

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

8 July 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 Memory Garden.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

PRELUDE

Aria

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ
Michael Burkhardt (b. 1957)

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: Our help is in the name of the Creator, who made all of the heavens and the earth.

People: We belong to God.

Leader: When we feel overwhelmed,

People: God is on our side.

Leader: When we are afraid,

People: God will keep us safe.

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Creator, who made all of the heavens and the earth.

All: Blessed be our God!

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*** HYMN**

We Praise You, O God

New Century (black) Hymnal 420

UNISON PRAYER

Creator God, the struggles and difficulties of this world swirl around us constantly, like a misty fog in darkness.

Sometimes we do not know which way to turn during these challenging times. As we gather this morning, God, we ask that you give us the courage and strength to face the future with you, to trust you to walk with us, guide us and protect us. May learn from the bold and courageous actions of our ancestors how to stand up for what we is right and good. We ask all these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray...

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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Barbara Norrgard

I look at the world
From awakening eyes in a black face—
And this is what I see:
This fenced-off narrow space
Assigned to me.

I look then at the silly walls
Through dark eyes in a dark face—
And this is what I know:
That all these walls oppression builds
Will have to go!

I look at my own body
With eyes no longer blind—
And I see that my own hands can make
The world that's in my mind.

Then let us hurry, comrades,
The road to find.

—Langston Hughes

SOLO
The Call

Hanna Golodinskii, soprano
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
Such a Way, as gives us breath:
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:
Such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, My Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a Light, as shows a feast:
Such a Feast, as mends in length:
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a Joy, as none can move:
Such a Love, as none can part:
Such a Heart, as joys in love.

SECOND LESSON

Exodus 1: 8-22

Now a new king came to power in Egypt who didn't know Joseph. He said to his people, "The Israelite people are now larger in number and stronger than we are. Come on, let's be smart and deal with them. Otherwise, they will only grow in number. And if war breaks out, they will join our enemies, fight against us, and then escape from the land." As a result, the Egyptians put foremen of forced work gangs over the Israelites to harass them with hard work. They had to build storage cities named Pithom and Rameses for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they grew and spread, so much so that the Egyptians started to look at the Israelites with disgust and dread. So the Egyptians enslaved the Israelites. They made their lives miserable with hard labor, making mortar and bricks, doing field work, and by forcing them to do all kinds of other cruel work.

The king of Egypt spoke to two Hebrew midwives named Shiphrah and Puah: "When you are helping the Hebrew women give birth and you see the baby being born, if it's a boy, kill him. But if it's a girl, you can let her live." Now the two midwives respected God so they didn't obey the Egyptian king's order. Instead, they let the baby boys live.

So the king of Egypt called the two midwives and said to them, "Why are you doing this? Why are you letting the baby boys live?"

The two midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because Hebrew women aren't like Egyptian women. They're much stronger and give birth before any midwives can get to them." So God treated the midwives well, and the people kept on multiplying and became very strong. And because the midwives respected God, God gave them households of their own.

Then Pharaoh gave an order to all his people: "Throw every baby boy born to the Hebrews into the Nile River, but you can let all the girls live."
—Common English Bible

SERMON

For the Children

Rev. Patrick Collins

*** HYMN**

God of Grace and God of Glory New Century (black) hymnal 436

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Patrick Collins

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

I Dream a World

The Summer Choir
Andre Thomas (b. 1952)

I dream a world where man
No other man will scorn,
Where love will bless the earth
And peace its paths adorn

I dream a world where all
Will know sweet freedom's way,
Where greed no longer saps the soul
Nor avarice blights our day.
A world I dream where black or white,
Whatever race you be,
Will share the bounties of the earth
And every man is free,
Where wretchedness will hang its head
And joy, like a pearl,
Attends the needs of all mankind-
Of such I dream, my world!

*** 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
Finale Jubilante Healey Willan (1880-1968)

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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.

Radio Ministry

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

Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, RN, is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following today’s worship service. If our Community Hour is held outside, Sue will be in the Memory Garden. If held inside, due to weather, Sue will be available in her office, to the right of the Auditorium stage.

UPCOMING

Beach Services Schedule

Future beach services by the Innis Arden Cottage July 29, August 5, August 19, and September 2. Remember, you don't have to be a Greenwich resident to attend these services; simply tell the attendant at the entry point you're there for the church service. Don't forget to bring your beach chairs!

Sign Up Today for the First Church Beach BYO Picnic: Thursday July 12 5 to 8 pm

The Welcoming Committee is pleased to invite everyone to the First Church Beach Bring-Your-Own Picnic! Pack a picnic dinner and beverages, dessert is on us! We will gather at the Clambake area from 5-8 pm on Thursday, July 12. This is an opportunity for those who do not live in Greenwich to enjoy our beautiful Greenwich Point. Tell the gatekeeper that you are here for the First Church picnic. Singles, couples, families are welcome, bring a friend! You can sign up online at My First Church, in the church office and in Community hour.

Legacy Sunday Is July 15

What is Legacy Sunday, you ask? This year, we decided it made perfect sense to combine the two days that honor the landing of the first settlers of Greenwich and purchase of the land from the native people on July 18, 1640, previously known as Founders Day, as well as the members who have been with the church for 50 or more years, also known as Heritage Sunday. At Community Hour, following the 10 am service, we will have a display of historical items from our church archives in the Memory Garden, weather permitting. Join us for this historic day in the life of our congregation and our community.

Save the Date: July 22 Guest Preacher Anthony Trujillo

A special thank you to Olga Hartwell for bringing us one of her colleagues at Yale to be a guest preacher on July 22. Anthony Trujillo is a student in the Master of Divinity program at Yale Divinity School (YDS) who is in the process to become an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). His ministry attends to the complex religious histories of the United States and he seeks to imagine

theological and interpretive strategies that affirm, indigenous lifeways. Please come to hear Anthony's inspiring message and give him a warm welcome to Old Greenwich and First Church.

Summer Choir – All Are Welcome!

Please join us on Sunday mornings throughout the summer, at 9:00 a.m. in the Meetinghouse for a warm-up and rehearsal of the music being sung that morning. Head to the third floor, outside the choir room, to pick up the hymns, anthem, and bulletin, and a folder, then meet downstairs in the choir loft. Come any Sunday that you are available to help lead the congregation in worship, and it also gives you a chance to experience worship from the choir loft. Everyone is welcome! If you have any questions, please contact Craig Symons (ext. 822).

News from the Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Please view 50% off items for the week at www.fccog.org/about-us/the-rummage-room.

Monday: The Rummage Room will open 10 to 5 pm, Monday—Thursday.

Fridays: The Rummage Room will close at 1 pm on Fridays during the month of July.

Please do not leave donations while the Rummage Room is closed, as there will be nobody to process them.

Mgr. Leanne's Wish List: Ladies' handbags; scarves; fall coats.

Reminder: The Rummage Room will close for the month of August starting Saturday, August 4. The grand reopening will take place on September 4, at 10 am, with 'all-new' merchandise.

Thought for the week: We look forward to the time when the 'power of love' will replace the 'love of power.'—William Ellery Channing, American Clergyman (1780—1842)

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, July 15**

Rev. Patrick Collins, preaching

Music by the Summer Choir
All Things Bright and Beautiful—John Rutter



The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

108 Sound Beach Avenue,
Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870
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www.fccog.org

Ministers: The Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Associate Pastor: Rev. Patrick Collins

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Minister 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

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