



**Sunday, December 8, 2019**

*Second Sunday of Advent*

**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.

Please let an usher know if you would like a Bible during the service. We are happy to provide one upon request. You may also get one from the bookshelf across from the sound booth room.

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

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## *Second Sunday of Advent*

### PRELUDE

*Sleepers, Awake, for Night is Coming*

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

### CALL TO COMMUNITY

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

Reverend Carla Dietz

### CALL TO WORSHIP\*

One: While the sun endures,

**All: may we bless God.**

One: While the waters cover the sea,

**All: may we bless God.**

One: As the moon shines,

**All: may we bless God.**

One: As rain and snow shower the earth,

**All: may we bless God.**

### CHORAL INTROIT

### HYMN\*

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal #115

### OPENING PRAYER *(in unison)*

Reverend Patrick Collins

**God of peace, in the gathering of your people, in the fellowship that we share, in the reading of scripture, and the reflection on the word, in the praying and singing of your people, and in the beauty of this privilege, we ask that we may grow in greater love with you and with each other. Amen.**

### LIGHTING OF THE 2<sup>nd</sup> ADVENT CANDLE

### MUSIC DURING ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

The Palmer Handbell Choir

Arr. Lloyd Larson

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

All: May the light of hope and peace guide our way as we travel through Advent. Amen.

### PRAYER OF REFLECTION *(in unison)*

Search us God, help us to honestly reflect on the situations where we have acted like the Pharisees and Sadducees – relying on our status, privilege or ancestry, focusing more on who we are than how we behave and who we hope to become. Help us to dig deep, and rediscover who you wish us to be. Where this differs from who we are, grant us the wisdom and courage to turn back towards you, so that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance. Amen.

### AFFIRMATION

#### 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 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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*All children will now leave to go to their Church School classes in the Preschool classrooms. Parents are welcome to accompany their children and return to the service. Baby Nursery & Toddler Room in the Red Door and 3's and 4's are in the Blue Door; Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade in the Rainbow Door; 2nd grade in the Gold Door; 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in the Purple Door; 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grades in the Green Door.*

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### HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Pat Larrabee

*Isaiah 11:1-10*

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;  
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

## **ANTHEM**

*Come, Peace of God*

The Chancel Choir  
Eugene Butler (b. 1935)

## **NEW TESTAMENT**

*Matthew 3:1-12*

Pat Larrabee

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea,  
proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around  
his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people

of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

## MESSAGE

Reverend Carla Dietz

### *Choose a Better Way*

## HYMN\*

*Dona nobis pacem*

W. Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Canon ①

F C F C B $\flat$  F C

Do na no-bis pa-cem, pacem. Do - na no-bis pa -

8

F ② C F C B $\flat$  F C F

cem. Do - na no-bis pacem. Dona nobis pa - cem.

17

C F C B $\flat$  F C F

Do - na no - bis pacem. Dona nobis pa - cem.

Detailed description: The image shows three staves of musical notation for the hymn 'Dona nobis pacem'. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. The first staff is labeled 'Canon ①' and contains the first line of music with lyrics 'Do na no-bis pa-cem, pacem. Do - na no-bis pa -'. The second staff is labeled '8' and contains the second line of music with lyrics 'cem. Do - na no-bis pacem. Dona nobis pa - cem.'. The third staff is labeled '17' and contains the third line of music with lyrics 'Do - na no - bis pacem. Dona nobis pa - cem.'. Chord symbols (F, C, B-flat) are placed above the notes. The music is in a simple, melodic style characteristic of a canon.

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

## 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

Helen Ingraham

*Using a Smartphone? Text FCCOG Donate to 73256*

## ORGAN OFFERTORY

*Far, Far Away on Judea's Plains*

arr. Laurel Hunt Pedersen

## DOXOLOGY\*

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal #515

*(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 Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Helen Ingraham

## HYMN\*

New Century (black) Hymnal #101

*Comfort, Comfort O My People*

## LITURGY OF FAREWELL TO REVEREND CARLA DIETZ

*Rick Derr, Chair of Church Council:* Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences and new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share the time of farewell with Rev. Carla Dietz as she completes her ministry among us.

On August 13th, 2018, The First Congregational Church of Greenwich called Carla Dietz to serve as Interim Senior Minister.

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

*Reverend Carla Dietz:* I thank First Congregational Church, its members and friends, for the love, kindness and support shown to me during my time of ministry here. I am grateful for all the ways my leadership has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me your spirit and all that I have learned here.

***Congregation: We receive your thankfulness, and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.***

*Rick Derr:* Do you the members and friends of First Congregational Church release Carla from the duties of Interim Senior Minister?

***Congregation: We do with the help of God.***

*Chris Cantwell, Chair of Personnel Committee:* Do you Carla, release this church from turning to you and depending on you? Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here as Reverend Patrick Collins begins his ministry as the settled Senior Minister?

*Reverend Carla Dietz:* I do, with the help of God.

