



## **CAN I GET A WITNESS?**

Sunday, November 10, 2019  
10:00 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.*



# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

*Sarabande*

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ  
Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

## CALL TO COMMUNITY

*(please sign and pass the red fellowship pad found at the end of your row.)*

Reverend Patrick Collins

## HOMES FOR THE BRAVE

Vince Santilli

## STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

### INTROIT

*Such Perfect Love My Shepherd Shows*

Daniel Young, tenor  
arr. Karen Maze

### CALL TO WORSHIP\*

Reverend Patrick Collins

Leader: We look within ourselves and what do we see?

People: **We see people who try to be faithful, even as questions and struggles challenge our faith.**

Leader: We look within ourselves and how do we see?

People: **We see with hearts which are open to God's love, with lives which seek to trust when all the evidence tells us not to be so foolish.**

Leader: We look within ourselves and who do we see?

People: **We see Jesus, the one who struggles with the questions we raise, who models faithfulness for all who would follow.**

### HYMN\*

*Holy God, We Praise Your Name*

New Century (black) Hymnal #276

### GATHERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

Reverend Avery C. Manchester

**We gather together as people who have faith in a story that stretches far before and beyond us. It's a story that tells us that what we know of life is only a tiny part of the picture; that here, who we are is still unfinished. It's a story of how God's redemption and restoration rewrites what we know of ourselves, witnessing to our lives with words of grace and forgiveness and creating an ending that speaks only of love. We gather now to worship God.**

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Reverend Patrick Collins

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

## **LORD'S PRAYER** *(in unison)*

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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*Children will now leave to go to their Church School classrooms. Parents are welcome to accompany their children to their room and return to the service when they are able. All classrooms are on the Preschool level. Baby Nursery & Toddler Room in Red Door; 3- & 4-year-olds in Blue Door; Kindergarten & 1st Grade in Rainbow Door; 2nd Grade in Gold Door; 3rd grade in Purple Door; 4th, 5th and 6th Grades in the Green Door.*

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## **FIRST LESSON**

Lynn Robertson

*Jeremiah 17:5-8, 12-13 (NIV)*

This is what the Lord says:

“Cursed is the one who trusts in man,  
who draws strength from mere flesh  
and whose heart turns away from the Lord.

That person will be like a bush in the wastelands;  
they will not see prosperity when it comes.

They will dwell in the parched places of the desert,  
in a salt land where no one lives.

“But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,  
whose confidence is in him.

They will be like a tree planted by the water  
that sends out its roots by the stream.

It does not fear when heat comes;  
its leaves are always green.

It has no worries in a year of drought  
and never fails to bear fruit.”

A glorious throne, exalted from the beginning,  
is the place of our sanctuary.

Lord, you are the hope of Israel;  
all who forsake you will be put to shame.

Those who turn away from you will be written in the dust  
because they have forsaken the Lord,  
the spring of living water.

## **ANTHEM**

*Praise and Thanksgiving*

The Youth Choir  
Michael Barrett  
Carolyn Paulus, director  
Vance Briceland, piano

## SECOND LESSON

Reverend Patrick Collins

*John 7:37-38 & 8:2-11 (CEB)*

On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and shouted,

“All who are thirsty should come to me!

All who believe in me should drink!

As the scriptures said concerning me,

*Rivers of living water will flow out from within him.”*

Jesus said this concerning the Spirit. Those who believed in him would soon receive the Spirit, but they hadn't experienced the Spirit yet since Jesus hadn't yet been glorified.

Early in the morning he returned to the temple. All the people gathered around him, and he sat down and taught them. The legal experts and Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery. Placing her in the center of the group, they said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of committing adultery. In the Law, Moses commanded us to stone women like this. What do you say?” They said this to test him, because they wanted a reason to bring an accusation against him. Jesus bent down and wrote on the ground with his finger.

They continued to question him, so he stood up and replied, “Whoever hasn't sinned should throw the first stone.” Bending down again, he wrote on the ground. Those who heard him went away, one by one, beginning with the elders. Finally, only Jesus and the woman were left in the middle of the crowd.

Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Is there no one to condemn you?”

