way.

Hosanna! Welcome to our hearts.

Lord, here thou hast a temple too, and full as dear as that of Zion;  
and as full of sin - nothing by thieves and robbers dwell therein.

Enter, and chase them forth, and cleanse the floor.

Crucify them, that they may nevermore

profane that holy place where thou hast chose to set thy face.

And then if our still tongues shall be mute in the praises of thy deity,  
the stones out of the temple wall shall cry aloud and call Hosanna!

And thy glorious footsteps greet.

**\* 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 Palms



O'er all the way green palms and blos - soms gay  
His word goes forth, and peo - ple by its might.  
Sing and re - joice, O blest Je - ru - sa - lem.



Are strewn this day in fes - tal <sup>3</sup> - tal prep - a - ra - tion.  
Once more re - gain free - dom from de - gra - da - tion.  
Of all thy sons sing the e - man - ci - pa - tion.



Where Je - sus comes to wipe our tears a - way  
Hu - man - i - ty doth give to each his right  
Through bound - less love the Christ of Beth - le - hem



E'en now the throng to welcome him pre - pare, Join all and sing, His  
While those in dark - ness are restored to light.  
Brings faith and hope to thee for - ev - er - more.



name de - clare, Let ev' - ry voice re - sound with ac - cla - ma - tion, Ho



san - na! Praise to the Lord! Bless him who cometh to bring us sal



va - - - tion!

**\* BENEDICTION**

**\* CHORAL RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

Con moto maestoso

Felix Mendelssohn

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The calla lilies in the Meetinghouse are given in loving memory of our parents, Margaret and Carleton Gisborne by Claire Henry and Ruth Reed and our families.

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**

There are no church school classes today so that we may all celebrate Palm Sunday together. Child Care is available as always. Church School resumes on April 8, the Sunday after Easter. 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.

### **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.

## **UPCOMING**

### **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.

## **Red Cross Blood Drive**

First Church is hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, April 4, from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm, in the Auditorium. Every day, the Red Cross must collect nearly 14,000 blood donations to help support cancer patients, transplant patients, trauma victims, and others. There is no artificial substitute for blood, and just one pint can help save 3 lives. 80 percent of blood donations are collected at blood drives hosted by generous sponsoring organizations like ours. To learn more good reasons to be a donor, visit <http://www.redcrossblood.org/donating-blood/why-donate-blood>. Please consider donating and help spread the word! We'll have live piano music, and yes of course: deviled eggs. Appointments can be booked by calling 1-800-GIVE LIFE or online at <http://www.redcrossblood.org/rcbmobile/drive/chooseDonationTime.jsp>. To learn more about eligibility, see <http://www.redcrossblood.org/donating-blood/eligibility-requirements>. If you can help another way, by donating refreshments such as deviled eggs or finger sandwiches, please sign up during Community Hour or contact your parish nurse, Sue Asselin, at ext 821 or [susana@fccog.org](mailto:susana@fccog.org). Thank you for reaching out and being God's hands by helping others.

## **News from the Rummage Room**

**191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich**

**Sunday, March 25:** Palm Sunday and the sixth day of spring.

**Monday, March 26:** The shop is filled with a great collection of spring and summer clothing for all . . . even some Easter bonnets available!

**Friday, March 30:** The Rummage Room is closed for Good Friday.

**Mgr. Leanne's Wish List:** Spring shoes for all; spring scarves; spring linens.

**Shopping Hours:** Monday through Friday, 10 to 5 and 10 to 1 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 the Easter Season:** As we walk with Christ during this Holiest of weeks, may we be inspired to work tirelessly for peace and justice in our troubled world. We are continually faced with a series

of opportunities and it is up to us to have the courage to do what we can to meet those tasks!

### **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).



## **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