

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

**Third Sunday after Epiphany**  
January 27, 2019  
10 am



**Keep hope alive**

**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. Please join us in the auditorium after worship for our Community Hour.

---

*Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.*

---

# ORDER OF SERVICE

## PRELUDE

*Prelude in G Major*

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, *organ*

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

## CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Carla Dietz

## STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Paul Ghaffari

## CALL TO WORSHIP

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

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God;

**All: and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.**

One: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

**All: Its rising is from the end of the heavens,**

One: Let God's knowledge rise in us.

**All: Let God's glory shine all around us.**

## CHORAL INTROIT

### HYMN\*

*Jesus Shall Reign*

Pilgrim (Red) Hymnal 202

## INVOCATION

*(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.)*

Charles Kuchenbrod

**Sculptor of the heavens and the earth, creator of the sea and sky, we praise your holy name because you created us in love and ordered our lives that we might live with peace, joy, mutuality, unity, and abundance. Help us see the goodness that is all around us in the beauty of your creation and the framework of your commands. Help us hear your words this day. Let it shape us and make us new once more. Amen.**

*\*All who care to, please rise in body or spirit.*

## ANTHEM

*You Are Salt For The Earth*

The Children's Choir  
Marty Haugen (b. 1950)  
Vance Briceland, *piano*

---

*Now children and teachers will go to their classrooms in the Preschool,  
except 6<sup>th</sup> graders who are in Rick's Room. Child Care is in the Red Door.*

---

## 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.)*

One: Is God's word at the center of our life?

*(Pause)*

**All: Creator God, you speak creation into being, and we  
try to hide our lives from the light of your word.  
Forgive us. We acknowledge that God's word could  
shape our community life, yet we limit the reach of  
God's voice. We squeeze it into one special hour. We  
often neglect to put God's word at the heart of our life  
together.**

One: How can we place God's word at the center of our life?

*(Pause)*

**All: Shift our vision, gracious God, so that we may see  
how our lives are knit together by your love and your  
commands. Help us to remember that attention to  
your word and command is attention to community  
building, peace and justice, and to praise you. Amen.**

## WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

*(Assurance you are forgiven)*

One: We are the Body of Christ. The one spirit of God is  
poured out upon us all. We are forgiven. We are loved.

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

Pat Mendelsohn

***Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10***

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

## ANTHEM

*The Heavens Are Telling* (from *Creation*)

The Chancel Choir

F. J. Haydn (1732-1809)

Jennifer Lepoutre, *Soprano*

John Carroll, *Tenor*

Rick Derr, *Bass*

## GOSPEL

**Luke 4:14-21**

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

## MESSAGE

Charles Kuchenbrod

### **Keep Hope Alive**

*Charlie (Charles) Kuchenbrod is the Executive Associate CT Conference Minister and oversees the Finance and Development Team of the CT Conference staff. Charlie was called to Conference work in 2002 after a career in Health Care Management.*

## SONG

Kristen Graves

### **Keep Hope Alive**

*Kristen Graves is a folk/pop singer, songwriter, and humanitarian. In addition to being a recording artist and performer, she was named the Connecticut State troubadour. Kristen is married to Bryan Nurnberger, the founder and President of Simply Smiles.*

## 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.)*

## CALL TO OFFERING

Andrea Woodman

## OFFERTORY

*Adagio*

Felix Mendelssohn

## 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.**

## DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING\*

## HYMN\*

New Century (Black) Hymnal 394

*In Christ There Is No East or West*

## BENEDICTION

## CHORAL RESPONSE

## POSTLUDE

*Fanfare*

Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)

*\*All who care to, please rise in body or spirit.*

---

*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](http://www.fccog.org). A bulletin is there as well as a link to the live broadcast. Previous sermon recordings are also available.

---



# NEWS & NOTICES

---

## TODAY

---



### Church School

Regular Church School classes resume today. Next Sunday is Youth Sunday and children in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and older will remain in worship. Just a quick look ahead:

- Sunday, Feb. 10: **Big Event!** Valentine making for special people  
Sunday, Feb. 17: No Church School, all in church  
Sunday, Feb. 24: 9 am Intergenerational Breakfast  
10 am Regular Church School & Communion Class  
Sunday, Mar. 3: Regular Church School  
Church School Communion Sunday  
4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders cook chili  
Saturday, Mar. 9: FCCOG Volunteer Day at Neighbor to Neighbor  
Sunday, Mar. 10: Regular Church School

### Nominating Opportunity

In preparation for our nominating process that will be starting soon, today at Community Hour, Church Council members will be present with descriptions of their committees, their duties and responsibilities for you to peruse. This is an opportunity for you to familiarize yourself with each committee. This year in particular we hope you will step forward in anticipation of our new settled minister.



### Choir Rehearsals 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



### 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 by calling 203-637-1791 ext. 821.



### Our special guest today!

Stop by their table at Coffee Hour.  
Feel free to ask questions.



### Caring Ministries – Coffee hour today

Please visit the Caring Ministries table at coffee hour to see all our activities.

- Soup for the Soul
- Prayer shawl knitting
- First Church's prayer group
- Card ministry – adults and children
- Visiting committee (visiting and flower delivery)
- Wellness committee
- Caregiver support group

---

## UPCOMING

---



*Calling all cooks!*

### Sign up TODAY for the 2019 "Souper Bowl" Sunday Soup Sale!

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!

**Event date: Sunday, February 3, 2019**

**Time: 11 am to 1 pm**

**Sign up locations: Auditorium (after church) or church office**

Quarts of homemade soup and chili will be sold for \$10 each. Restaurant-style food containers will be available when you sign up. 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.

---

## NEWS FROM THE RUMMAGE ROOM

---

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

The Rummage Room still has plenty of winter clothing for all. Stop by and pick up an extra coat or sweater for those chilly days.

**Shopping Hours:** Monday-Friday 10 am - 5 pm  
Saturday 10 am - 1 pm

**Donation Hours:** Monday-Thursday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm  
Friday & Saturday 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

**Manager Leanne's Wish List:**

Spring Clothing for all. Shirts, skirts, blouses, handbags and shoes.

*Believe you can and you're halfway there.* - Theodore Roosevelt.



## *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 and Finance: Steve Summerton

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner

Administrative Assistant: Wendy Spezzano

Communications Specialist: Dalinda Rioseco

Database Administrative Assistant: Sue Wilder

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