She said, “No one, sir.”

Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on, don't sin anymore.”

## MESSAGE

Reverend Patrick Collins

*Can I Get A Witness?*

## HYMN\*

New Century (black) Hymnal #529

*Now Let Us All, in Hymns of Praise*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Reverend Avery C. Manchester

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

## CALL TO OFFERING

Lynn Hawxhurst

*Using a Smartphone? Text FCCOG Donate to 73256*

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

*O Thou, the Central Orb*

Charles Wood

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

## 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\_ bless - ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures here be - low.



Praise God a- bove ye\_ hea - ven'ly host; Cre - a - tor, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION\*

Lynn Hawxhurst

## CLOSING HYMN\*

New Century Hymnal #584

*I Am the Light of the Wolrd*

## BENEDICTION\*

Reverend Patrick Collins

## CHORAL RESPONSE

## POSTLUDE

*God of Grace*

arr. Paul Manz (1919-2009)

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

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*The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in loving memory of my father and my sister, Eric and Susan Robertson, by Lynn Robertson.*

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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.*

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## A Note about Welcoming Children

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**To our parents:** 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 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.

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## NEWS & NOTICES

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### TODAY



#### Church School

**Regular Church School today:** Baby and Toddler Room continues in the Preschool Red Door Classroom. 3's and 4's are in the Blue Door and can be dropped off before the service begins. During the service, please feel free to bring your preschool-age children to the "PrayGround" in the Chapel.



#### Choir Rehearsals Today

**Cherub Choir:** Rainbow Room (Lower Level) 11:15-11:45 am

**Children's Choir:** Music Room (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor) 11:15 am -12 pm

**Youth Choir:** Choir Room (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor) 11:15 am -12:15 pm



## TODAY! Collection Drive for *Homes for The Brave*

The Women's Fellowship is sponsoring a Veterans Day drive in support of ABRI-Homes for the Brave in Bridgeport.

As recipients of the Women's Fellowship grant process, we have been made aware of the wonderful work that is done in support of female veterans and their children, as well as the significant challenges they face. Urgently needed items listed at <http://www.fccog.org/event/veterans-day-collection-drive/>.

**PLEASE NOTE: TODAY's Faith and Formation Parenting Discussion has been cancelled and postponed to Next Sunday, November 17 in the Auditorium right after the service.**



### From the Stewardship Committee

God bless the early birds! We have over 100 pledges from people who want to continue the vital and important work of the church. What is this work?

meeting in faith • welcoming all

First Church supports over 30 charities that shelter the homeless, feed the food insecure, promote literacy, provide job training, help the elderly, bolster veterans, and more.

Our church is committed to vibrant worship centered in gratitude and welcoming all. From baptism to confirmation, First Church guides young families through faith formation. Our pastors and parish nurse visit the sick and home-bound. Church members on the Caring Ministries Committee are always ready with a prayer shawl, flowers, a simple card, soup, and prayers to bring comfort.

Your pledge makes the vital and important work of the church possible. Please pledge this year to help us achieve new heights in outreach, faith formation, worship, and hospitality to welcome our neighbors into the First Church family.

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To make your pledge, please visit [www.iamfirstchurch.com](http://www.iamfirstchurch.com). If you prefer, you can email your pledge to Steve Summerton at [steves@fccog.org](mailto:steves@fccog.org) or send via mail to the church office.



### 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, extension 821.



## Looking for a meaningful gift?

We're currently accepting requests and donations for naming the gorgeous new Meetinghouse and Choir chairs. **Name one or more chairs in memory or in honor of someone special** with a tax-deductible contribution of \$250 per chair. Visit <http://www.fccog.org/the-perfect-gift/> to complete the form and donate online now! You may also contact Steve Summerton at [steves@fccog.org](mailto:steves@fccog.org) or 203-637-1791 x838 for more info.



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## UPCOMING

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**Wednesday, November 13**  
**6:30-8:30pm in the Meetinghouse**  
**SPEDucated Workshop: *Is Your Child Struggling to Read?***

Learn more about the science of reading, your child's reading struggles, and decoding, reading comprehension and language comprehension.

