

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

**The Baptism of Christ**  
**13 January 2019**  
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 in the auditorium after worship for our Community Hour.

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.  
\*All who are able please stand.

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### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

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

#### **PRELUDE**

Toccata

Alex Mair, piano  
Aram Khachaturian (1903-1978)

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

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

Reverend Carla Dietz

#### **SOLO**

Promises, Promises

Karen Walker, alto  
Burt Bacharach

### **PRAISING GOD**

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

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

One: The voice of God is over the waters;

**All: over the mighty waters, God speaks with creative power.**

One: The voice of God breaks the cedars;

**All: over the cedars, fire, wilderness, and forest, God speaks with authority.**

One: Enthroned forever, may God bless the people with strength and peace!

**All: Bless us with strength and peace.**

One: Let us say, "Glory!"

**All: Glory, glory, glory, God!**

One: Come, let us worship.

## CHORAL INTROIT

### \* HYMN

At the Font We Start Our Journey New Century (black) Hymnal 308

### OPENING PRAYER

Reverend Patrick Collins

(Or Invocation. 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 glory, your promises have been answered and continue to be answered by the Beloved, Jesus of Nazareth. Open our hearts to receive this, your greatest gift of love, again today. As we hear your voice claim Jesus as your holy child, remind us that we too are claimed as children of God. Fill our hearts with joy as we continue to celebrate the promises fulfilled in Jesus. Amen.**

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & GOSPEL READING

Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

### 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 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. Child Care is in the Red Door.)

## **PRAYER OF REFLECTION**

Reverend Patrick Collins

One: God with us. You come to your people in a manger, at the temple, and on a riverbank. During your earthly ministry, you inhabited everyday spaces: the places where your people went to tend to their livelihood, to pray, and to collect water.

**All: Too often, we imagine you only in these traditional biblical scenes, instead of looking for you in our everyday lives; our workplaces, our places of worship, and our homes. Forgive us.**

One: Open our hearts, eyes, and ears to encounter you today. Ready our hearts to shout "Glory," when we hear your voice and see your work in our lives.

**All: Too often, we acknowledge your holy identity, but we forget to remember that we share in your baptism. Forgive us.**

One: Remind us again this day that we are claimed as God's children and are sent to show the love and justice we see in you. Amen.

## **PRAYER OF AFFIRMATION**

### **HEARING GOD'S WORD**

#### **HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING**

Barbara Norrgard

##### **Isaiah 43:1-7**

But now thus says the Lord,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.  
I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.  
Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honored, and I love you,  
I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.  
Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;  
I will say to the north, "Give them up,"  
and to the south, "Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth—  
everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made."

– New Revised Standard Version

## **ANTHEM**

A Repeating Alleluia

The Chancel Choir

Calvin Hampton (1938-1984)

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, director

## **MESSAGE**

Promises, Promises

Reverend Carla Dietz

## **\* HYMN**

O God in Whom All Life Begins    New Century (black) Hymnal 401

## **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.)

One:    God of heaven and earth, in Jesus' baptism, you spoke Jesus' true identity as your child, the beloved with whom you are well pleased. Help us remember that Jesus' baptism is an invitation to each one of us to wash away transgressions, be raised to a new life in Christ, and hold firm to the life that Jesus taught us to live. In Baptism, our identity as children of God is made visible, and we become

brothers and sisters in Christ. As part of God's family, our hearts are opened to pray for one another.

**All: Hear our prayer.**

One: For those among us who carry a heavy burden into the new year, for those who grieve a diagnosis or death, for those who are restless or sad or unsatisfied and cannot put a name on the feeling, for those who feel alone, for those living in harm's way or those recovering from an act of violence,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

One: For those who are sick, for each one of us who needs your strength and guidance daily. We pray in the name of the one who taught us how to pray and love one another.  
Amen.

**All: Hear our prayer.**

## RESPONDING TO GOD

**CALL TO OFFERING**

Phil Bradford

**OFFERTORY**

Come, Everyone that Thirsteth

Felix Mendelssohn

Hanna Golodinskii, Linnea Conley,  
Daniel Young, Thomas Woodman

**\* DOXOLOGY**

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 515

(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 Him, all  
creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

**\* HYMN**

God, Speak to Me that  
I May Speak

New Century (black) Hymnal 531

## \* BENEDICTION

## \* CHORAL RESPONSE

## POSTLUDE

March

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

\* \* \*

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in loving memory of George J. Helmer from Robyn, Heidi, and Jay.

