

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

14 October 2018
10 o'clock in the morning

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REJOICE
always
PRAY
continually
GIVE THANKS
in all
circumstances
1 THESS 5:16-18
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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.)

PRELUDE

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, piano

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Patrick Collins

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

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

PRAISING GOD

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

(Prepares us for the purpose of service and sets the tone, orienting us toward a worship mindset)

Leader: God stretches out the heavens and shapes the earth.

People: Come and give thanks!

Leader: God raises up the mountains and pours water into the seas.

People: Come and give thanks!

Leader: God calls forth plants from the soil and forms animals in infinite variety.

People: Come and give thanks!

Leader: God breathes upon us and fills us with life.

People: Come lift your voices in praise!

Leader: God gives our lives meaning through laughter and tears.

People: Come lift your voices in praise!

Leader: God touches our hearts through family and friends.

People: Come lift your voices in praise!

Leader: God loves us and blesses us with everything good.

People: Come and worship!

Leader: God loves us and overwhelms us with never-ending generosity.

People: Come and worship!

Leader: God loves us and surrounds us with love in abundance!

People: Come and worship!

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

(Peace be with you.)

*** HYMN**

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing New Century (black) Hymnal 17

GATHERING PRAYER

Reverend Avery C. Manchester

(Or Opening Prayer. We call on God for help & presence. We call on the living God who has made a covenant with us through Jesus the Christ)

God of Love, You are with us in every transition and change.

As we enter into this new era with excitement and even some anxiety, we recall your deep compassion, presence, and

abounding love. We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills

with which you have blessed us. We thank you for the

experiences that have brought us to this moment. We thank

you for the work of others that gives breadth and depth to our

own work. Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you

and supporting one another. We ask this in your Holy Name.

Amen.

ANTHEM

Sing of the Lord's Goodness

The Children's Choir

Earnest Sands

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, director

Vance Briceland, piano

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Reverend Patrick Collins

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.

(All sing, as children exit)

**Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.**

**(Refrain) Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me still today, Walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give Light and love to all who live.**

(Refrain)

(After the Children's Message, children and teachers will all go to the Daniels Center where we will kick-off a special project that will benefit Heifer International.)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON—GOSPEL

Joe McBride

1 Thessalonians 5: 12-24

Brothers and sisters, we ask you to respect those who are working with you, leading you, and instructing you. Think of them highly with love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are disorderly. Comfort the discouraged. Help the weak. Be patient with everyone. Make sure no one repays a wrong with a wrong, but always pursue the good for each other and everyone else. Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Don't suppress the Spirit. Don't brush off Spirit-inspired messages, but examine everything carefully and hang on to what is good. Avoid every kind of evil. Now, may the God of peace himself cause you to be completely dedicated to him; and may your spirit, soul, and body be kept intact and blameless at our Lord Jesus Christ's coming. The one who is calling you is faithful and will do this.

– Common English Bible

SECOND LESSON—GOSPEL

Mark 10: 17- 27

As Jesus continued down the road, a man ran up, knelt before him, and asked, "Good Teacher, what must I do to obtain eternal life?"

Jesus replied, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except the one God. You know the commandments: Don’t commit murder. Don’t commit adultery. Don’t steal. Don’t give false testimony. Don’t cheat. Honor your father and mother.”

“Teacher,” he responded, “I’ve kept all of these things since I was a boy.”

Jesus looked at him carefully and loved him. He said, “You are lacking one thing. Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor. Then you will have treasure in heaven. And come, follow me.” But the man was dismayed at this statement and went away saddened, because he had many possessions.

Looking around, Jesus said to his disciples, “It will be very hard for the wealthy to enter God’s kingdom!” His words startled the disciples, so Jesus told them again, “Children, it’s difficult to enter God’s kingdom! It’s easier for a camel to squeeze through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter God’s kingdom.”

They were shocked even more and said to each other, “Then who can be saved?”

Jesus looked at them carefully and said, “It’s impossible with human beings, but not with God. All things are possible for God.”

– Common English Bible

MESSAGE

Rejoice, Pray, and Give

Reverend Patrick Collins

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Praise for who God is, with thanksgiving for what God does and with requests for God to heal, transform, renew us and help us work out the complications of our lives.)

People: For these blessings, Lord, we give You thanks.

