

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

Sixth Sunday of Easter

6 May 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

Make a Joyful Noise

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

Alan Viner (b. 1951)

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: God's greatness is wondrous to behold.

People: Everywhere we look, we can see the imprint of God.

Leader: From the loftiest mountains to the crashing waters of the sea,

People: There God's greatness stands majestically.

Leader: God's greatness can be within the human heart.

All: Let us honor and praise God with acts of loving kindness and compassion. Amen.

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*** HYMN**

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 267

GATHERING PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

O God who is greater than the most powerful forces in this world, enable us to be still and know that You are God. O Lord who answers out of the whirlwind of everyday life, breathe in us Your Holy Spirit to strengthen, comfort, and guide us in the midst of the storm. O still, small voice, speak to us this hour that we might bring loving kindness to our homes, our communities and our world. We pray all this in the name of the One who taught us to pray, 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.

ANTHEM

Psalm 98

The Children's Choir
Jane Marshall (1952-2012)
Vance Briceland, piano

O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!
Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre and the sound of melody!
With trumpets and the sound of the horn,
Make a joyful noise before the Lord, before the King.

(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

Bill DeHaven

Micah 6: 6-8

“With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,

with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"
He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

—New Revised Standard Edition

ANTHEM

Prayer for Today

The Chancel Choir

Margaret Tucker (b. 1936)

Mary Fike, flute

God in heaven, I make my prayer for all the people everywhere who live in fear or pain or doubt; Whose homes are gone, and hope runs out. For all the children everywhere who live in terrible, warring places; who live with hunger and strange, sad faces.

For all good people everywhere who live in comfort, love, and peace and pray sincerely for strife to cease; but who do not always hear the call of those who live with nothing at all.

Help all people everywhere to come closer together in plenty and need, and to make our world your home, indeed.

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 4: 25-32

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be

kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. – New Revised Standard Edition

SERMON

Loving Kindness

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

*** HYMN**

Let Us Break Bread Together

Pilgrim (red) hymnal 288

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO

Thomas Woodman, bass

Now Shines the Brightest Glory of Heaven F. J. Haydn (1732-1809)

Now heaven in fullest glory shone ;
Earth smil'd in all her rich attire ;
The room of air by fowl is fill'd ;
The water swell'd by shoals of fish ;
By heavy beasts the ground is trod :
But all the work was not complete ;
There wanted yet that wondrous being,
That, grateful, should God's power admire,
With heart and voice His goodness praise.

*** 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**

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 272

*** BENEDICTION**

*** CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Processional

Stanley Vann (b. 1910)

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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.fcog.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 and all classes begin activities to prepare for participating in worship on June 3. Mark your calendars for this special Sunday, "Make a Joyful Noise."

Blood Pressure Screening

Betsy Kreuter, PT, is available for blood pressure screenings in the Parish Nurse office, during Community Hour, following today's worship service.

Choir Rehearsals

The following choirs will meet today in their normal places/times:

- Cherub Choir: Rainbow Room (basement) 11:15-11:45
- Youth Choir: Choir Room 11:15-12:15

Raffle Quilt on Display during Fellowship Hour Today

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, May 7: Since May is the month to honor our Mothers, remember the Rummage Room has many wonderful gift items for them. Of if you prefer, give a gift certificate for any amount and she

can choose her own gift. Spring is here and we urge you to review your closets and donate what you can to the Rummage Room. Your generosity through the years has allowed the Rummage Room to convert your donations and the items you've purchased into funds that are used to brighten the lives of those mothers and their families who are in need around the world. The Rummage Room has been able to give millions of dollars over the years because of your generosity.

Mgr. Leanne's Wish List: Jewelry; men's suits; summer dresses.

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 10 to 12:30. Please do not leave donations outside when the Rummage Room is locked.

Happy, happy spring!

Mothers Day Diaper Drive

The Mothers Day Diaper Drive is in support of Mothers For Others and will take place between May 4 and 14. Your donation of diapers and wipes will help local families in need provide a most basic necessity for their children. We are most in need of sizes 4-6. Please place donations in the bins provided.

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. There will be no meeting in the month of May; we will resume on June 10. 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 13**

Rev. Patrick Collins, preaching

Music by the Chancel Choir
Jesus Calls Us—Joy Patterson
Enid Press, clarinet

Music by Enid Press, clarinet
Prelude—Gerald Finzi

Music by Hanna Golodinskii, soprano
You'll Never Walk Alone—Richard Rodgers



The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

108 Sound Beach Avenue,
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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