

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



Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-1669), *The Parable of the Rich Fool*, 1627

Sunday, August 4, 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.*

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

Dr. Craig Scott Symons

## 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: O let us give thanks to the One who created us,

People: **For the love of God will never end.**

Leader: Let we who love God be unashamed to declare it,

People: **Because God has answered our cries for help.**

Leader: The Lord our God has met our every need,

People: **We will therefore proclaim the love of God!**

## OPENING HYMN\*

*Come Down, O Love Divine*

1 Come down, O Love Di - vine; seek out this soul of mine,  
2 O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn  
3 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,

and vis - it it with your own ar - dor glow - ing.  
to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing.  
shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing.

O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear,  
And let your glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,  
For none can guess God's grace, till Love cre - ates a place

and kin - dle it, your ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

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

### **GATHERING PRAYER** *(in unison)*

Generous God, in abundance you give us things both spiritual and physical. Help us to hold lightly the fading things of this earth and grasp tightly the lasting thing, which come from you, so that what we are and do and say may be our gifts to you. We pray all of this through Christ, who beckons all to seek the things above, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. 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.

### **FIRST LESSON**

Barbara Norrgard

***Colossians 3:1-4; 15-17 (The Message)***

So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that's where the action is. See things from his perspective.

Your old life is dead. Your new life, which is your real life—even though invisible to spectators—is with Christ in God. He is your life. When Christ shows up again on this earth, you'll show up, too—the real you, the glorious you. Meanwhile, be content with obscurity, like Christ.

Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ—the Message—have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of Jesus, thanking God every step of the way.

### **DUET**

Andrea Woodman Osker, piano/vocal

***Lord, Make Me An Instrument Of Your Peace***

Carol Woodman, vocal

### **SECOND LESSON**

Reverend Patrick Collins

***Luke 12: 13-21 (The Message)***

Someone out of the crowd said, "Teacher, order my brother to give me a fair share of the family inheritance."

He replied, "Mister, what makes you think it's any of my business to be a judge or mediator for you?"

Speaking to the people, he went on, "Take care! Protect yourself against the least bit of greed. Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot."

Then he told them this story: "The farm of a certain rich man produced a terrific crop. He talked to himself: 'What can I do? My barn isn't big enough for this harvest.' Then he said, 'Here's what I'll do: I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll gather in all my

grain and goods, and I'll say to myself, Self, you've done well! You've got it made and can now retire. Take it easy and have the time of your life!

"Just then God showed up and said, 'Fool! Tonight you die. And your barnful of goods—who gets it?' That's what happens when you fill your barn with Self and not with God."

## MESSAGE

Reverend Patrick Collins

### *We Are More Than What We Possess*

## HYMN\*

### *Seek Ye First*

*Descant*

Al - le - lu - ia,  
1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God  
2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you;  
3 You shall not live by bread a - lone,  
al - le - lu - ia,  
and its righ - teous - ness,  
and seek, and you shall find;  
but by ev - ery word  
and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you.  
knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you.  
that pro - ceeds from the mouth of God.  
al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

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

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Reverend Patrick Collins

## CALL TO OFFERING

Andrea Woodman

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

***Fill My Life, O Lord My God***

The Summer Choir  
Robert J. Powell (b. 1932)

## 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\*

Andrea Woodman

## THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

### INVITATION

### PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

*(Today's communion will be by intinction. Congregants are invited to come forward down the center aisle to one of the communion stations at the front, receive the bread (gluten-free), dip in the cup and partake. Those who need to stay in the chair should indicate their need to be served there to one of the ushers or greeters. Someone will come to serve you.)*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(in unison)*

**Gracious God, in gratitude, in deep gratitude, for this moment, this meal, these people. We give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared this sacrament and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. Amen.**

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

## HYMN\*

### God Whose Giving Knows No End



1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and  
2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of  
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your



end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly  
Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es  
grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to



cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn  
joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly  
spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in



to you, of - fer - ing up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall  
la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,  
shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,



rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.  
make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.  
and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

## BENEDICTION\*

## CHORAL RESPONSE

## POSTLUDE

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

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*Directly following the service, one of our pastors will remain in the Auditorium to be available to anyone who has a 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.

## 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 by calling extension 821.

### Church School Teams are Forming Now... Join a Team!

Our children need a few more teachers in every class and grade level. Please consider this opportunity to help our children grow in faith and community. Contact Rosemary (RosemaryL@fccog.org) to discuss.

Sign up in Teaching Teams: husband and wife, two friends, parent and high school student. Sign up for a season - Fall, Winter, Spring, Advent (December), Lent (6 weeks before Easter), or other time periods - to make it easier to fit into family travel schedules and sports.

## NEWS FROM THE RUMMAGE ROOM

### 191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

The Rummage Room will be closing Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> for their annual clean up and restocking.

**Please do not leave donations outside the front door as there won't anyone to accept them.**

Our grand re-opening is Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10am.

## *The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*

108 Sound Beach Avenue • Old Greenwich CT 06870

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