*** HYMN**

Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing

New Century (black) Hymnal 303

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

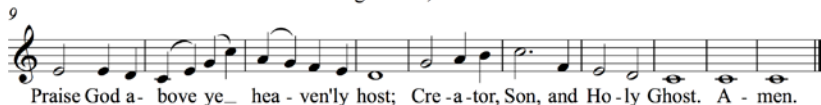
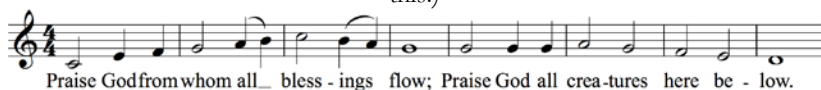
Down to the River to Pray

The Chancel Choir

Arr. Robert Lee

* DOXOLOGY

(Offering praise and thanksgiving for meeting our needs and for using us to bring God's mission to the world. Feel free to rise and sing a version familiar to you or this.)



* DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

* HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God

New Century (black) Hymnal 419

* BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

* All who are able, please stand

* * *

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 about Welcoming Children

To our 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 the back of the chapel with a rug and a few quiet play things. Chairs and rocking chairs are 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

Church School

Today is Stewardship Sunday for our church, and the Church School will be in on the practice, too. We will be embarking on a program to benefit Heifer International. Children will decorate Sunday collection boxes for their classrooms and decide upon how they will choose to help Heifer. They will learn about stewardship and about the Heifer projects. Next week we will resume our regular church school lessons.

Choir Rehearsals

The following choirs will meet today:

- Cherub Choir: Rainbow Room (Lower Level) 11:15-11:45
- Children’s Choir: Music Room (3rd floor) 11:15-12:00

- o Youth Choir: Choir Room (3rd floor) 11:15-12:15

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.

UPCOMING

Trunk or Treat: Saturday, October 20

5 pm – 6 pm: Volunteer Set-up and Trunk Decorating

6 pm– 8 pm: Trunk or Treat Activities for All Ages

We need church members of all ages to come decorate their open car trunks, hand out treats, and be part of this fun family festivity. If you volunteer to decorate your trunk, we will treat you to dinner. Want to get involved? Email Patrick or Rosemary for more information or to sign-up. Let's get Halloween started with a great party! There will be something for everyone. Food trucks, cemetery tours, dancing in the Auditorium, and a contest for the best decorated trunk.

Second Hour on Planned Giving: October 21 at 11:15

Lori E. Romano, First Church member, past Trustee and lawyer at Shipman & Goodwin, LLP in Greenwich, will give a general overview of tax implications of giving during life and at death as well as various ways to make gifts. Please join us in the Lounge for this informational talk.

News from the Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Be sure and see both Halloween windows at the Rummage Room designed by Leanne Meyer and Nancy Hamilton. They are sensational! And because of the shop's abundance of Halloween costumes, you can be anyone you wish to be for a great night of fun on Halloween. Don't wait too long however.

Shopping Hours: 10 am to 5 pm daily and Saturday from 10 am to 1 pm.

Donation Hours: 9:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Thursday, & Friday and Saturday, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Please do not leave donations when the Rummage Room is closed. Thank you.

Manager Leanne's Wish List: Children's fall and winter clothing; table linens; gloves for all.

The Rummage Room's Mission: All proceeds from the Rummage Room go to organizations locally, nationally, and internationally in order to meet the many needs of children and families around the world.

Thought for the Week: We all look forward to the time when the power of love will replace the love of power! —William Ellery Channing, American Clergyman (1780-1842)

Interested in Learning About Joining First Church?

Our next New Member Class, originally scheduled for Sunday, October 14, will be rescheduled for the spring. If you are interested in joining, or if you have any questions, please contact Ginny Breismeister at ginnyb@fccog.org or 203 637-1791 x 826.

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.

Meetinghouse Flowers

For many, many years we have had flowers in the Meetinghouse for Sunday worship. The cost was underwritten by donors giving flowers in memory of, or in celebration of, a birthday, a baptism, an anniversary, or any special occasion. These floral gifts, shared with the entire congregation in the service, are then delivered to members and friends hospitalized or in rehab. We also utilized a number of dedicated flower funds given by a family to honor their loved ones each year. But now our flower funds are depleted. Current donations

cover only approximately 35% of Sundays within a given year. There are many dates and choices available to increase our displays of fresh flowers throughout the seasons. The cost is \$100, made payable to FCCOG and tax deductible. If you would be interested in donating flowers for a Sunday service, please complete the form available in the church office, or contact Pat Geismar at 203-637-3597 or pat.geismar@gmail.com. Thank you for considering this opportunity to bring beautiful flowers to each and every Sunday service.

Next Week at First Church
Sunday, October 21
Reverend Avery C. Manchester, preaching

Music by the Chancel Choir
The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee—Jean Berger

Music by Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano
My Lord, What a Morning—Arr. Mark Hayes



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

Interim Senior Pastor: Rev. Carla Dietz

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

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner

Publications Coordinator: Vance Briceland

Database Administrative Assistant: Sue Wilder

Interim Administrative Assistant/Cemetery: Pat Larrabee

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