

*The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*  
*Founded in 1665*

**5 August 2018**

10 o'clock in the morning



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**

Prelude in A minor

Dr. Craig Scott Symons  
J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

#### **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: Grace to you and peace, from the God who is and who was and who is to come.

**People: We come diffidently weighed down by the excesses and the sorrows of the past.**

Leader: Grace to you and peace, from the God who is and who was and who is to come

**People: We come hopefully knowing that the presence of God will not be limited by our human constructs.**

Leader: Grace to you and peace, from the God who is and who was and who is to come

**People: We come thankfully discovering abundance born not of possession but of the heart.**

Leader: Grace to you and peace, from the God who is and who was and who is to come

#### **\* PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**\* HYMN**

The Church's One Foundation

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 260

**GATHERING PRAYER**

This world would deny you, Lord, and rely on human wisdom in their search for answers to questions they have yet to ask, but we will praise you, and exalt your name, for we know that you are Alpha, the beginning of all things, and Omega, the end, and all that is in between. We have known your healing. We have known your grace. We have known your love. Our sorrow has turned into dancing and our tears to songs of joy. We shall praise you ever more.

**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**

Jean Watkins

**Revelation 1: 4-8**

John, to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace and peace to you from the one who is and was and is coming, and from the seven spirits that are before God's throne, and from Jesus Christ—the faithful witness, the firstborn from among the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To the one who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, who made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father—to him be glory and power forever and always. Amen.

Look, he is coming with the clouds! Every eye will see him, including those who pierced him, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of him. This is so. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega,"

says the Lord God, “the one who is and was and is coming, the Almighty.”  
– Common English Bible

**SOLO**

A Simple Song

Daniel Young, tenor  
Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)

Sing God a simple song: Lauda, Laudē  
Make it up as you go along: Lauda, Laudē  
Sing like you like to sing.  
God loves all simple things,  
For God is the simplest of all.

I will sing the Lord a new song  
To praise Him, to bless Him, to bless the Lord.  
I will sing His praises while I live all of my days.  
Blessed is the man who loves the Lord,  
Blessed is the man who praises Him.  
Lauda, Lauda, Laudē  
And walks in His ways.

I will lift up my eyes  
To the hills from whence comes my help.  
I will lift up my voice to the Lord  
Singing Lauda, Laudē.

For the Lord is my shade,  
Is the shade upon my right hand,  
And the sun shall not smite me by day  
Nor the moon by night.  
Blessed is the man who loves the Lord,  
Lauda, Lauda, Laudē,  
And walks in His ways.

Lauda, Lauda, Laudē,  
Lauda, Lauda di da di day.  
All of my days.

## SECOND LESSON

### Luke 23: 32-43

They also led two other criminals to be executed with Jesus. When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they’re doing.” They drew lots as a way of dividing up his clothing.

The people were standing around watching, but the leaders sneered at him, saying, “He saved others. Let him save himself if he really is the Christ sent from God, the chosen one.”

The soldiers also mocked him. They came up to him, offering him sour wine and saying, “If you really are the king of the Jews, save yourself.” Above his head was a notice of the formal charge against him. It read “This is the king of the Jews.”

One of the criminals hanging next to Jesus insulted him: “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!”

Responding, the other criminal spoke harshly to him, “Don’t you fear God, seeing that you’ve also been sentenced to die? We are rightly condemned, for we are receiving the appropriate sentence for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

Jesus replied, “I assure you that today you will be with me in paradise.”

– Common English Bible

## SERMON

Famous Last Words

Rev. Patrick Collins

## \* HYMN

Blessed Assurance

New Century (black) Hymnal 473

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Patrick Collins

## RESPONDING TO GOD

### CALL TO OFFERING

#### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

If We Believed that Jesus Died

The Summer Choir  
John Goss (1800-1880)

If we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus, will God bring with Him.

#### \* 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

**Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and**

send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing  
in this power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD**

**\* HYMN**

Holy, Holy, Holy

Pilgrim (red) hymnal 251

**\* BENEDICTION**

**\* CHORAL RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

Toccatà in D minor

J. S. Bach

\* \* \*

**A Note about Our Organ**

Today, after years of discussions and fundraising through the generosity of the recent Capital Campaign, our mighty Austin organ from 1978 will be removed this week to begin its long-awaited upgrade. The console, where Craig plays each week, will be removed and taken to the Hartford-based Austin Organ Builders. During the next 4 months, Austin will be cleaning up the wooden console, upgrading the “brains” of the instrument to digital technology, and preparing it for future expansion. During this phase of the upgrade, the organ will also receive a extra division (or set) of pipes which will reside to the left of the front row of the choir. It will contain softer sounds that will give even greater flexibility in accompanying soloists, choirs, and reflective communion music.

To celebrate this important milestone for our instrument, the postlude will, literally, pull out all the stops and send us forth with what is possibly the most famous piece for organ, the Toccata in D minor, by Johann Sebastian Bach. We look forward to the organ sounding forth once again (with lots of prayers for on-time completion!) on Harvest Sunday in November.

---

### **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](http://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 are 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!

### **Bible Study Class with Rev. Carla Dietz Begins August 16**

Come join in on a rousing weekly conversation on the Bible readings of the week. This is a 'no holds barred' kind of group where everyone's voice matters. The class will begin on Thursday August 16, 11 am, in the Pastor's Office.

### **Photos 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, you can contact Pat Larrabee at [patlarrabee@hotmail.com](mailto:patlarrabee@hotmail.com) to arrange for an appointment to have your photo taken. Please contact Sue Wilder at [swilder102@gmail.com](mailto:swilder102@gmail.com) with any questions.

### **Summer Choir – All Are Welcome!**

Please join us on Sunday mornings throughout the summer, at 9 am 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**

The Rummage Room closed Saturday, August 4, for repairs and restocking for the September 4 Grand Reopening.

The Rummage Room's 54<sup>th</sup> Grand Reopening will take place on Tuesday, September 4, at 10 am—the day after Labor Day. For those of you who have never been to a Rummage Room Reopening, it is a festive day with all 'slight-new' merchandise saved for the occasion! Please do not bring your donations to the Rummage Room until Wednesday, September 5 from 9:30 to 4:30 pm, when they will be gratefully accepted. Remember: Do not leave donations while the Rummage Room is closed. There will be no one to process them. Thank you!

**Thought for the past 53 Years:** Many thanks to The Rummage Room, Women's Fellowship, and all the Volunteers who have worked unselfishly all these years. Thanks also to our wonderful Customers who shop and donate year after year. The proceeds have brought joy and comfort to millions of people around the world.

**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](mailto:dorothymueller1@gmail.com).

**Next Week at First Church  
Sunday, August 12**

Rev. Patrick Collins, preaching

Music by the Summer Choir  
Consider—Roland Martin

Music by Dorothy Darlington, oboe



## **The First Congregational Church of Greenwich**

108 Sound Beach Avenue,  
Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870  
203-637-1791  
*[www.fccog.org](http://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

Publications Coordinator: Vance Briceland

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Stiers & Rev. Sally Colegrove

Cover Art: Lisle Gwynn Garrity