

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

Seventh Sunday of Easter

13 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

Prelude

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, piano
Gerald Finzi (1901-1956)
Enid Press, clarinet

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: Holy and Compassionate One,

People: As we gather this morning to worship you,

Leader: May we speak truth,

People: So that our words may give grace to those who hear.

Leader: May we pray in faith,

People: So that our words may give grace to those who hear.

Leader: May we sing with joy,

People: So that our words may give grace to those who hear.

Leader: May we listen with open minds and receptive hearts,

People: So that Your words may give grace to us who hear.

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*** HYMN**

What a Covenant

New Century (black) Hymnal 471

GATHERING PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester
and Rev. Patrick Collins

Leader: Mothers come in many different forms, and today we celebrate them all!

People: Thank God for mothers!

Leader: Everyone here is either a son or a daughter.

People: Thank God for my mother!

Leader: For those women who have joined God in Heaven and whom we miss dearly here on earth.

People: Thank God for the mothers of the past.

Leader: For every woman who is working day and night to raise her children right now.

People: Thank God for the mothers of today.

Leader: For all the women who are expecting, but aren't quite mothers yet!

People: Thank God for the soon-to-be-mothers.

Leader: For the women who took in others' children through adoption and foster care.

People: Thank God for the mothers with hearts so big.

Leader: For those women who have lost a child to death and must carry on.

People: Thank God for the mothers who are so strong.

Leader: For all the women who have desperately wanted to have children of their own, but chose instead to mother everyone else.

People: Thank God for the mothers in spirit.

People: We thank you, Lord, for the women who have influenced our lives in so many ways. We pray that we will honor them in everything we do. Amen.

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

Car Westbrook

Job 2 7:13

The Adversary departed from the Lord's presence and struck Job with severe sores from the sole of his foot to the top of his head. Job took a piece of broken pottery to scratch himself and sat down on a mound of ashes. Job's wife said to him, "Are you still clinging to your integrity? Curse God, and die."

Job said to her, "You're talking like a foolish woman. Will we receive good from God but not also receive bad?" In all this, Job didn't sin with his lips.

When Job's three friends heard about all this disaster that had happened to him, they came, each one from his home. They agreed to come so they could console and comfort him. When they looked up from a distance and didn't recognize him, they wept loudly. Each one tore his garment and scattered dust above his head toward the sky. They sat with Job on the ground seven days and seven nights, not speaking a word to him, for they saw that he was in excruciating pain.

—Common English Bible

SOLO

You'll Never Walk Alone

Hanna Golodinskii, soprano
Richard Rodgers

SECOND LESSON

Acts 1: 15-19

During this time, the family of believers was a company of about one hundred twenty persons. Peter stood among them and said, "Brothers and sisters, the scripture that the Holy Spirit announced beforehand through David had to be fulfilled. This was the scripture concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus. This happened even though he was one of us and received a share of this ministry." In fact, he bought a field with the payment he received for his injustice. Falling headfirst, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines spilled out. This became known to everyone living in Jerusalem, so they called that field in their own language Hakeldama, or "Field of Blood." – Common English Bible

SERMON

The End Is the Beginning

Rev. Patrick Collins

* HYMN

Abide with Me

New Century (black) Hymnal 99

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Jesus Calls Us

The Chancel Choir

Arr. Joy Patterson

Enid Press, clarinet

* 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

When Peace, Like a River

New Century (black) Hymnal 438

* BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Rigaudon

Andre Campra (1660-1744)

* * *

Flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in loving memory of her mother and father, Dorothy and Frank Crabill by Linda Dowling.

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

Happy Mother's Day! Regular Church School continues today and all classes will continue their preparations for participating in worship on June 3. Mark your calendars for this special Sunday, "Make a Joyful Noise."

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 Community Hour Today

The countdown has begun! Raffle tickets will only be available in the church office Monday and Tuesday. Any remaining tickets will be available prior to the Women's Fellowship Annual Meeting and Luncheon on Wednesday, May 16. The winning ticket will be drawn 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.

Undie Sunday: May 13 and May 20, 2018

The Undies Project will be receiving donations of underwear for men, women and children in need to help improve their lives, and will welcome donations of new women's panties, new men's boxers and briefs, and new children's underwear. All sizes and ages needed. All items donated will be distributed to local area organizations that help those in need. Underwear is the most under-donated, and most needed, item of clothing. No one should be deprived of the simple,

daily necessity of clean underwear that many of us take for granted. Hygiene and physical comfort are only a part of this basic human need. New, clean underwear also provides dignity and self-esteem. The Undies Project Inc. was started to fulfill this need. For more information, visit www.theundiesproject.org.

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 FCCOG home page. The quicker pictures are taken and uploaded, the quicker the directory will be more useful to folks, especially as we transition to an interim senior pastor. These pictures are invaluable to new staff and church members as they learn names and faces, and are able to greet everyone at church events. If such technology is not your thing, however, Pat Larrabee will be in the lounge Sunday, 9:00-9:50 am and after church to take photos of individuals or families for input into the new photo directory. It will only take a few minutes. Just bring your best smile! 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 **today**, May 13th. You may also register on-line at My First Church. No walk-ins please.

A Farewell to Rev. DenUyl: May 27

Please join the Church Council, clergy and staff in saying goodbye to Richard, Barbara, and Sophie DenUyl on Sunday, May 27 at a special

Community Hour immediately following the service in the Memory Garden. This will be Richard's last sermon so it should not be missed.

News from the Rummage Room
191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, May 13: Happy Mother's Day to all mothers around the world! Have you ever noticed that really good moms have sticky floors and messy kitchens at times . . . and consequently they usually have happy children? "Her Children arise and call her Blessed. Her Husband also, and he Praiseth her."—Proverbs 31. God bless our mothers . . . and we remember the ones who are gone but still remembered in a beautiful way.

Mgr. Leanne's Wish List: Children's shoes; men's suits; 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.

Blessed are those who snuggle and hug, boast and brag, for they shall be called "Mother".

Thought forever: When our Mothers have passed on, we still feel the ache no one can heal. But their love for us leaves a memory that no one can steal.

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 20: Confirmation Sunday**

Music by the Chancel and Youth Choirs
He's Got the Whole World/
This Is My Father's World—Arr. Joel Raney

Music by the Cherub Choir
The Rainbow Song

Music by the Youth Choir
Amazing Grace—Arr. Francisco Nuñez



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