

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



**Third Sunday in Lent**  
Sunday, March 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.

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

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## *Third Sunday in Lent*

### PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on "The King of Love"

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, *Organist*  
T. Tertius Noble (1867-1953)

### CALL TO COMMUNITY

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

Reverend Patrick Collins

### CALL TO THE LENTEN PROJECT

Gia Burton

### CALL TO WORSHIP\*

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

Reverend Patrick Collins

Leader: Wrap yourselves in the healing love of God!

People: **We seek God's presence in our lives.**

Leader: Know that God continually surrounds us with patience and persistence.

People: **Even though we do not always produce the fruits of hope that God seeks, we know God forgives and heals our weakness.**

Leader: Rejoice! God is great, and is worthy of our praise!

People: **We will turn our lives again to the One, to serve and seek God's presence.**

### INTROIT

### HYMN\*

*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

Pilgrim (Red) Hymnal 223

### GATHERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

**Gracious and eternal God, you call us into a new way of being, and provide for us so many opportunities to make changes in our lives. May your love be made known to us, as we turn toward you from our human ways. Mold us as your people in new and powerful**

Reverend Avery C. Manchester

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

**ways, that we may be true disciples of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Reverend Patrick Collins

## **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.**

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*All children will be dismissed now to Church School.*

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## **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

New Century (Black) Hymnal 188

*Give Me a Clean Heart*

## **FIRST LESSON**

William DeHaven

### ***Psalm 63:1-8 (NRSV)***

O God, you are my God, I seek you,  
my soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.  
So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.  
Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
my lips will praise you.  
So I will bless you as long as I live;  
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips  
when I think of you on my bed,  
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;  
for you have been my help,  
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.  
My soul clings to you;  
your right hand upholds me.

## ANTHEM

*Kyrie Eleison (Lord, have mercy)*

William Byrd (1538-1623)  
Hannah Golodinskii, *soprano*  
Linnea Conley, *mezzo soprano*  
Daniel Young, *tenor*  
Craig Scott Symons, *bass*

## SECOND READING

**Luke 13:1-9 (CEB)**

Some who were present on that occasion told Jesus about the Galileans whom Pilate had killed while they were offering sacrifices. He replied, "Do you think the suffering of these Galileans proves that they were more sinful than all the other Galileans? No, I tell you, but unless you change your hearts and lives, you will die just as they did. What about those eighteen people who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them? Do you think that they were more guilty of wrongdoing than everyone else who lives in Jerusalem? No, I tell you, but unless you change your hearts and lives, you will die just as they did."

Jesus told this parable: "A man owned a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it and found none. He said to his gardener, 'Look, I've come looking for fruit on this fig tree for the past three years, and I've never found any. Cut it down! Why should it continue depleting the soil's nutrients?' The gardener responded, 'Lord, give it one more year, and I will dig around it and give it fertilizer. Maybe it will produce fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"

## MESSAGE

**'Figure It Out**

Reverend Patrick Collins

## HYMN\*

*A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

Pilgrim (Red) Hymnal 363

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*(praise for who God is, with thanksgiving for what God does and with requests for God to heal, transform)*

Reverend Avery C. Manchester

## CALL TO OFFERING

Pat Larrabee

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Like as the hart*

The Chancel Choir  
Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

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

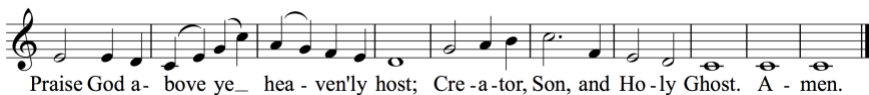
Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks,  
so longeth my soul after thee, O God.  
My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God.  
When shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

My tears have been my meat day and night,  
while they daily say unto me, "Where is now thy God?"

Words: Psalm 42: 1-3

## DOXOLOGY\*

*(Offering praise and thanksgiving for meeting our needs and for using us to bring God's mission to the world.)*



## PRAYER OF DEDICATION\*

Pat Larrabee

## HYMN\*

New Century (Black) Hymnal 23

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

## BENEDICTION\*

## CHORAL RESPONSE

The Chancel Choir

## POSTLUDE

*Trompette en dialogue*

Nicholas Clérambault (1676-1749)

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

*The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given by his wife and children in loving memory of Richard Charles Robard on the first anniversary of his death.*

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*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.

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## NEWS & NOTICES

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### TODAY



#### Church School

- Regular Church School for all grades



#### 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.

## UPCOMING



### Food Drive at First Church Preschool March 25-April 5<sup>th</sup>

Drop-off in the labelled basket outside classroom.