Directly following the service, one of our pastors will remain in the Chapel to be available to anyone who has a pastoral care concern.

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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**

Regular Church School continues today with most classes learning more about the “Good Samaritan”. There is child care during the Church Meeting in the Red Door.

#### **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

#### **Notice of a Special Meeting**

A Special Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Old Greenwich, CT is hereby called for today, Sunday, January 13, 2019, immediately following the church service, to vote on the motions brought forward by the Building & Grounds Committee and approved by the Church Council. Note: Childcare will be available in the Church School for children during the meeting. —Car Westbrook

#### **Parish Nurse**

Sue Asselin, RN, is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following today’s worship service, in her office to the right of the Auditorium stage. During the week, she is available by appointment, which can be made by calling extension 821.

### UPCOMING

#### **Announcing the 2019 “Souper Bowl” Sunday Soup Sale**

Calling all cooks! It’s time to show-off your soup-making skills once again by volunteering to make and donate a quart (or quarts) of soup or chili to benefit the FCCOG Women’s Fellowship! The sale will take place in the auditorium on Sunday, February 3, 2019 from 11 am to 1 pm. Quarts of homemade soup and chili will be sold for \$10 each. Please sign up to donate after church in the auditorium



beginning Sunday, January 6th and continuing for the next several Sundays. Restaurant-style food containers will be available when you sign up. You may also sign up in the church office. This annual event has proven to be easy, inexpensive and popular for both those who love to cook and those who love to eat! This is the only Women's Fellowship fundraiser for the year. Please contact Sue Wilder at [swilder102@gmail.com](mailto:swilder102@gmail.com) or Jenny Gartner at [jenniferhgartner@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferhgartner@gmail.com) for more information.

### **Cooking Soup for Soup Sale**

Members of the Women's Fellowship will be gathering at the home of Ginny Breismeister on Tuesday, January 22 at 6:30 pm. We will be making soup for the Women's Fellowship fundraiser "Souper Bowl Soup Sale. We will have all the ingredients for the soup. Please bring your beverage of choice and perhaps an appetizer to share. All are welcome, come for a fun evening of cooking, talking and laughter.

### **Donations for Pacific House**

First Church and the First Church Pre-School are coordinating a donation drive for Pacific House in Stamford. The cold weather has increased the number of occupants at the emergency men's shelter, and, because of the increase, they are in desperate need of clean, new, or gently used towels all sizes. Donations may be dropped off in the Church Office or outside of the Pre-School from December 16 thru January 31.

### **News from the Rummage Room**

#### **191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich**

The Rummage Room has an excellent assortment of winter clothing for men, women and children. If you need winter clothing for adults or fast-growing children, visit the Rummage Room while selections are good. February is just a heartbeat away ... so come in and buy and/or donate all things red for Valentine's Day. Can spring be far behind?

**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.

**Thought for 2019:** Many people cling to the notion that hope is just around the corner. The Rummage Room has been just around the

corner for the past 55 years and all net proceeds have gone to organizations dedicated in helping women, children and families in need. Thanks for your donations and purchases in order to send love and hope to those in need.

### **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.

### **Women's Fellowship Allocation Committee**

Have you wanted to participate in Church outreach, but do not have the time to sign up for a year-long commitment? The Women's Fellowship Allocation Committee has the perfect solution for you.

**What is the purpose of the Allocation Committee?** The Allocation committee is charged with reviewing, researching and recommending awards in response to funding applications received for the allocation year.

**Where do the funds come from?** The funds come from the profits of The Rummage Room and are allocated annually to charitable organizations which serve women, children and families locally, nationally and internationally. Since inception, over \$4.6 million has been donated. Last year we allocated \$160,824 in awards to 45 organizations. Applications were sent to all 2018 recipients on October 30th and we are looking forward to receiving their applications by December 31st.

**Why are we recruiting Committee members?** With gratitude to Anne Pfetsch, Kara Donahue and Collette Rogers who are rolling off of the Committee, we are looking for a few women to join our Committee.

**Why is this a good committee to test the waters?** The Committee meets on a bi-weekly basis from January 16 through the end of March. We meet on Wednesdays from 7 - 8:30 pm in the Binney

Conference Room to share our findings and recommendations. Members take applications home to review between meetings. Members gain insight into the many charitable organizations we support. If you are interested in joining our Committee, please contact Sheila Bennett at [allocations@fccog.org](mailto:allocations@fccog.org).



## **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

Administrative Assistant: Wendy Spezzano

Publications Coordinator: Vance Briceland

Database Administrative Assistant: Sue Wilder

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