



The Hour is at Hand

Sunday, April 5, 2020
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.

*If you are virtually joining us this morning, we want to welcome you!
We hope this live stream finds you in good health.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. Patrick Collins

PRELUDE

Monologue

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist
Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)

SUSTAINABILITY MOMENT

William DeHaven

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Patrick Collins

One: Come, all that are weary, all that are carrying burdens so heavy

All: Jesus will give us rest

One: Come, take what Jesus has to offer: love, forgiveness, and grace

All: Christ will give us peace

One: Come, find rest, and learn from Jesus

All: For our Savior will give us rest in our souls

One: Come, let us worship our God

All: Let us follow our Savior, who leads us into life

HYMN

All glory, laud, and honor

Refrain:

All glory, laud, and honor
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!

Thou art the King of Israel,
thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest,
the King and blessed One. *(Refrain)*

The people of the Hebrews

with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayers and anthems
before thee we present. *(Refrain)*

To thee, before thy passion,
they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted,
our melody we raise. *(Refrain)*

Thou didst accept their praises;
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious King! *(Refrain)*

GATHERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

Some shout hosanna, some shout crucify, some shout Jesus, some shout Barabbas, some wave palms, some shake their fists. Some break bread, some break silence, some proclaim Jesus, some deny Jesus, some carry the cross, some run from the cross. Some weep, some conspire, some follow, some hide, some believe, some betray. Today we choose to shout for life, to follow the cross, to break bread, to hold belief, to trust love, and to tell the world we choose to follow Jesus.

LENTEN RESPONSE

**O God, the Creator, the Three in One,
The Creator of earth and moon and sun,
You have loved and protected us since time first begun,**

**And we're brothers and sisters in God's love, in God's love,
And we're brothers and sisters in God's love.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rosemary Lamie

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

Emma Olmsted

Psalms 31:9-16 (New Revised Standard Version)

Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress;
my eye wastes away from grief,
my soul and body also.

For my life is spent with sorrow,
and my years with sighing;
my strength fails because of my misery,
and my bones waste away.

I am the scorn of all my adversaries,
a horror to my neighbors,
an object of dread to my acquaintances;
those who see me in the street flee from me.
I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;
I have become like a broken vessel.
For I hear the whispering of many—
terror all around!—
as they scheme together against me,
as they plot to take my life.

But I trust in you, O Lord;
I say, "You are my God."
My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.
Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.

SOLO

Embroidered Cloths

Daniel Young, tenor
Rob Mathes (b. 1970)

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 26: 17-19; 26-30; 36-45 (New Revised Standard Version)

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand.

MESSAGE

Rev. Patrick Collins

The Hour is at Hand

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

For everyone born

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,

Refrain:

and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for woman and man, a system that's fair, ***(Refrain)***

For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong, ***(Refrain)***

For just and unjust, a place at the table,
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,
for just and unjust, a new way to live, ***(Refrain)***

For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free, ***(Refrain)***

DOXOLOGY

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

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Today we join a vast cloud of witnesses who celebrated and shared in this sacred meal in the comfort of their own homes. We invite you during this time of communion to share whatever elements you have available to you knowing that all things of this life are sacred and holy.

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

HYMN

The palms

O'er all the way green palms and blossoms gay
Are strewn this day in festive preparation,
Where Jesus comes, to wipe our tears away,
E'en now the throng to welcome Him prepare.

Refrain:

Join all and sing His name declare,
Let ev'ry voice resound with acclamation,

Hosanna! Praised be the Lord!
Bless Him, who cometh to bring us salvation!

His word goes forth, and people by its might
Once more their freedom gain from degradation,
Humanity doth give to each his right,
While those in darkness find restored the light. *(Refrain)*

Sing and rejoice, O blest Jerusalem,
Of all thy sons sing the emancipation,
Thro' boundless love, the Christ of Bethlehem
Brings faith the hope to thee forevermore. *(Refrain)*

BENEDICTION

Rev. Patrick Collins

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on "St. Theodulph"

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FIRST CHURCH CONNECTS WITH YOU DURING THE WEEK:

- Sunday: 10 am Worship – Livestream on [YouTube](#) or on radio at [WGCH](#)
(actual radio stations are 1490 AM or 105.5 FM).
Download the bulletin [HERE](#) and join us and others in virtual fellowship.
- Monday: Music on Mondays (e-blast by Craig Symons)
- Wednesday: Wisdom on Wednesdays (e-blast by Rev. Patrick Collins)
- Thursday: Faith Formation at Home for All (e-blast by Rosemary Lamie)
- Friday: [Fridays by the Fireplace](#) (live with Rev. Patrick Collins)

Please make sure your email is on our list of recipients. If you are not on our mailing list, send your address to dalindar@fccog.org. Thanks!



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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

Preschool Administrative Assistant: Melanie Garnett

Administrative Assistant: Wendy Spezzano

Communications Specialist: Dalinda Rioseco

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