*Donna Hascher, Chair of Faith Formation Committee:*

Let Us Pray: O God, we give thanks for remembered times when we, together, have shared the life of faith. We thank you for the moments we have shared with Carla in worship, in learning and service. Guide us as we hold these memories but move in new directions, embracing Reverend Patrick Collins as our settled Senior Minister with the guidance of your Spirit. We pray in your many names, Amen.

## **BENEDICTION\***

Reverend Patrick Collins

## **CHORAL RESPONSE**

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

## **POSTLUDE**

*Lord Christ, Only Son of God*

J. S. Bach

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



*The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning have been given with grateful memories of their parents, by Barbara and John Norrgard.*

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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

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

## NEWS & NOTICES

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### TODAY



### Church School

Today is a regular Church School program and children will go to their classrooms in the Preschool before the scripture reading. After brief time in the Community Hour, the Advent Craft Fair will begin in the Daniels Center. All children's choirs will have rehearsals and

then can join the Advent Craft Fair with their parents when they finish rehearsals.



### 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) 11:15-12:15 am



### 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.

### Advent Craft Fair & LUNCH at 11:30 am in the Daniels Center

A great opportunity for family bonding! Make your own gifts and decorations. Lunch included! Freewill offering appreciated.



### First Church Christmas Party 5:00 – 7:30 pm

Come celebrate the holidays with your First Church family!

Please join us for fun, adult-only, festive full-bar complementary Christmas celebration!

### Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale runs through Dec. 14, while supplies last!

Come early for the best wreaths and trees in town! All proceeds donated to local non-profits.

**TREE & WREATH SALE**

**WEEKENDS** Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> thru Dec 14<sup>th</sup> | **SATURDAYS** 9 am - 6 pm | **SUNDAYS** 11 am - 5 pm

**EVERY PURCHASE COMES WITH A PURPOSE**

PACIFIC HOUSE YOUNG ADULTS PROGRAM | MOTHERS FOR OTHERS  
SOUNDWATERS YOUNG MARINERS ACADEMY | KIDS IN CRISIS  
THE DEN FOR GRIEVING KIDS | BUILDING ONE COMMUNITY

## UPCOMING

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### **53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Messiah Performance**

This performance will take place on **Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 4:00 pm**. A freewill offering will be received, with a suggested donation of \$20. Since 1966, First Congregational Church has presented Part 1 of Handel's Messiah, the Christmas portion, concluding with the Hallelujah chorus. The First Church Festival Chorus, 75 singers strong, is accompanied by the First Church Chamber Orchestra, with soloists Risa Renae Harman, soprano, Sarah Bleasdale, mezzo soprano, Daniel Young, tenor, Constantine Novotny, bass.

**Join the First Church Festival Chorus:** If you have choral experience, you are encouraged to join the chorus for our annual Messiah concert. There is only one choir rehearsal on Monday, December 9 from 7:30 – 9:00 pm in the Meetinghouse. There is also a dress rehearsal with orchestra on Wednesday, December 11 from 7:30 – 9:00 pm. There is a refundable score deposit of \$20. There are no auditions; everyone is welcome.

### **First Church Cookie Walk**

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual First Church Cookie Walk is fast approaching! On **Sunday, December 15**, we will all have the opportunity to participate in a festive sale of delectable Christmas cookies and treats provided by all you wonderful bakers. Bakers will receive "priority" stickers to fill your box first and then non-bakers may go through the line. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Boxes will be \$5 each. Proceeds will go to the Pastor's discretionary fund for emergency relief. Fire up your ovens, get out the flour and sugar, and bake for a fun time and help those in need! **Please sign up in coffee hour indicating that you will bring cookies or call the church office at 203-637-1791.**

### **Not too early to sign up your children for a Christmas Eve Nativity Pageant**

Do you know that on Christmas Eve we have THREE nativity pageants? We need Mary's and Joseph's, shepherds and angels, kings, little drummer boys, and even some farm animals.

At the 10 am service, any children who arrive by 9:20 am can be in the pageant. For both the 3 pm and 6 pm services, we need an angel who is willing to climb the ladder and spread your wings. For the 3 and 6 pm services, you will need to choose costumes and rehearse on Monday, Dec. 23, from 10:30 am to Noon. There are no speaking parts! All you need

to do is act the part of the character you are portraying and smile. So as soon as your family knows which service you will be attending and if you want to be part of the fun, just let Rosemary know at RosemaryL@fccog.org.

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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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One more week before we close for the holidays. Plenty of time for you to come in and do a little Christmas shopping. This week we will have select items 50% off. Each day will be something different.

### Shop hours

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

### Donation hours

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

**Happy Holidays to all of our volunteers and shoppers!**

Please note we close on Saturday December 14th at 1pm. Please do not leave donations outside during our closing. We re-open on January 2nd. We will be accepting donations then.

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*The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*  
108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 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  
Senior 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/Operations: Wendy Spezzano  
Communications Specialist: Dalinda Rioseco  
Database Administrative Assistant: Sue Wilder  
Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Stiers and Rev. Sally Colegrove

