

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

**Leadership and Belief**



Sunday, June 30, 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 our service of worship at First Church of Greenwich.  
Please join us in the lounge or outside (weather permitting)  
after worship for our Community Hour.

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



# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

### *Cantilena*

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, piano

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

Mary Fike, flute

## CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Carla Dietz

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

*As we celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride, we are grateful for the gift of our lives and the gift of others in our lives. Each of us is created with dignity and worth. We are called to love each other and to do no harm. We honor the many ways that people live and love. We repent for the times when our faith traditions have named LGBTQ+ people unworthy. Love does not exclude. We are all worthy. We suffer when LGBTQ+ persons are oppressed, excluded, and shamed by religious people who overlook the fundamental call to justice in our scriptures. We all flourish when we can live with authenticity and integrity. May we work to build a community where LGBTQ+ people are celebrated as full and equal members, recognizing their many gifts. We celebrate diversity as a blessing that enriches us all.<sup>1</sup> Today, let us respond to those blessings together in the Call To Worship:*

## CALL TO WORSHIP\*

Reverend Carla Dietz

One: Through prophets, rulers, and leaders,

**All: God passes on the story to the world.**

One: Through disciples and apostles and followers,

**All: God passes on the story to the world.**

One: Through saints and reformers and mystics,

**All: God passes on the story to the world.**

One: Through you and me and us,

**All: God passes on the story to the world.**

One: Come, let us worship God, and continue the story.

## INTROIT

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

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Religious Institute statement 135 Clarence St. Bridgeport, CT 06608

## HYMN\*

### Praise the Source of All Creation



1. Praise the source of all cre - a - tion, giv - ing life through - out the earth,
2. Ma - ny gen - ders, ma - ny ra - ces, all re - flect di - vin - ni - ty;
3. Long have ma - ny been ex - clu - ded judged and scorned by cus - tom's norms;
4. E - qual ma - rriage, heal - ing, free - ing, nur - tures bo - dy, mind and soul,



Bless - ing ev - ery love re - la - tion fill - ing all with sa - cred worth.  
ma - ny gifts and ma - ny gra - ces help us be all we can be.  
ev - ery - one will be in - clu - ded as we work to bring re - forms.  
re - af - firm - ing ev - ery be - ing, all cre - a - ted good and whole.



Ce - le - brate all forms and co - lors var - ied beau - ty eve - ry - where,  
Part - ners on this path of free - dom, tak - ing down each stif - ling wall,  
Let us end a - buse and vio - lence, bring - ing jus - tice eve - ry - where.  
Come, re - joice and sing to ge - ther ce - le - bra - ting life and love;



streams of good - ness ov - er - flow - ing, won - drous gifts for all to share.  
we will op - en doors of wel - come, bring - ing hope and joy to all.  
join - ing ho - ly wis - dom's miss - ion, help - ing all be free and fair.  
praise the great cre - a - tive spir - it, liv - ing in us and a - bove.

## OPENING PRAYER *(in unison)*

Reverend Patrick Collins

God of wisdom and wonder, we gather in this place as prophets and disciples, as people led by your spirit, and as humble followers seeking to do your will. Called here by your love, we come to be renewed in our faith and go from here ready to serve you again. Open us to your spirit, we pray. Amen.

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

## REFLECTION PRAYER

*(When we admit that we have not always been our best. It's a chance to unburden our hearts)*

One: For freedom, Christ has set us free. Yet at times we use our freedom for self-indulgence.

**All: Forgive us, God.**

One: You have called us to love one another, and yet sometimes it seems we would rather snap at one another.

**All: Forgive us, God.**

One: Often we would rather be guided by what we want rather than what you want.

**All: Forgive us, God.**

One: Transform us by your Spirit and make us new,

**All: We pray in Christ's name. Amen.**

## WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

### FIRST LESSON

Car Westbrook

#### ***2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14***

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.



He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, "Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" When he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

## ANTHEM

*Sing, My Soul, His Wondrous Love (1962)*

Ned Rorem (b. 1923)

## SECOND LESSON

***Luke 9:51-62***

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

## MESSAGE

***Leadership and Belief***

Reverend Carla Dietz

## HYMN\*

### *Rain Down (The choir will sing verses between refrains)*

F A7 Dm F7 B $\flat$

Rain down; rain down; rain down your

(D/F $\sharp$ ) (Em7) (A7) (D) (F $\sharp$ 7) (Bm)

F/A Gm7 C7 F A7 Dm

love on your peo - ple. Rain down; rain

(D7) (G) (Em) (A7) (G) (D)

F7 B $\flat$  Gm C7 B $\flat$  F

down; rain down your love, God of life.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Reverend Patrick Collins

## CALL TO OFFERING

Fred Laffan

Using a Smartphone? Text *FCCOG Donate* to 73256 or scan this code:



## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

### *At the River (1952)*

The Summer Choir  
Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

## DOXOLOGY\*

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above the heavenly host;  
Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION\*

Fred Laffan

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

## HYMN\*

### *O For A World*

1. O for a world where everyone  
Respects each other's ways,  
Where love is lived and all is done  
With justice and with praise.

