

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665



EVERY LITTLE THING COUNTS

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
Sunday, February 24, 2019
10 am

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 and Fugue in E Minor

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, *Organist*
J. S. Bach

CALL TO COMMUNITY

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

Reverend Patrick Collins

CALL TO WORSHIP *

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

Reverend Patrick Collins

CHORAL INTROIT

Leader: Joyful is the sound we make this morning!

People: For this day liberates us from doubt and fear!

Leader: Thankful is the song we sing!

People: For it is in giving of ourselves that we receive.

Leader: Hopeful is the prayer upon our lips!

People: For this day awakens in us new life and joy.

Leader: Jesus said, "Where two or more are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

People: Christ lives here and now. God is among us at this and every moment!

Leader: May the peace and presence of Christ be known to you.

People: Let us worship God!

HYMN*

Holy God We praise Thy Name

Pilgrim (Red) Hymnal 247

GATHERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

Reverend Avery C. Manchester

Creator God, this is the day that You have made! This is the day you have called Holy. Make us glad this morning in the House of the Lord. Remove from us our distractions, worries and stresses. In its place, O God, give us more of You. Here in your House, may our hearts be filled with peace our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy. Fill us, O God, until we are brimming and overflowing with the joy of the Lord. A good measure of God, pressed down, shaken together and running over. We are glad, yes, we are glad indeed, to be together in the House of the Lord!

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

Norah Jane Collins, daughter of Kate and Patrick Collins

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 Norah, that you will watch over her and guide her as she 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 this we pray as Jesus taught us saying,

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 children will be dismissed now to Church School.

FIRST LESSON

William DeHaven

Galations 6:1-10 (Common English Bible)

Brothers and sisters, if a person is caught doing something wrong, you who are spiritual should restore someone like this with a spirit of gentleness. Watch out for yourselves so you won't be tempted too. Carry each other's burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ. If anyone thinks they are important when they aren't, they're fooling themselves. Each person should test their own work and be happy with doing a good job and not compare themselves with others. Each person will have to carry their own load.

Those who are taught the word should share all good things with their teacher. Make no mistake, God is not mocked. A person will harvest what they plant. Those who plant only for their own benefit will harvest devastation from their selfishness, but those who plant for the benefit of the Spirit will harvest eternal life from the Spirit. Let's not get tired of doing good, because in time we'll have a harvest if we don't give up. So

then, let's work for the good of all whenever we have an opportunity, and especially for those in the household of faith.

ANTHEM

Sing We Merrily

The Chancel Choir
Adrian Batten (1591-1637)

SECOND READING

Luke 6:27-38 (Common English Bible)

"But I say to you who are willing to hear: Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on the cheek, offer the other one as well. If someone takes your coat, don't withhold your shirt either. Give to everyone who asks and don't demand your things back from those who take them. Treat people in the same way that you want them to treat you.

"If you love those who love you, why should you be commended? Even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, why should you be commended? Even sinners do that. If you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, why should you be commended? Even sinners lend to sinners expecting to be paid back in full. Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend expecting nothing in return. If you do, you will have a great reward. You will be acting the way children of the Most High act, for he is kind to ungrateful and wicked people. Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate.

"Don't judge, and you won't be judged. Don't condemn, and you won't be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good portion—packed down, firmly shaken, and overflowing—will fall into your lap. The portion you give will determine the portion you receive in return."

SERMON

Every Little Thing Counts

Reverend Patrick Collins

HYMN*

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

D Bm A7 D Em A7

1 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where
 2 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where
 4 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. It

D Bm G Em A7

there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. Where
 there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope. Where
 is in par-don-ing that we are par-doned, in

Em A7 Em7 A7

there is in-ju-ry, your par-don, Lord, and
 there is dark-ness, on-ly light, and
 giv-ing of our-selves that we re-ceive, and in

Em A7 D 1 2, 4 (Fine)

where there's doubt, true faith in you.
 where there's sad-ness, ev-er joy.
 dy-ing that we're born to e-ter-nal life.

G Em D Bm

3 O, Mas-ter, grant that I may nev-er seek so

Em A7 D A7 D D7

much to be con-soled as to con-sole, to be

G Em F#m Bm

un-der-stood as to un-der-stand, to be

E E7 A E A7

loved as to love with all my soul.

to Stanza 4

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.)

CALL TO OFFERING

Jenn Saba

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

I Waited for the Lord

Carolyn Paulus & Carol Woodman, *soprano*
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

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*

Jenn Saba

HYMN*

New Century (Black) Hymnal 393

Blessed Be the Tie that Binds

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE*

POSTLUDE

Toccata

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

**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.



The flowers today are given in joyful celebration of Norah Jane's baptism!



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

NEWS & NOTICES

TODAY



Church School

March 3 10am Worship and Regular Church School
2nd Grade "First" Communion
4 & 5th Grades cook chili

March 10 10am Worship and Regular Church School

March 17 10am Worship and Regular Church School

March 24 10am Worship and Regular Church School

March 31 10am Worship and Regular Church School



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



Pre-School Sock Drive

Please donate for a good cause! We are collecting socks of all sizes and for all ages to benefit families through Stamford Social Services. We are accepting donations through the beginning of March. Donations can be placed in the collection box in the hallway outside the Daniels Center. Contact Barbara Andersen at

yellowdoor@firstchurchpreschool.org with questions.

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS LIVE



Refreshments and light sweets are included in your \$25 admission. Free for school-age children!

TODAY: *Tod Hedrick, viol da gamba*

Tod and a small ensemble will perform mixed repertoire for voice and period instruments, with a narrative that guides the audience from the

sounds of the Middle Ages to the time of J.S. Bach. A resident of Old Greenwich, Tod grew up at First Congregational Church.



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.

UPCOMING

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS LIVE



Refreshments and light sweets are included in your \$25 admission. Free for school-age children!

Sunday, March 3: 'Scape Trio

A favorite string trio for Sunday Afternoons Live audiences. Nicole Sharlow, violin, Joseph Dermody, viola, and Adriana Maria Pera, cello are currently all on the faculty, as well as the resident trio at Concordia College, Bronxville, NY. While performing in and out of New York City individually for over a decade, they established 'Scape Trio in 2007.



We welcome all women to the Women's Fellowship, especially mothers of young children!

Date: Monday, February 25

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: 33 Meadowbank Rd, Old Greenwich

RSVP to Barbara Norrgard by email at bnorrgard@hotmail.com.



Community Lenten Dinners

Please look for the sign-up posters for the FREE Lenten Dinners (hallways, church office and during Community Hour)!

Beginning: Ash Wednesday, March 6th

Time: 6 pm

Location: Church Auditorium

Duration: Every Wednesday, 6 pm during Lent
Please contact Patrick at patrickc@fccog.org or
Carla at carlad@fccog.org or call 203 637-1791 to sign-up!

NEWS FROM THE RUMMAGE ROOM

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

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

Wish List: Spring blouses, Handbags, Children's clothing.

It's still cold outside...

Stop by our store to stock up on cozy sweaters!

We are grateful for all donations



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 and Finance: Steve Summerton

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner

Administrative Assistant/Operations: Wendy Spezzano

Communications Specialist: Dalinda Rioseco

Database Administrative Assistant: Sue Wilder

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