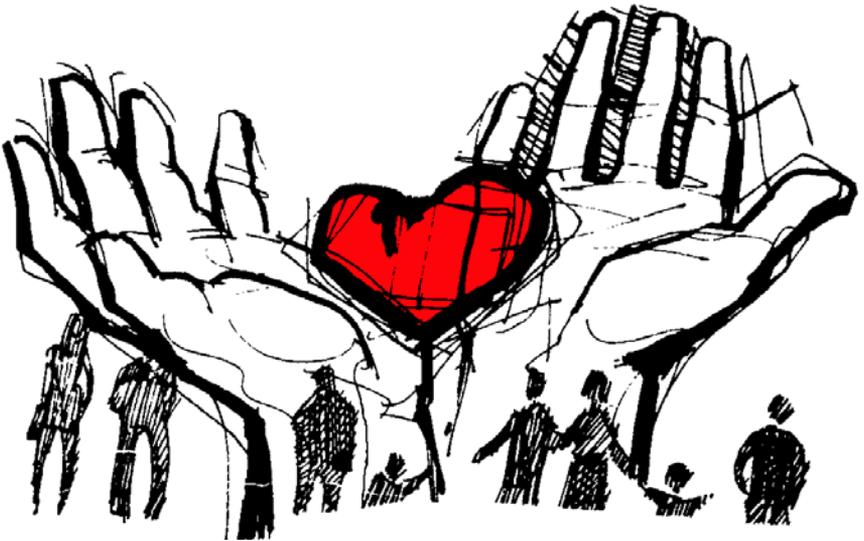


*The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*  
*Founded in 1665*

**4 November 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 Patrick Collins

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

### **STEWARDSHIP MOMENT**

## **PRAISING GOD**

### **CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Cherub Choir

This Is the Day

Traditional

Carol Woodman, director

Andrea Osker, ukulele

### **\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

Leader: We are called to love the Lord our God.

**People: We are called to love with all our heart and soul.**

Leader: We are called to love the Lord our God.

**People: We are called to love with all our mind and strength.**

Leader: We are called to love the Lord our God.

**People: And we are called to love our neighbor as ourselves.**

Leader: Come, let us love our God.

**People: And share God's love in this time of worship!**

**\* HYMN**

Awake, Awake to Love and Work

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 34

**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)

**In a world that cries out, fear me! We will listen to Jesus' words, "Do not be afraid"! In a world that wants us to hate the other. We will live Jesus' call to love God with all our heart, with all our being, with all our mind, and with all our strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves. In a world that radicalizes. We, too, will be radical. Radical with our hospitality. Radical with our hope. Radical with our love. We come to this place, ready to be whom we are called to be. Let us gather together, worship God and pray that words that Jesus taught us.**

**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.**

(After the Lord's Prayer, 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—HEBREW BIBLE**

Barbara Norrgard

**Deuteronomy 6: 1-9**

Now these are the commandments, the regulations, and the case laws that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you to follow in the land you are entering to possess, so that you will fear the Lord your God by keeping all his regulations and his commandments that I am commanding you—both you and your sons and daughters—all the days of your life and so that you will lengthen your life. Listen to them, Israel! Follow them carefully so that things will go well for you and so that you will continue to multiply exactly as the Lord, your ancestors' God, promised you, in a land full of milk and honey.

Israel, listen! Our God is the Lord! Only the Lord!

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your being, and all your strength. These words that I am commanding you today must always be on your minds. Recite them to your children. Talk about them when you are sitting around your house and when you are out and about, when you are lying down and when you are getting up. Tie them on your hand as a sign. They should be on your forehead as a symbol. Write them on your house's doorframes and on your city's gates.

– Common English Bible

## **ANTHEM**

Prayer for Guidance

The Youth Choir

Allen Pote

Carolyn Paulus, director

Vance Briceland, piano

## **SECOND LESSON—GOSPEL**

### **Mark 12: 28-34**

One of the legal experts heard their dispute and saw how well Jesus answered them. He came over and asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?”

Jesus replied, “The most important one is Israel, listen! Our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, You will love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these.”

The legal expert said to him, “Well said, Teacher. You have truthfully said that God is one and there is no other besides him. And to love God with all of the heart, a full understanding, and all of one's strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself is much more important than all kinds of entirely burned offerings and sacrifices.”

