

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

1 April 2018

Easter Sunday

9 o'clock in the morning

11 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 Easter Sunday morning.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

Grand Choeur Dialogue

Brass and Organ
Eugene Gigout (1844-1925)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, director

CALL TO COMMUNITY

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

PRAISING GOD

*** EASTER GREETING**

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Christ has risen!

People: Christ has risen indeed! Alleluia!

Leader: God is alive!

People: New birth is given! Alleluia!

Leader: Hope is alive!

People: A new age is dawning! Alleluia!

Leader: Love is alive!

People: Death cannot harm us! Alleluia!

Leader: We are alive!

People: New life is within us! Alleluia!

Leader: Christ has risen!

People: Christ has risen indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Choral introduction (please be seated)

John Ferguson (b. 1941)

Listen: the One who bore God's heart, the One who spoke God's peace,
The One in whom God agonized is now the risen Lord.

Death was no prison for him. Jesus is raised and among us.

All that you see and hear comes from the One who was freed.

Listen: Hear, O people of God, that Jesus Christ is Lord. Alleluia!

Congregation & Choir (please stand):

Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia!

Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!

Once He died our souls to save, Alleluia!

Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia!

Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ hath led, Alleluia!

Foll'wing our exalted Head, Alleluia!

Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

EASTER PRAYER

God of all ages and of all people, the shadows and gloom of Good Friday have been dispersed by the light and color of Easter Sunday. We rejoice in your love that turns sorrow into joy and despair into hope. May the good news of this day inspire us to embody your love and justice that those cries of joy first heard on Easter morning may echo through the centuries to our time and place. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 118: 1-2, 21-24

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

—New Revised Standard Version

ANTHEM

Alleluia

The Chancel Choir

Randall Thompson (1899-1984)

SECOND LESSON

John 20: 1, 11-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said

these things to her.

—New Revised Standard Version

EASTER MEDITATION

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

*** HYMN**

The Day of Resurrection
Arr. Stephen Tappe (b. 1954)

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
the passover of gladness, the passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ has brought us over, with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light;
and listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
his own “All hail!” and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth the song begin!
Let the round world keep triumph, and all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

I Am the Resurrection and the Life

The Chancel Choir

K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)

(please join with the choir on the final verse when directed)

5. Through - out e - ter - ni - ty in heav'n, in light of end - less
day, his ran - somed ones for ev - er - more shall face to face their
Lord a - dore, and joy to hear him say: "I
am the res - ur - rec - tion, I am the res - ur - rec - tion, I
am the res - ur - rec - tion and the life.

* 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

Sing With All The Saints in Glory

Arr. John Ferguson

Sing with all the saints in glory; sing the resurrection song!
Death and sorrow, earth's dark story, to the former days belong.
All around the clouds are breaking. Soon the storms of time shall cease.
In God's likeness we awaken, knowing everlasting peace.

Oh, what glory far exceeding all that eye has yet perceived!
Holiest hearts for ages pleading never that full joy conceived.
God has promised, Christ prepares it, there on high our welcome waits.
Ev'ry humble spirit shares it. Christ has passed th' eternal gates.

Life eternal O what wonders crowd on faith; what joy unknown,
When amid earth's closing thunders, saints shall stand before the
throne!

O to enter that bright portal, see that glowing firmament,
Know with thee, O God immortal, "Jesus Christ whom thou has sent."

*** BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATION AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

Hallelujah Chorus

Choir, Brass, Congregation

POSTLUDE

Festival Toccata

Organ and Brass
Robert Elmore (1913-1985)

* * *

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

Brass Ensemble
Trumpet 1: Anthony Gorusso
Trumpet 2: Jim Cifelli
Trombone 1: Steve Shulman
Trombone 2: Cliff Haynes
Percussion: Eric Phinney
Organ: Eric Birk

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

TODAY

Church School

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

UPCOMING

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. 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.

