

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

Second Sunday of Easter
8 April 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

Pasticcio

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist
Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

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: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Leader: We have not seen the risen Christ,

People: But we see him in the lives of those transformed by grace.

Leader: We have not seen Jesus face-to-face,

People: But we have seen him in the faces of everyone whose love encourages us.

Leader: We have not touched the wounds from the cross,

People: But we have been called to bring healing to the scarred of the world.

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*** HYMN**

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 185

GATHERING PRAYER

Rev. Patrick Collins

We come before you, O God, in this Easter season, hoping to know your will. As the Disciples before us, in the aftermath of all you have done, we are gathered together. We long for your Spirit, and to know your presence. We ache for your guidance and direction. We come seeking your love, and for you to know our love and devotion. Breathe upon us anew, and fill us. Anoint us with the blessings of your presence as you receive our praise and prayers.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Mason Grey Purdy, son of
Julia S. Blandori & Brian P. Purdy

BAPTISM PRAYER (in unison)

Gracious God, giver of life, you have called us by name, and pledge to each of us your faithful love. We pray today for your blessing on Mason, that you will watch over him and guide him as he grows in faith. Remind us of the promises of our own baptism, and renew our trust in you. Make us strong to obey your will and to serve you with joy, through the power of your Holy Spirit. All of this we pray as Jesus taught us 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.

BAPTISMAL RESPONSE

Child of Blessing,
Child of Promise

New Century (black) Hymnal 325

**Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit's sign;**

**With this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace divine.**

**Child of God, your loving Parent,
learn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,
trust and love God more than all.**

(After the Baptism, all children will go to a special program in the Woodman Youth Room which is just around the corner from the Lounge.)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Jean Watkins

Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.

—New Revised Standard Version

SOLO

Panis Angelicus

Hanna Golodinskii, soprano
Cesar Franck (1822-1890)

English translation:

The bread of the angels becomes the bread of man;
the bread of heaven is given a bounded form.
O wondrous thing!
The poor, the slave and the humble man
feed on their lord.

SECOND LESSON

John 20: 19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

– New Revised Standard Version

SERMON

Faithful Doubting

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

* HYMN

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

New Century (black) hymnal 336

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

A Jubilant Song

The Chancel Choir

Allen Pote (b. 1945)

* 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

Today's communion will be by intinction. Congregants are invited to come forward down the center aisle to one of the communion stations by the chancel, receive the bread (gluten-free), dip in the cup and partake. Those who need to stay in the pew should indicate their need to be served there to one of the ushers or greeters.

Someone will come to serve you.

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**

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 199

*** BENEDICTION**

*** CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Christ lag in todesbanden

(Christ lay in the bonds of death)

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

* * *

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. For toddlers and preschoolers who stay in church, there is a PrayGround in front of the chapel with a rug and a few quiet play things. The first pew of the chapel is reserved for parents to supervise their children if you do not need to be on the rug with them. There are also additional children's books on the bookshelves near the back of the chapel.

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

Today's class is a one room schoolhouse program where we will learn what Jesus did after the Resurrection. We will meet in the Woodman Youth Room, right around the corner from the Lounge. Three and four year olds are welcome in child care in the Preschool Blue Door. Older youth (middle and high school students) are needed to help in either child care or the Youth Room. Regular church school classes resume next Sunday, April 15.

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

Please Join Us for a Quarterly Meeting of Members on Sunday, April 22, 2018

The chairpersons of many standing committees will give an update, answer questions and hear comments relating to church matters and operations. The meeting will immediately follow the Sunday Service in the Meetinghouse at 11:00.

News from the Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Wednesday, April 11: The annual Thank-You Breakfast for the Rummage Room Volunteers will be hosted by the Rummage Room Committee and the Rummage Room manager, Leanne Meyer. The breakfast will take place at 9 am in the church auditorium. To our

volunteers: please put this date on your calendars and come have a great breakfast and a great time with the Monday through Friday, and the half-a-day-on-Saturday Volunteers!! If you have not done so, please make your reservations as soon as possible with Leanne. We hope you will come!

Mgr. Leanne's Wish List: Spring and summer hats; summer dresses; 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 9:30 to 12:30. Please do not leave donations outside when the Rummage Room is locked.

Thought for the day: "Remember one thing about democracy. We can have anything we want and at the same time, end up with exactly what we deserve."—Edward Albee, American playwright. (1928-2016).

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.

2018 Women's Fellowship Raffle Quilt

The 2018 Women's Fellowship Raffle Quilt is a queen-size Double Irish Chain in navy and off-white with a splash of red. The open spaces offer a chance to see the quilting patterns and the stitchers needlework skills. This 'double' quilt pattern is traditionally stitched with three fabrics: a light for the background and two medium to dark fabrics. Irish Chain quilts are a good place for beginners to learn to piece and stitch a quilt. They involve strips of fabric and squares - there are no triangles or bias edges to deal with. They are done as a single, double or triple Irish chain and it is one of the oldest and most popular quilt patterns. There are some examples of the pattern in

Ireland but it mainly developed in America in the early 1800s with 1814 the earliest known date for this pattern. The quilt will be featured in the Rummage Room window during April. Raffle tickets will be available at the Rummage Room and shortly in the church office. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Women's Fellowship Luncheon on Wednesday, May 16 at 12 noon. Winner need not be present to win. All proceeds benefit local, national and international charities that support women and children.

**Next Week at First Church
Sunday, April 15**

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr., preaching

Music by the Chancel Choir
The Stone Is Rolled Away—Don Besig

Music by Carol & Thomas Woodman, soprano & bass
I Want Jesus to Walk with Me—Traditional Spiritual



The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

108 Sound Beach Avenue,
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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