

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

**11 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.

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## **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

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

### **PRELUDE**

To God Be the Glory

The Palmer Handbell Choir  
Arr. Douglas Wagner  
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, director

### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

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

Reverend Carla Dietz

### **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: Unless we love each other as God loves us,

**All: we serve only in part.**

One: Unless we seek justice for everyone,

**All: we welcome only in part.**

One: Unless we praise God with our whole self,

**All: we worship only in part.**

One: Come let us worship God with body, mind, and spirit.

### **OPENING CHANT**

The Peace of the Earth

La paz de la tie - rra es - té con ti - go, la  
*The peace of the earth be with you, the*

paz de los cie - los tam - bién. La paz de los rí - os es -  
*peace of the heav - ens, too. The peace of the riv - ers*

té con ti - go, la paz de los ma - res tam - bién. La  
*be with you, the peace of the o - ceans, too: †*

paz pro - fun - da ca - yen - do so - bre ti. La  
*deep peace fall - ing o - ver you, †*

paz pro - fun - da cre - cien - do en ti.  
*God's peace grow - ing in you.*

## INVOCATION

Reverend Patrick Collins

(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)

**Great healer, lover of our souls, bless this sacred time set apart for worship and praise. May this space be different from the places we left to come here. May this space be a glimpse of your coming kin-dom and a foretaste of your glory. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF REFLECTION

(When we admit that we have not always been our best. It's a chance to unburden our hearts.)

**Jesus, we are eagerly waiting for you; come quickly to our aid. Forgive us when we are more concerned with appearance than practice; quantity than quality; being blessed than being a blessing. Forgive us when we are unaware of how our actions affect others. Forgive us for the times we are addicted to and motivated by praise. Forgive us, correct us, transform us, and lead us in your way. Amen.**

## WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

(Assurance that you have been forgiven.)

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### 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 and the Lord's Prayer, children and teachers will 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

Carolyn Paulus

#### **Ruth 3:1–5; 4:13–17**

Naomi, Ruth's mother-in-law, said to her, "My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then, go and uncover his feet and lie

down; and he will tell you what to do.” She said to her, “All that you tell me I will do.”

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the Lord made her conceive, and she bore a son. Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin; and may his name be renowned in Israel! He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.” Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

– New Revised Standard Bible

## **ANTHEM**

The Pilgrims’ Hymns

The Chancel Choir

Stephen Paulus (1949-2014)

Even before we call on Thy name to ask Thee, O Lord,  
When we seek for the words to glorify Thee, thou hearest our prayer;  
Unceasing love, O unceasing love, surpassing all we know.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
Even with darkness sealing us in, we breathe thy name,  
And through all the days that follow so fast, we trust in Thee;  
Endless thy grace, O endless thy grace, beyond all mortal dream.  
Both now and forever, and unto ages and ages, Amen.

## **SECOND LESSON—GOSPEL**

### **Mark 12: 38-44**

As he taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell

you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.” – New Revised Standard Bible

**MESSAGE**

Simple Gifts

Reverend Carla Dietz

**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**

Simple Gifts

'Tis a gift to be sim - ple, 'Tis a gift to be free, 'Tis a  
 A  
 C  
 gift to come down where we ought to be, And  
 D A  
 F C  
 when we find our - selves in the place just right, It will be in the val - ley of  
 D  
 F  
 Love and De - light. When true sim - pli - ci - ty is gained, to  
 G A D  
 Bb C F  
 bow and to bend we will not be a - shamed. To turn and to turn. will  
 A G D  
 C Bb F  
 be our de - light, 'til by turn - ing, turn - ing we come 'round right.

## RESPONDING TO GOD

### CALL TO OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

Pastorale

Frank Bridge (1879–1941)

### \* 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.

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

### \* DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

## GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

### \* HYMN

I've Got Peace Like a River

New Century (black) Hymnal 478

### \* 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 Meeting House are given in memory of her parents and brother, by Caralliene Westbrook.

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### **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 is there as well as a link to the live broadcast. Previous sermon recordings are also available.

## **NEWS AND NOTICES**

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### **TODAY**

#### **Church School**

Today we continue learning about David and Goliath in the Rotation classes. 3rd Graders are also going to hear about David and Goliath. Three and four year olds will be introduced to Jacob's son, Joseph, technicolor coat and all! Each class will continue learning more about the Heifer Project in their opening time together. We have now raised a total of \$71.83.

## **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

## **Rack 'Em Up—Christmas Tree Racks Go Up Today**

It's that time of year to put up the Christmas tree stands on the front lawn! Grab a cup of coffee and join us at 11:20 out front to assemble the racks. Last year, it took about an hour. The sale begins in less than two weeks on Saturday, Nov. 24.

## **Giving Trees 2018**

Our Giving Trees are ready for you today. You'll find them outside the Auditorium loaded with cards containing gift wishes from our friends at H.O.M.E. (Homeworkers Organized for More Employment), which supports low-income and homeless families in Orland Maine, and Pilgrim Towers, a senior residential community in Stamford. Gifts should be wrapped and returned by Sunday, December 2. This is our 13th year of bringing holiday blessings to these communities.

## **UPCOMING**

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

Our annual visit from the folks at H.O.M.E. 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 18**

Our annual food collection will be divided between Neighbor to Neighbor and H.O.M.E. Shopping bags are available as you leave the Meetinghouse this morning or in the church office or use our own. 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 1 lb. bags, peanut butter & jelly, canned fruit, and quick oats oatmeal. Bring your filled bags to the Harvest Sunday Service on November 18 where they will be collected as part of our offering

during the worship service. Cash donations are also welcomed and can be brought forward during the offering on Harvest Sunday.

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

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 on the [fccog.org](http://fccog.org) website. You can also sign up today on the posters in the Auditorium or contact Pat Mendelsohn (203-637-5773). The 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. Shop early to find your “perfect” tree and/or wreath. All proceeds of the sale go to charity.

### **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**

**Tuesday, November 24:** The Christmas Shop opens at 1 pm! 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:** Table linens; winter coats; ladies blouses.

**Thought for the Holidays:** The more we shop and donate at the Rummage Room, the more people in need around the world will be fed and clothed. Thank you one and all for your generous gifts.

**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 Youth 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