News from the Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, April 2: All sale items for the week may be found on the website at www.fccog/about-us/the-rummage-room. If you are looking for spring and summer clothing, handbags, shoes for all, men's wear, children's and baby wear, now is the time to shop at the Rummage Room. Gift certificates are also available in any amount for those on your gift list for Mother's Day, proms, graduations, birthdays, baby showers, weddings or any other upcoming celebrations.

Tuesday, April 11: The "Thank-You Breakfast" for the Rummage Room volunteers will be held in the church auditorium from 9:00 to 10:30 am in honor of their many years of service in helping to raise funds for those in need, both in the community and around the world. Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Rummage Room. They clearly love what they do and enjoy the camaraderie of those they work with. Thanks to a job well done!

Mgr. Leanne's Wish List: Jewelry, spring scarves, and handbags.

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: May our hearts and minds be full of love and joy today and every day. Joy is the simplest form of gratitude to God for the resurrection of His only son so that we might enjoy our time on earth and prepare ourselves for what lies ahead. And Lord, help us to remember the impassioned moments from the "March for Our Lives." And the students who joined together and said: "We fight, we roar and we prepare our signs and raise them high. We are not waiting anymore."

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.

The decorations in the Meetinghouse and the brass during these festival services are given in joyful and loving memory of:

- Kimberly Dawn Pacent, on the third anniversary of her passing, from her adoring parents, Karen and Paul, and cherished sister, Nicole
- Phyllis Kimball, a loving mom to Karen Pacent and grandmother to Nicole Pacent
- Our parents, Purisima & Feliciano Teria, and Louise & Richard Haviland, by Erlinda & Larry Haviland
- Connie Stack, Heather's mother, by Heather & Jeffrey Sahrbeck and Ainsley, Tommy, & Maya
- Eric & Susan Robertson, my father and sister, by Lynn Robertson
- Jeannette & Lars Stenberg, by Linnea Stenberg
- My parents and brother, by Car Westbrook
- Mildred & Albert Isaacson, by Gerald Isaacson
- Melita & John Magness and Dana Andersen, by their family
- Paul Hudson & George Finch, by the Finch & Hudson families
- Kimmy Pacent, by Susan and Richard Gilbert
- Joan Denne, by her family, and Sue, Anne, & Bill Denne, by their family
- Our parents, Arthur C. & Catherine G. Weigner, by their sons Stephen & Ronald
- Parents Efraim & Victoria Olson and Ryan & Margaret Rosendale, and aunt, Erna Nelson, by Ken & Erna Olson
- Parents & brother, Ruth & Lloyd Shawber, and Lloyd Oberlin Shawber, by Anne Shawber Stolley
- Michel Kramer-Metraux & Curvin G. O'Rielly, Jr., by their families
- Richard Vogt, by a good friend
- My parents and brother, Deuel, Dorothy, & Jonathan Richardson, by Mary R. Benoit
- George W. Fisk, by Dorothy Fisk
- Joan & Jim Kreuter from their children and grandchildren
- Charlie & Bill Robertson from the Kreuter family and Betsy Kreuter
- John and Betty Briggs from the Kreuter family
- John Fountain, by his family
- Richard L. Geismar

- My son, David Whitman Durland
- Our parents, Steve & Alma Karch, Fred & Betty Breismeister, and Don's brother, Fred Breismeister, by Ginny & Don Breismeister
- My brothers & sisters-in-law, Roger & Maggie, Douglas & Nedra, Dick & Pat, and Jack & Sandy Tubbs, by Jean Watkins
- Marilyn Gaudet, by Gigi Gaudet

The decorations in the Meetinghouse and the brass during these festival services are given in honor of:

- Craig Symons and everyone in the Chancel Choir, by Bobbie Hopkins & family
- Our grandchildren, Finn, June, Gunther, & Alta Breismeister, by Ginny & Don Breismeister

A donation for the decorations in the Meetinghouse during these festival services is given by:

- Walter Bloes
- Eleanore Olsen

