



Let It Loose

Sunday, August 23, 2020
10:00 a.m.

The 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.

We welcome you this day and we're glad you made the choice to join us
for this live stream worship service. May it be a blessing to you.

FIRST CHURCH CONNECTS WITH YOU DURING THE WEEK

- Sunday: 10 a.m. Worship –
Live Stream - [YouTube](#)
Facebook - [First Church](#)
Radio at [WGCH](#) 1490 AM or 105.5 FM
Download the bulletin [HERE](#)
- 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 and Faith Formation for Children,
Youth and Families (e-blasts by Rosemary Lamie)

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

THE RUMMAGE ROOM IS CLOSED!

**The Rummage Room is closed for two weeks for re-stocking and cleaning.
The Grand Reopening on Tuesday, September 8 at 11 a.m.**

ORDER OF WORSHIP

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. Patrick Collins

Using your smartphone messaging app, text FCCOG Donate to 73256
or click [HERE](#) to access the online giving webpage
or scan the QR code below using your smartphone



PRELUDE

Prelude In B Minor
Cesar Franck (1822-1890)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Patrick Collins

One: Together, we gather,

All: God welcomes all the dreamers, as well as the doubters.

One: Together, the worriers and wanderers can call on God by name.

All: In this time, we can remember all the ways God has graced us.

One: Together, in these moments, we are reminded that God is with us, always!

All: Here are gathered those daring enough to step out of comfort into the unknown.

One: Together, in this faith space, we will find the courage to cry out, 'God, save us!' in every situation.

HYMN

Come, Thou, Almighty King

**Come, thou almighty King, help us thy name to sing;
help us to praise: Father, all glorious,
o'er all victorious, come, and reign over us, Ancient of Days.**

**Come, thou incarnate Word, merciful, mighty Lord,
our prayer attend. Come, and thy people bless,
and give thy word success; Spirit of holiness, on us descend.**

**Come, holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear
in this glad hour. Thou who almighty art,
now rule in every heart, and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power.**

**To thee, great One in Three, eternal praises be,
hence evermore! Thy sovereign majesty
may we in glory see, and to eternity love and adore.**

GATHERING PRAYER

Lord God, maker of heaven and earth, we gather together in your name. We come to offer you our worship and thanksgiving, our praise and our prayers. Come among us, living God. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, transform our hearts and minds so that we may recognize your presence, hear your voice, know your will, and walk in your way.

THE 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.

STAYING CONNECTED

The Schneider Family

FIRST LESSON

Acts 15: 1-11
New Revised Standard Version
Barbara Norrgard

Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, "It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses."

The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a

choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”

SOLO

The Last Rose Of Summer
Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)
Daniel Young, tenor

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 16: 13-20
New Revised Standard Version

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

MESSAGE

Let It Loose
Rev. Patrick Collins

MULTIMEDIA REFLECTION

Music Of Stillness
Elaine Hagenberg
poem by Sara Teasdale
Performed by Oxford Singers
Conducted by Bob Chilcott
Published by Oxford University Press

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Dr. Michael Ciba

SOLO

Trio in C Major: Scherzo
L. V. Beethoven (1770-1827)
John Russell, oboe

HYMN

O For A World Where Everyone

**O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.**

**O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.**

**We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.**

**The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.**

**O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.**

BENEDICTION

Rev. Patrick Collins

RESPONSE

The Lord Bless You And Keep You
Peter Lutkin (1858-1931)
The Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

Festival March In D
Paul C. VanDyke

All hymns reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-726454. All rights reserved.

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

Senior Pastor

Reverend Patrick Collins

Minister of Music

Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Faith Formation

Rosemary Lamie

Director of Church Administration and Finance

Steve Summerton

Director of Membership

Ginny Breismeister

Parish Nurse

Susan Asselin, RN

Administrative Assistant

Wendy Spezzano

Database Administrative Assistant

Sue Wilder

Director of Preschool

Darla Kohler Steiner

Preschool Administrative Assistant

Melanie Garnett

Pastors Emeriti

Reverend Dr. Thomas L. Stiers - Reverend Sally Colegrove

