

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Founded in 1665



Fourth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 12, 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 lounge after worship for our Community Hour.

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

A Celebration of Women

PRELUDE

Dr. Craig Scott Symons

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Carla Dietz

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

CALL TO WORSHIP*

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

One: Mothers come in many different forms, and today we celebrate them all!

All: Thank God for mothers!

One: Everyone here is either a son or a daughter.

All: Thank God for my mother!

One: For those women who have joined God in Heaven and whom we miss dearly here on earth.

All: Thank God for the mothers of the past.

One: For every woman who is working day and night to raise her children right now.

All: Thank God for the mothers of today.

One: For all the women who are expecting, but aren't quite mothers yet!

All: Thank God for the soon-to-be-mothers.

One: For the women who took in others' children through adoption and foster care.

All: Thank God for the mothers with hearts so big.

One: For those women who have lost a child to death and must carry on.

All: Thank God for the mothers who are so strong.

One: For all the women who have wanted to have children of their own, but chose instead to mother everyone else.

All: Thank God for the mothers in spirit. We thank you, Lord, for the women who have influenced our lives in so many ways. We pray that we will honor them in everything we do. Amen.

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

INTROIT

HYMN*

Savior Like A Shepherd



1 Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.
2 We are yours: in love be - friend us; be the guard-ian of our way.
3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor; ear - ly let us do your will.



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us; for our use your fold pre-pare.
Keep your flock: from sin de - fend us; seek us when we go a-stray.
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.
Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.



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

OPENING PRAYER *(in unison)*

Reverend Carla Dietz

Shepherd of Life, we enter this time of worship in need of the green pasture of your grace, which provides rest and renewal for the work that lies before us. The still waters of your peace calm our anxious spirits. The word of your rod and the wisdom of your staff is the strength and comfort we need to journey through the valley. Even in the face of suffering and injustice, you fill our spirits with the abundance of your love, and you anoint us in service to bring this hope to the world. This is the place we would dwell our whole life long. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Reverend Patrick Collins

Peil Pennington, son of Kathryn and Peil Pennington

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 Peil, that you will watch over him and guide him as he 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. Child Care in Preschool Red Door; 3 & 4 year olds in Purple Door; Kindergarten and 1st Grade in Rainbow Door; 2nd Grade in Gold Door; 3rd Grade in Blue Door; 4th & 5th Grades in Green Door; 6th Grade in Rick's Room.

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Reverend Patrick Collins

Holy One, it is our intention and desire to be forgiving of those who have harmed us, but forgiveness can appear to many as weakness, and so we nurture our bitterness. It is our intention and desire to be generous and sharing, but we are told resources are limited and so we hold back. It is our intention and desire to speak up for those whose voices are silenced by

injustice, but then we become convinced of what we might lose and hold our tongues. It is our intention and desire to live with confidence in our own fundamental value and worth.

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

(assurance you are forgiven)

Reverend Patrick Collins

FIRST LESSON

Barbara Norrgard

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside still waters;

He restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

SOLO

The Throne of Grace

Arr. Jon Hunt

Carol Woodman, mezzo soprano

Come to the Throne of Grace
Don't be afraid, I won't turn you away
Just let me into your heart

And my love will wash your tears away

I know you completely

And on your darkest journey

I have been with you

All the weight of guilt and shame

you carry on your shoulders

It's time to hand it over And let it go

Come to the throne of grace

Don't be afraid I won't turn you away

Just let me into your heart

And my love will wash your tears away

I can hear the silent tears above the noise and laughter

The things you're running after will let you down

So here I stand before you now

With arms of love to hold you

Let my grace enfold you

And come to me...Run to me!

SECOND LESSON

Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time, she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known

throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

MESSAGE

Reverend Carla Dietz

Celebration of Women

HYMN*

Mothering God



Moth-er-ing God, you gave me birth in the bright morn-ing of_ this world.
Moth-er-ing Christ, you took my form, of-fer-ing me your food_ of light.
Moth-er-ing Spir - it, nur - turing one, in arms of pa - tience hold_ me close,



Cre - a - tor, source of ev - ery breath, you are my rain, my wind my sun.
grain_ of life, and grape_ of love, your ver - y bod - y for_ my peace.
so that in faith I root_ and grow un - til I flow'r, un - til_ I know.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Reverend Patrick Collins

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

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

Psalm 150

Cesar Franck

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 blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION*

HYMN*

You Servants of God Your Master Proclaim

1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim,
2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save,
3 "Sal - va - tion to God, who sits on the throne!"
4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right:

and pub - lish a - broad Christ's won - der - ful name.
he still re - mains nigh; his pres - ence we have.
Let all cry a - loud and hon - or the Son.
all glo - ry and power, all wis - dom and might,

The name all vic - to - rious of Je - sus ex - tol,
The great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall sing,
The prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,
all hon - or and bless - ing, with an - gels a - bove,

whose king - dom is glo - rious, who rules o - ver all.
as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus our King.
fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.
and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fi - nite love!

BENEDICTION*

Reverend Carla Dietz

CHORAL RESPONSE

The Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

Flowers are given in celebration of the baptism of Peil Pennington by his family.

Directly following the service, one of our pastors will remain in the Auditorium 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.

If you are interested, we do have child care available for babies and toddlers in the preschool classrooms every Sunday for the entirety of the worship service.



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.



All services are now live-streamed on **YouTube.com**. Search for First Congregational Church of Greenwich and subscribe to our channel.

NEWS & NOTICES

TODAY



Church School

Regular Church School for all grades. Our last Church school class for this year! Be sure to be here and invite your friends to the Celebration Sunday, June 2 when we will honor and support needy families near and far through prayer, music, and offerings for Heifer International. After church, we will have a Petting Zoo!



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



Today is the final Sunday for raffle tickets for the Women's Fellowship Annual Quilt on sale. Only days remaining until the drawing! Tickets are \$5 each and check or cash is accepted. Look for the quilt on display after church. Tickets are also available through Tuesday in the Church Office, at the Rummage Room and the Nimble Thimble in Port Chester. All proceeds benefit local, national and international charities that support women and children.

Mothers' Day is Undies Sunday!

Did you know that underwear is the most under-donated, and most needed, item of clothing? No one should be deprived of the simple, daily necessity of clean underwear that many of us take for granted. For the next couple of Sundays, ***The Undies Project*** will be collecting donations of underwear for men, women and children in need to help improve their lives. All donations of **new** women's panties, **new** men's boxers and briefs, and **new** children's underwear will be accepted. All sizes and ages needed. For more info, contact Ginny Breismeister (ginnyb@fccog.org) and visit www.theundiesproject.org.

UPCOMING



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON:

Wednesday, MAY 15TH, 11:30am – 1:30pm in Auditorium

Ticket sales have been extended to Monday, May 13th at 4:30pm. Please drop off a \$15 check in the Church Office or go to MYFIRSTCHURCH on the website to register and pay. There will be an overview of 2018-19 Women's Fellowship activities and votes on



allocations and the 2019-20 slate. We will also hear speakers from two of the recipient agencies. The winning ticket for the 49th Annual Quilt Raffle will be drawn at 1pm.

SPRINGTIME NEWS FROM THE RUMMAGE ROOM

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

Manager Leanne's wish list: Ladies' handbags, jewelry and small electronics

Shop Hours: Monday – Friday 10 am to 5 pm Monday - Friday
Saturdays 10 am to 1 pm

Donations accepted: Monday – Thursday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm
Saturdays 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Please do not leave donations when the Rummage Room is closed.



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: Reverend Carla Dietz

Associate Pastor: Reverend Patrick Collins

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care: Reverend 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