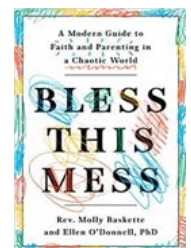
With guest speaker Dr. Margie Gillis, President and Founder of Literacy How, Inc.

**Childcare available. RSVP at [speducatedgreenwich@gmail.com](mailto:speducatedgreenwich@gmail.com).**

## Faith Parenting Discussion

### November 17 during Community Hour

Second part of our learning and discussion about the book, "Bless This Mess", authored by Rev. Molly Baskette, a UCC pastor and Ellen O'Donnell, Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. Grab your coffee and join us at the table in the corner of the Auditorium.



## Sunday, November 17

Our "Giving Trees" will be ready for you to choose a gift, fulfilling a wish for our friends at **H.O.M.E.** (Homeworkers Organized for More Employment), the non-profit organization that supports low-income and homeless families in Orland Maine, and **Pilgrim Towers**, a senior residential community in Stamford. **Gifts will be needed back by Wednesday, December 4th.** This is our 14th year of bringing holiday blessings to these communities.





## Craft Fair Preview Party

Friday evening November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Please join us for wine and cheese and the chance to be the first to shop this annual H.O.M.E. Craft Fair. Enjoy a fun evening of early shopping for the holidays!

## Join us for the annual H.O.M.E. Craft Sale November 22-24!

Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Don't miss this great opportunity for our congregation to support the H.O.M.E. community. Come see the handmade quilts, Christmas decorations and gifts, woolens, pottery, wooden toys, weavings, homemade jams, maple Syrup, and much, much more!

**H.O.M.E. (Homeworkers Organized for More Employment)** is a craft cooperative working with the rural poor in Hancock County, Maine. H.O.M.E.'s efforts to help those in need include the operation of a free clinic, a soup kitchen and food bank, homeless shelters, learning centers with daycare, literacy and GED tutoring, alternative high school and college-level programs, and job and craft training. All proceeds from this sale go directly to H.O.M.E.!



## Harvest Sunday is November 24!

Our annual food collection will be divided between Neighbor to Neighbor and H.O.M.E. Please fill up a grocery bag—or two—with canned and other dry goods. Special requests include: canned chili, Spam or chicken, Chef Boyardee pastas, beans or rice in 1lb. bags, peanut butter & jelly, canned fruit, cereals and quick oats oatmeal. **Bring your food donations to the Harvest Sunday Service on November 24.** Cash donations are also welcome.

## Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale begins Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 30, and runs through December 14.

The sale will feature 450 fresh cut Fraser Fir and Balsam trees from New Hampshire and over 200 wreaths! Shop early for best selection. Volunteers are key to the success of the sale, which raised \$32,000 for local charities last year. Join the fun and volunteer!

**TREE & WREATH SALE**

November 30<sup>th</sup> - December 14<sup>th</sup>

Saturdays 9am - 6pm,  
Sundays 11am - 5pm

**EVERY PURCHASE COMES WITH A PURPOSE**

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH**  
108 SOUND BEACH AVE (front lawn)

**Sign up is easy:**

go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050d4eafa62aabf94-christmas>. You can also sign up today on the posters in the Auditorium or contact Pat Mendelsohn, Outreach Chair, at 203-637-5773 or [patmendelsohn@aol.com](mailto:patmendelsohn@aol.com).

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**NEWS FROM THE RUMMAGE ROOM**

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich • 203-637-1875  
[www.fccog.org/about-us/the-rummage-room](http://www.fccog.org/about-us/the-rummage-room)

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It's November and time to think about thanksgiving. We have a few thanksgiving items at The Rummage Room. Extra wine glasses, another tablecloth, games for the kids to play... we have all of these!

**Manager Leanne's Wish List:**

Christmas items • Men's suits • Records

**Shop Hours:**

Monday-Friday 10 am - 5 pm  
Saturdays 10 am - 1 pm

**Donations accepted:**

Monday-Thursday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm  
Friday & Saturday 9:30 am - 12:30 pm



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## *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

Database Administrative Assistant: Sue Wilder

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