



In Our Midst

Sunday, September 6, 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 are 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 8 a.m. Worship in the Memory Garden – weather permitting (advance registration is required. See your Friday email blast for information.)

10 a.m. Worship

Livestream - [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)

Friday Email with full information for the upcoming week

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 Grand Reopening
is 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

Improvisation on "Holy Manna"
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Patrick Collins

One: I lift my eyes up to the hills, from where does my help come?

All: My help comes from God, who made heaven and earth.

One: We look not to the mountains or valleys, even heaven or earth,

All: For God is found among us.

One: Wherever two or three are gathered in Christ's name,

All: God is in our midst.

One: Let us worship the God of Creation, the God of People, the God of Community.

All: Let us follow Jesus, for Jesus is The Way. Let us worship together in faith.

HYMN

God, Who Stretched The Spangled Heavens

**God, who stretched the spangled heavens infinite in time and place,
Flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space:
We, your children in your likeness, share inventive pow'rs with you;
Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.**

**We have conquered worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race;
Known the ecstasy of winging through uncharted realms of space;
Probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined pow'r,
Facing us with life's destruction or our most triumphant hour.**

**As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew:
Children of creative purpose, serving others, hon'ring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise; each endeavor well begun;
Great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.**

GATHERING PRAYER

God of justice, peace and righteousness, come into our midst this morning and breathe your breath. May your Spirit of prophecy, your energy, your enlivening, and your imagination wake us up. Open our eyes and unplug our ears, that we might hear and see. Open our hearts and minds, that we might grieve and dream. Be in our midst, God, and help as we seek to truly and honestly gather in your holy name.

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.

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 6: 9-22
New Revised Standard Version
Mariann Ekernas

Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation; Noah walked with God. And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw that the earth was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted its ways upon the earth. And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; now I am going to destroy them along with the earth. Make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above; and put the door of the ark in its side; make it with lower, second, and third decks.

For my part, I am going to bring a flood of waters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. But I will establish my covenant with you; and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing, of all flesh, you shall bring two of

every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every kind shall come in to you, to keep them alive. Also take with you every kind of food that is eaten, and store it up; and it shall serve as food for you and for them.” Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

SOLO

On To Higher Ground
Arr. Mark Hayes
Carol Woodman, soprano

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 18: 15-20
Common English Bible

“If your brother or sister sins against you, go and correct them when you are alone together. If they listen to you, then you’ve won over your brother or sister. But if they won’t listen, take with you one or two others so that every word may be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses. But if they still won’t pay attention, report it to the church. If they won’t pay attention even to the church, treat them as you would a Gentile and tax collector. I assure you that whatever you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. And whatever you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven. Again I assure you that if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, then my Father who is in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I’m there with them.”

MESSAGE

In Our Midst
Rev. Patrick Collins

MULTIMEDIA REFLECTION

River
Gene McDaniels
(as sung by Roberta Flack [1972])
arr. Glen Thomas Rideout

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Susan Townsley

THE 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.

SOLO

Lamb Of God
Twila Paris
Carol Woodman, soprano

HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

**Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**

**All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.**

**Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.**

BENEDICTION

Rev. Patrick Collins

CHORAL RESPONSE

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

POSTLUDE

If Thou But Suffer God To Guide Thee
J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

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