

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

Fifth Sunday of Easter
29 April 2018
10 o'clock in the morning



I, the fiery life of divine wisdom
I ignite the beauty of the plains,
I sparkle the waters,
I burn in the sun, and the moon, and the stars,
With wisdom I order all rightly....
I adorn all the earth,
I am the breeze that nurtures all things green....
I am the rain coming from the dew
That causes the grasses to laugh with the joy of
life.
I call forth tears, the aroma of holy work.
I am the yearning for good.

Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

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

Fugue and Recit de cromhorne

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

Francois Couperin (1668-1733)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

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

Rev. Patrick Collins

PRAISING GOD

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Patrick Collins

Leader: The Christ said, "This is my commandment: Love one another."

People: We come to worship the God who is love, that we may learn to love one another.

Leader: The Christ said, "No longer do I call you servants; but now I call you my friends."

People: We come to worship the God whose friends we are through Christ.

All: Let us sing praise to God, and live in love and friendship toward the human family, through Jesus our Christ. Amen.

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*** HYMN**

Christ Is Made the
Sure Foundation

New Century (black) Hymnal 400

GATHERING PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

O Source of all living things, we praise you for the power of recurring re-creation of life we see around us, and for the timeless resurrection of Jesus our Christ. May these signs inspire us to manifest your presence in our relationships and actions, that those cries of joy first heard on Easter morning may echo through the centuries to our time and place. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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, children 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. 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

Helen Turvey Ingraham

Psalm 22: 25-31

Here in this great gathering for worship
I have discovered this praise-life.
And I'll do what I promised right here
in front of the God-worshippers.
Down-and-outers sit at God's table
and eat their fill.

Everyone on the hunt for God
 is here, praising him.
“Live it up, from head to toe.
 Don’t ever quit!”
From the four corners of the earth
 people are coming to their senses,
 are running back to God.
Long-lost families
 are falling on their faces before him.
God has taken charge;
 from now on he has the last word.
All the power-mongers are before him
 —worshiping!
All the poor and powerless, too
 —worshiping!
Along with those who never got it together
 —worshiping!
Our children and their children
 will get in on this
As the word is passed along
 from parent to child.
Babies not yet conceived
 will hear the good news—
 that God does what he says.

—The Message

ANTHEM
Cantate

The Youth Choir
Mary Lynn Lightfoot
Carolyn Paulus, director
Vance Briceland, piano

SECOND LESSON

Acts 8 : 26-40

Later God’s angel spoke to Philip: “At noon today I want you to walk over to that desolate road that goes from Jerusalem down to Gaza.” He got up and went. He met an Ethiopian eunuch coming down the road. The eunuch had been on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and was returning to Ethiopia, where he was minister in charge of all the finances of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. He was riding in a chariot and reading the prophet Isaiah.

The Spirit told Philip, “Climb into the chariot.” Running up alongside, Philip heard the eunuch reading Isaiah and asked, “Do you understand what you’re reading?”

He answered, “How can I without some help?” and invited Philip into the chariot with him. The passage he was reading was this:

As a sheep led to slaughter,
and quiet as a lamb being sheared,
He was silent, saying nothing.
He was mocked and put down, never got a fair trial.
But who now can count his kin
since he’s been taken from the earth?

The eunuch said, “Tell me, who is the prophet talking about: himself or some other?” Philip grabbed his chance. Using this passage as his text, he preached Jesus to him.

As they continued down the road, they came to a stream of water. The eunuch said, “Here’s water. Why can’t I be baptized?” He ordered the chariot to stop. They both went down to the water, and Philip baptized him on the spot. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of God suddenly took Philip off, and that was the last the eunuch saw of him. But he didn’t mind. He had what he’d come for and went on down the road as happy as he could be.

– The Message

SERMON

Who’s Included?

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

*** HYMN**

O Word of God Incarnate

New Century (black) hymnal 315

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Patrick Collins

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Praise

The Chancel Choir

Alec Rowley

To the Master of music and loveliness: praise, power, dominion forever. To the Lord of the word of creation be praise, power, dominion forever. To the Maker of movement, color, and light: praise, power, dominion forever.

