

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

28 October 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 Auditorium.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

(Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.)

PRELUDE

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, piano

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Carla Dietz

(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)

One: Join me in spreading the news;

All: together let's get the word out.

One: Open your mouth and taste, open your eyes and see – how good God is.

All: Blessed are you who run to God.

One: Come let us worship.

*** HYMN**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy New Century (black) Hymnal 23

INVOCATION (in unison)

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)

Wondrous God, we gather to worship you and to learn from you. Show us your kin-dom, share with us your dream, lead us towards your peace, and guide us in your way. Amen.

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Reverend Carla Dietz

(When we admit that we have not always been our best.

It's a chance to unburden our hearts)

Congregational Response: Have Mercy on us, for we know only in part. Amen.

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

(Assurance you are forgiven)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Philip Ward Enterkin, son of
Catherine Enterkin and Adam Enterkin

BAPTISM PRAYER (in unison)

Gracious God, giver of life, you have called us by name, and pledge to each of us your faithful love. We pray today for your blessing on Philip, that you will watch over him and guide him as he grows in faith. Remind us of the promises of our own baptism, and renew our trust in you. Make us strong to obey your will and to serve you with joy, through the power of your Holy Spirit. All of this we pray as Jesus taught us 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.

BAPTISMAL RESPONSE

Child of Blessing,
Child of Promise

New Century (black) Hymnal 325

**Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit's sign;
With this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace divine.**

**Child of God, your loving Parent,
learn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,
trust and love God more than all.**

(After the baptism, children and teachers will all go to their classrooms in the
Preschool, except the 6th graders who are in Rick's Room.)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON—OLD TESTAMENT

Car Westbrook

Job 42: 1-6

Then Job answered the Lord:

“I know that you can do all things,
and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’
Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.
‘Hear, and I will speak;
I will question you, and you declare to me.’
I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,
but now my eye sees you;
therefore I despise myself,
and repent in dust and ashes.”

– New Revised Standard Bible

ANTHEM

Almighty God, God of Our Fathers

The Chancel Choir
Will James (1896-1973)

Almighty God, God of our fathers immortal,
Holy, holy, Lord God of Israel.
Blessed art thou, the God of our fathers.
Unto Thy throne do we lift up our songs,
Lord, our creator, Lord, our creator.
Great is thy name, the king of kings.
Our prayers ascend to Thee,
Hear our prayer, our prayer unto Thee.
Our father art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,
Give us our daily bread, and deliver us from evil, for thine is the
kingdom, the pow'r and the glory, forever, Amen.
Mighty art thou, the lord of lords.

SECOND LESSON—GOSPEL

Mark 10: 46-52

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

– New Revised Standard Bible

MESSAGE

Loving Mercy?

Reverend Avery C. Manchester

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.)

*** HYMN**

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Sonata in G minor

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, piano
Domenico Cimarosa (1749–1801)

*** DOXOLOGY**

(Offering praise and thanksgiving for meeting our needs and for using us to bring
God's mission to the world.)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above ye heavenly host; Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*** DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*** HYMN**

Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You New Century (black) Hymnal 510

*** 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.

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in loving memory of Pat DeHaven by her family.

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 we continue our regular church school lessons. Each class will spend a few minutes learning more about the Heifer Project in their opening time together. Also today, the 4th and 5th graders will go with their teachers and some parent chaperones to Pilgrim Towers in Stamford where we will have our annual Halloween Party. We leave after church at 11:15 and are done at 1 pm. This trip includes lunch provided by the Pilgrim Towers residents. Costumes are always fun!

If others would like to come along, please talk to Rosemary for the details.

Improve Balance & Prevent Falls

A special Wellness Second Hour on the topic of preventing falls is scheduled for today after Worship, in the Lounge, at 11:30. 40% of people aged 65 or older fall each year. Their risk of breaking a hip with a fall is as high as 50%. Falls can cause devastating setbacks for those who are sick or simply advanced in years. Sue Cavanaugh, a physical therapist from Greenwich Hospital, will discuss ways to improve balance & strength, prevent falls; and how to safely get up from a fall. Learning how to avoid falls can make a critical difference in your health or that of a loved one. Please join us.

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

UPCOMING

Looking for Cooks!

Outreach is looking for cooks on November 3 or 4 to help prepare a hot lunch to our neighbors at New Covenant House in Stamford. No shopping required! Cooking is in the church kitchen. All ingredients, detailed instructions and equipment are provided. Preparation takes about two hours. Please sign call Pat Mendelsohn at 203-637-5773 to volunteer.

November 10: First Church Volunteer Day at Neighbor to Neighbor

Join your fellow church members on Saturday, November 10 from 8:30 – 10:30 am or 10:30 - 12:30 pm. We will be stocking the food pantry and sorting and displaying the clothing and linen contributions. Neighbor-To-Neighbor is located at Christ Church in Greenwich (across Putnam Avenue from the YWCA). Please contact Rosemary Lamie (RosemaryL@fccog.org) or go to Sign Up Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094CA4AB2FAAF58-neighbor2> and sign up. This is a great opportunity for a parent/child

team or a teen and a friend as well as individuals. Children 12 – 15 need to be accompanied by a parent or another adult.

November 17 and 18: H.O.M.E. Craft Sale

Our annual visit from the folks at HOME Coop in Orland, ME will bring many long time favorites – jams, jellies, honey, maple candy, woven goods and beautiful pottery – as well as new items to our Auditorium. Shopping Hours are Saturday, 9 am – 4 pm and Sunday, 11 am – 1 pm.

Stewardship 2019

Stewardship 2019 is underway! You should have received your Stewardship package in the mail this past weekend, or early this week. Please take the time to consider how you can be a part of Stewardship this year. The easiest way to pledge is on our pledging website: www.iamfirstchurch.com. Or, if you prefer, mail in your pledge form to the church office in the stamped, self-addressed envelope included in your package. If you did not receive your package in the mail, please let Paul Ghaffari know. Paul's email is paul@capitolinellc.com; or call Paul anytime at (203) 326-0327. Thank you!

First Church Red Welcome Pads

Have you noticed at the end of each pew there is a red Welcome Pad behind the first book? Each Sunday we ask you to sign the pad and pass it along to the others in your pew. We ask you to fill out your address, phone number and email. Why? As a caring church we would like for you to notice names and faces you don't know and give them a warm welcome. By putting down your complete information perhaps a visitor will be encouraged to do the same. When we have their information we are able to make contact and provide them with helpful information about the church and church school as well as send a note of welcome. Thanks for your help!

News from the Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, October 29th through Wednesday, October 31st: All Halloween merchandise will be 25% off. Have a spooky great time trick-or-treating!

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 1 pm. Please do not leave donations when the Rummage Room is closed. Thank you.

Manager Leanne's Wish List: Winter coats for fall, children's shoes, ladies' handbags.

Thought for the Week: Life is like a ten-speed bike—most of us have gears we've never used. The Women's Fellowship, the Rummage Room and the recipients of the Rummage Room's proceeds are forever grateful for our help. If you would like to use a few of your extra gears, there is no better place to do it than to shop and donate. You will feel good that your donations will be someone's treasure and your purchases will fund broader outreach.

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.



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

Cover Art: Sadao Watanabe, "The Good Samaritan"