2. O for a world where goods are shared  
And misery relieved,  
Where truth is spoken, children spared,  
Equality achieved.

3. We welcome one world family  
And struggle with each choice  
That opens us to unity  
And gives our vision voice.

4. O for a world preparing for  
God's glorious reign of peace,  
Where time and tears will be no more,  
And all but love will cease.

## BENEDICTION\*

Reverend Carla Dietz

## POSTLUDE

### *We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise*

Mark Hayes (b. 1953)

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## Music Notes from Dr. Craig Scott Symons

**Today, being Pride Sunday, I chose to present music written by gay composers.**

**Francis Poulenc** was a prolific composer and was one of the famous group, "Les Six", which included Georges Auric, Louis Durey, Arthur Honegger, Darius Milhaud, and Germaine Tailleferre. In his mid-20's, Poulenc wrote *Concert Champêtre* and dedicated it to painter Richard Chanlaire, which Poulenc described in a letter to a friend "You [Chanlaire] have changed my life, you are the sunshine of my thirty years, a reason for living and working."

**Ned Rorem**, an American composer, won a Pulitzer Prize in 1976 for his *Air Music: Ten Etudes for Orchestra*. His output consists of vocal songs, choral works, orchestral, chamber, organ, and piano. He was in a long-term relationship with NYC organist/choir director James Holmes at Church of St. Matthew and St. Timothy.

**Lee Hoiby**, an American composer, was a student of Darius Milhaud. He met his long-time partner, Mark Shulgasser, in the 1960's, and spent the latter part of his career in the Catskills. Hoiby wrote only to please himself. He was not part of the musical establishment, instead keeping his distance. In a 2010 profile by Zachary Woolfe, Hoiby stated, "All I did was compose. I never went anywhere, I didn't know anybody. I never went to any parties. I never met anybody. I'm basically not interested in social life, I guess."



**Aaron Copland**, most noted for his "*Fanfare for the common man*" was referred to by his peers as "Dean of American composers". Throughout his life, Copland was in and out of a relationship with photographer Victor Kraft, dating from 1932. From Wikipedia, " Like many at that time, Copland guarded his privacy, especially in regard to his homosexuality. He provided few written details about his private life and even after the Stonewall riots of 1969, showed no inclination to "come out". However, he was one of the few composers of his stature to live openly and travel with his intimates."

**Mark Hayes** is a Kansas City composer and has written over 1,200 works, primarily for choir, and piano. He was raised in a creative musical environment, beginning piano lessons at age ten and developing his improvisational skills at an early age. He earned a B.M. in piano performance, magna cum laude, from Baylor University.

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*Flowers are given by her family to celebrate the baptism of Keira Channing Molloy held at the Seaside Garden on June 16, 2019.*

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*Directly following the service, one of our pastors will remain to assist in any 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.

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 at [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.



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



The Welcoming Committee is pleased to invite everyone to the First Church Bring-Your-Own Picnic at the Beach! Pack a picnic dinner and beverages – Dessert is on us!

We will gather at the Clambake area from 5-8PM on Thursday, July 18. Come and enjoy fun and games!

This is an opportunity for those who do not live in Greenwich to enjoy our beautiful Greenwich Point. Tell the gatekeeper that you are there for the First Church Picnic. Singles, couples, families are welcome. Bring a friend!

Sign up at Community Hour, in the Church office or on the church website at [MYFIRSTCHURCH](http://MYFIRSTCHURCH).

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## NEWS FROM THE RUMMAGE ROOM

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

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### **Manager Leanne's Wish List:**

Ladies Fall Handbags, Bed Linens, Jewelry

Summer is here... time to get those summer clothes out!  
If you need summer dresses, shorts for all and short sleeved tops,  
come in to The Rummage Room. We have plenty to choose from!

Reminder: The Rummage Room is closed on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Shop Hours:**

Monday-Friday 10 am - 5 pm

Saturdays 10 am - 1 pm

### **Donations accepted:**

Monday-Thursday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

Saturdays 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

*"Smell the sea, and feel the sky. Let your soul and spirit fly." –Van Morrison*



## *The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*

108 Sound Beach Avenue • Old Greenwich CT 06870

203-637-1791 • [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org)

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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

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