#### **Most needed times:**

- Canned meat
- Black or kidney beans
- Cereal and oatmeal
- Rice
- Canned fruit
- Soup
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Pasta



### Community Lenten Dinners

The fourth of our Lenten Dinners is scheduled for this upcoming week. Our theme is "Where's Jesus during Lent?" with Carla Dietz as coordinator of the event.

Please look for the sign-up posters for all the FREE Lenten Dinners (hallways and church office).

**Date: Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Time: 6 pm**

**Location: Church Auditorium**

Please contact Patrick at [patrickc@fccog.org](mailto:patrickc@fccog.org) or Carla at [carlad@fccog.org](mailto:carlad@fccog.org) or call 203 637-1791 to sign-up by phone or email.



### Preparing for Emergencies in Church: Class Open to All Tuesday March 26, 7 pm - 8:30 pm in the Lounge

Presented by Community Impact Officers from the Greenwich Police Department, the class will cover techniques to increase awareness of potential threats to our church community and to minimize the risks. You will learn more about what you can do to minimize injuries, assist others, and alert authorities in situations such as an active shooter at church or in the greater community. Please contact Sue Asselin to register at [susana@fccog.org](mailto:susana@fccog.org) or ext. 821.





## SAVE THE DATE!

### Quarterly Meeting of Members

**Sunday, April 7, in Auditorium directly following the service**

Grab a cup of coffee and come hear about the Outreach opportunities for Service Sunday on April 28th, as well as a recap of our Capital Campaign and Building & Grounds expenditures and an update from the Senior Pastor Search Committee.



**The Hobart and William Smith Colleges Chorale** under the direction of Dr. Robert Cowles will present a concert as part of its annual spring tour at First Congregational Church of Greenwich on **Monday, April 8, at 7:30 p.m.**

The program will include choral works by Clément Janequin, Thomas Tomkins, Heinrich Schütz, Paul John Rudoj, Eric Whitacre, and more. In addition, the chamber ensemble Cantori will perform a newly commissioned work by Alex Freeman. The concert is free and open to the public; donations will be gratefully accepted.

## The Lenten Offering 2019

Join us on **"Service Sunday" on April 28th** beginning at the 10 am service. Members and guests of the church will be invited to serve on one of three projects:



Join in an assembly-line meal-packaging event in the Auditorium. In less than two hours, we will put together 10,000 highly nutritious dehydrated meals, which will be sent to people in need around the world through **Rise Against Hunger** ([www.riseagainsthunger.org](http://www.riseagainsthunger.org)).



**Greenwich**  
Community Gardens

Pitch in with spring-cleaning at **the Greenwich Community Garden** and prepare beds for 2019 growing season. Produce from the Community Garden provides fresh food for hundreds of Greenwich residents.



Calling all junior gardeners! Participate in a Spring Clean-up and Planting at **Pilgrim Towers**, the Low-Income Senior Living Facility in Stamford founded by First Church and other churches. Bring your gardening gloves and roll up your sleeves for this hands on project.

Sign-up through the Church Office or our website [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org).

## Women's FELLOWSHIP

**Raffle tickets** for the Women's Fellowship Annual Quilt will be on sale next Sunday after church. Tickets are \$5 each and check or cash is accepted. Look for the quilt on display in the auditorium. All proceeds benefit local, national and international charities that support women and children.



SAVE  
THE DATE!

Women's Fellowship members are invited to **Yale Divinity School** for a tour and lunch on **Wednesday, April 24**. Look for details and sign up information coming soon! Limited to 15 guests.

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## SPRINGTIME NEWS FROM THE RUMMAGE ROOM

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

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The Rummage Room is "All about Spring". The Spring clothing has been great for our shoppers. Be sure to shop early and often ... and bring in what you no longer wear.

**Manager Leanne's Wish List:** Spring clothing and children's clothing for all.

**Shop Hours:** Monday through Friday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and on Saturday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

**Donation Hours:** Monday through Thursday 9:30 am to 4:30 pm and on Friday and Saturday 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

**Thought for All:** *God has given us many gifts: The joy of laughter, the comfort of friends; and the opportunity to help others... like donating, shopping and volunteering... plus the gift of appreciation from those who have received needed help from the proceeds of The Rummage Room.*



## *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/Operations: Wendy Spezzano

Communications Specialist: Dalinda Rioseco

Database Administrative Assistant: Sue Wilder

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