When Jesus saw that he had answered with wisdom, he said to him, “You aren't far from God's kingdom.” After that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

– Common English Bible

## **MESSAGE**

Love Is Worth the Fight

Reverend Patrick Collins

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Reverend Avery C. Manchester

(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**

The Church's One Foundation

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 260

## **RESPONDING TO GOD**

### **CALL TO OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

Softly and Tenderly

The Chancel Choir

Arr. Gilbert Martin (b. 1941)

Hanna Golodinskii, soprano

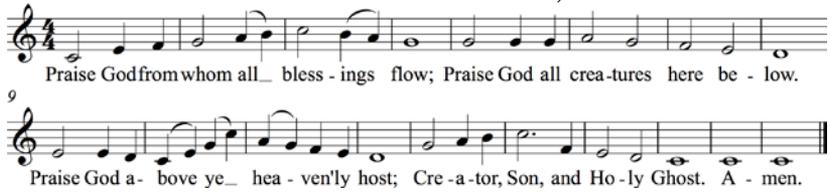
Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,  
calling for you and for me;  
see, on the portals he's waiting and watching,  
watching for you and for me.

Come home, come home,  
ye who are weary, come home;  
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, O sinner, come home!

O for the wonderful love he has promised,  
promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,  
pardon for you and for me.

## \* 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\_ bless - ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures here be - low.

9

Praise God a- bove ye\_ hea - ven'ly host; Cre - a-tor, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

## \* DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

### 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

In the tradition of our church, let us partake of the bread (note, gluten-free bread is available) as it is served, remembering our individual uniqueness in the eyes of God and our diversity within the Body of Christ. Let us hold the cup (grape juice) until all have been served, remembering our oneness with God and our unity in the Body of Christ.

## 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**

Blessed Be the Tie that Binds                      New Century (black) Hymnal 393

### **\* 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 Stuart Hoskins, and Jerome and Dorothy Friedman, and in loving tribute to Bess Hoskins, by Donald and Frosty Friedman and their 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](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**

#### **Church School**

Today we begin a two-week lesson on David and Goliath in the Rotation classes. 3rd Graders are on their second week of lessons on Moses. Sixth graders will spend another week on the Story of Joseph, son of Jacob. Each class will continue learning more about the Heifer Project in their opening time together. In the first two weeks, we raised \$46.03.

#### **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

#### **Blood Pressure Screening**

Betsy Kreuter, PT, is available for blood pressure screenings in the Parish Nurse's office, during Community Hour, following today's worship service. The Parish Nurse's office is located to the right of the Auditorium stage.

### **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://bit.ly/2SFzVaf> 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.

## **Giving Trees 2018**

Next Sunday, November 11, our “Giving Trees” will be ready for you to choose a gift, fulfilling a wish for our friends at H.O.M.E. (Homeworkers Organized for More Employment) the non-profit organization that supports low-income and homeless families in Orland Maine and Pilgrim Towers, a senior residential community in Stamford Gifts will be needed back by Sunday, December 2nd. This is our 13th year of bringing holiday blessings to these communities.

## **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.

## **Harvest Sunday—November 19**

Our annual food collection will be divided between Neighbor to Neighbor and H.O.M.E. Please fill up a grocery bag—or two—with canned and other dry goods. Special requests include: Spam, Chef Boyardee entrees, beans or rice in 1lb. bags, peanut butter & jelly, canned fruit, and quick oats oatmeal. You can pick up a grocery bag in the Narthex after today’s service or at the church office during the week or use your own. Bring your filled bags to the Harvest Sunday Service on November 19 where they will be collected as part of our offering during the worship service. For those who wish to

contribute cash towards purchasing food, please bring forward your donation at the offering.

### **Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale—November 24-December 8, While Supplies Last!**

Our annual Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale begins on Saturday, November 24 with the delivery of 450 fresh cut Fraser and Balsam Fir trees from New Hampshire and over 200 balsam wreaths! Volunteers are key to the success of the sale, which raised \$32,000 for local charities last year. Join the fun and volunteer! Sign up is easy using Sign-Up Genius at <https://bit.ly/2qhDiXV> . You can also sign up today on the posters in the Auditorium or contact Pat Mendelsohn, Outreach Chair, at 203.637.5773 or [patmendelsohn@aol.com](mailto:patmendelsohn@aol.com).

### **Stewardship 2019**

Stewardship 2019 is underway! 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](http://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](mailto: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, November 5:** Halloween has come and gone and the Rummage Room is moving on to the Thanksgiving season. You will find some great decorations and other goods for your holiday tables and parties. Most everything but the turkey!

**Tuesday, November 6:** It is Election Day, and you will not want to forget to vote! It is both our privilege and responsibility as citizens of the United States to go to the polls and vote!

The 'Best Little Christmas Shoppe' in town will be opening around the middle of November. Opening date to follow soon.

**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 men and women; handbags; jewelry.

**Thought for the Times:** An American statesman once said, "I venture to suggest that patriotism is not a short and frenzied outburst of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime."

**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).



## **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

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