

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665



finding **YOUR** path

Sunday, July 21, 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.

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, piano

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Patrick Collins

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

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Leader: God of the prophets, call to us today

People: Let us walk in the ways of love, justice and righteousness.

Leader: God of the poets, remind us again how much You love us

People: Sing to us the ways of love, justice and righteousness.

Leader: God of the disciples, teach us and help us find a path,
which brings us fully alive.

People: Teach us the ways of love, justice and righteousness.

Leader: God of all creation, help us to find the way

**All: We gather to hear Your call, to sing Your praise,
teach each other, to pray and worship as the Body of Christ.**

OPENING HYMN*

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

Refrain Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it,
1 I am weak, but thou art strong; Je - sus,
2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I
3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for

Je - sus, is my plea, dai - ly walk - ing close to
keep me from all wrong; I'll be sat - is - fied as
fal - ter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my bur - den
me will be no more; guide me gent - ly, safe - ly

thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.
long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Ref.*
shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Ref.*
o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore. *Ref.*

GATHERING PRAYER (*in unison*)

Reverend Carla Dietz

O God, you are our God, the One whom we eagerly seek. Our souls thirst for you; our bodies long for you like the parched earth longs for rain when there is drought. We have met you in this sanctuary and gazed upon your power and glory. We know that your unfailing love is better than life itself, and so we praise you! We will honor you as long as we live, lifting up our hands to you in prayer, calling on your name, and praising you with songs of joy. Amen.

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

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.

FIRST LESSON

To Where I Go

Barbara Norrgard
by Jonni Inferno

1. Follow me
if you can
thru tortured paths
and wintered lands
where the sun is lost
the moon unknown
beyond this dark
encroaching gloom

3. follow me
if you would know
where silver rivers
sometimes flow
and flying angels
falling lay
sweetly laughing
in their gentle way

5. follow me
and I will show
how wounded heart
now mended grows
where many paths
once hidden glow
and light the way
to where I go

2. follow me
if you dare
where voices speak
in whispered layers
of external wars
undeclared
where twisting turning
bodies play
on silken sails
on captured waves

4. follow me
if you wish
and play in childhood's
autumn mist
where paper dragons
fill the air
and broken hearts
still beating share
a love for passion's
written snare

SOLO

Poor Wayfaring Stranger

Daniel Young, tenor

SECOND LESSON

Luke 10:38-42 (CEB)

Reverend Patrick Collins

While Jesus and his disciples were traveling, Jesus entered a village where a woman named Martha welcomed him as a guest. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his message. By contrast, Martha was preoccupied with getting everything ready for their meal. So Martha came to him and said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to prepare the table all by myself? Tell her to help me."

The Lord answered, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things. One thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the better part. It won't be taken away from her."

MESSAGE

Reverend Patrick Collins

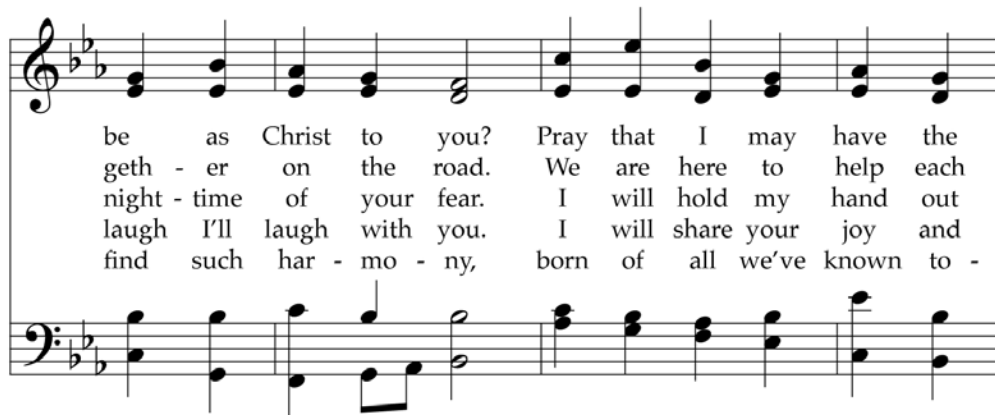
Finding Your Path

HYMN*

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant?



1, 6 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney; we're to -
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you
5 When we sing to God in heav - en, we shall



be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the
geth - er on the road. We are here to help each
night - time of your fear. I will hold my hand out
laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and
find such har - mo - ny, born of all we've known to -



grace to let you be my ser - vant too.
oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.
to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.
(repeat stanza 1)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Reverend Carla Dietz

CALL TO OFFERING

Jenny Gartner

Using a Smartphone? Text FCCOG Donate to 73256

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Jesus Shall Reign

The Summer Choir
Rachel Aarons (b. 1984)

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*

Jenny Gartner

HYMN*

O God, You Are My God

O God, you are my God, and I will ev-er praise
you. O God, you are my God, and I will ev-er praise
you. I will seek you in the morn - ing, and I will
learn to walk in your ways. And step by step you'll lead
me, and I will fol - low you all of my days.

BENEDICTION*

Reverend Patrick Collins

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

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

*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 at 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](https://www.youtube.com). Search for First Congregational Church of Greenwich and subscribe to our channel.

NEWS & NOTICES



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, which can be made by calling extension 821.

NEWS FROM THE RUMMAGE ROOM

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

The Rummage Room will close on Saturday, August 3rd and will reopen September 3rd at 10 am.

Our famous Bag Sale Week begins Monday, July 29th – Wednesday, July 31st with **EVERYTHING 50% off!**

Then Thursday, August 1st, \$15 a bag; August 2nd, \$10 a bag and August 3rd, \$2 a bag.

We will celebrate our 'Grand Reopening' with all new merchandise on September 3rd!

Please do not leave donations while the shop is closed as no-one will be there to collect them.

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

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

108 Sound Beach Avenue • Old Greenwich CT 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: Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Minister of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Family Ministries: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Church Administration/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: Reverend Dr. Thomas L. Stiers and Reverend Sally Colegrove