To the Builder, Designer, Creator, be praise, power, dominion forever. To the Theme of all song, Inspiration of love; to the Artist of life, to the greatest and least: praise, power, dominion forever.

For he is the greatest upon his high throne,
and he was the least as the child of a maiden;
praise then to Jesus, whose mother was Mary, and praise
now to Christ, who is God in the midst of us. Praise.

Lord of all beauty, adoring we come to thee; give us thyself both in
time and eternity. Lord of all beauty, adoring we come to
thee, offering all that we are or can hope to be.
Praise, power, dominion forever.

* 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

O for a World

New Century (black) Hymnal 575

* BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Festal Trumpets

Noel Rawsthorne (b.1929)

* * *

Rev. DenUyl is attending a family reunion in Chicago this week.

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

TODAY

Church School

Regular Church School continues today. Rotation Workshops will wrap up their workshops for the story of Jesus greeting the disciples

on the beach and preparing breakfast for them. Next week, all classes begin activities to prepare for participating in worship on June 3. Mark your calendars for this special Sunday, "Make a Joyful Noise."

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:

- Cherub Choir: Rainbow Room (basement) 11:15-11:45
- Children's Choir: Music Room (3rd floor) 11:15-12:00

Raffle Quilt on Display during Fellowship Hour Today

The 2018 Women's Fellowship Raffle Quilt is a queen-size Double Irish Chain in navy and off-white with a splash of red. Raffle tickets are available at the Rummage Room, in the church office and Fellowship hour, 5/6 and 5/13. 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. Tickets are \$5 and all proceeds benefit local, national and international charities that support women and children.

UPCOMING

Photo Session Sunday for New Online Directory

In these busy times, taking your own selfie is the best way to get your family together for this photo. Please upload your own selfie photo into the MyFirstChurch directory. You can find the instructions on the upper right hand side of the First Church home page. Please contact Sue Wilder at swilder102@gmail.com or patlarrabee@hotmail.com with any questions.

Women's Fellowship Luncheon

You are invited to the Women's Fellowship Annual meeting and catered luncheon in the First Church auditorium, on Wednesday, May 16th at 11:30 am. Join us for the Election of Officers and to

Vote on Allocations. Representatives from some of the recipients of the allocation funds will speak. The 48th annual Quilt Raffle will be held at 12 noon. Come one, come all! Guests are welcome.

Reservations by check for \$12.00/person are a **must**. Please make checks payable to Women's Fellowship, and send by mail or leave at the Church Office by Sunday, May 13th. You may also register online at My First Church. No walk-ins please.

News from the Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, April 29: As we are all aware, spring has been very late this year. Now that the weather has become warmer, we are hopeful you will clean out your closets and bring your donations into The Best Little Shop in Town—The Rummage Room!

Mgr. Leanne's Wish List: Good jewelry, women's hats and handbags, items for Mother's Day gifts, dresses, boy's sport coats for confirmations and communions, good bric-a-brac, men's clothing and 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.

Our Mission Statement: The Rummage Room's mission has always been about raising funds to be allocated to organizations that benefit women, children and families in need of assistance. Through the years, millions of dollars have been given from The Rummage Room for projects in the following areas, both at home and abroad. Here are a few of those projects: Anti-violence; housing, clothing; adult and child education; hunger prevention; women's rights; Kids in Crisis; Planned Parenthood, Senior Services; female soldiers who are often the forgotten heroes, and much, much more. There are so many who depend on our help. Life is a series of tiny miracles, so if we want to help change the world, we need to continue to give in order to stem the tide of death and destruction that has hit the world in so many ways.

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, May 6

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr., preaching

Music by the Chancel Choir
Prayer for Today—Margaret Tucker
Mary Fike, Flute

Music by the Children's Choir
Psalm 98—Jane Marshall

Music by Thomas Woodman, bass
Now Shines the Brightest Glory of Heaven—F. J. Haydn



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