



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Sunday, December 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.

SUNDAY MORNING LIVE STREAM WORSHIP

10:00 a.m.

YouTube - [YouTube](#)

Facebook - [First Church](#)

Radio at [WGCH](#) 1490 AM or 105.5 FM

Download the bulletin [HERE](#)

RUMMAGE ROOM

Store Hours

Monday - Thursday
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Donation Hours

Wednesday & Thursday
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

VIDEO WELCOME

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. Cydney Van Dyke

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

PRELUDE

Savior Of The Nations, Come
J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Sahrbeck Family

Our lists are long, even in this strange mess where we live these days. And we want to do it right, we want to be safe, but we want to be able to enjoy the season. We've got work to do to put right what has gone wrong, to heal what is broken, to mend the relationships, and to prepare for the company that will come.

The prophet Isaiah reminded us that there is work to be done. "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." When God comes in, then healing is to be found, but we need to make the way; we need to open the door into our lives.

So, we light these candles as a sign of our faith that the God we worship is not far from us and that we can clear the way for that God to come and dwell with us. We light these candles in faith that company is coming.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads

**Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.**

**Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.**

**Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.**

GATHERING PRAYER (Unison)

Rev. Patrick Collins

Holy God, we long for your peace, and trust in your promise; we hear your call to turn toward you, to change our lives and welcome you in.

Meet us here and fill our minds with your wisdom and our hearts with your peace, that our worship together may open us to the challenge of your dream of wholeness for all. In the Name of the One who is coming, we pray. Amen

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Carol Woodman
Lynn Hawxhurst
Andrea Woodman

FIRST LESSON

A Christmas Carol Stave 2 (abridged)
Charles Dickens
Joe McBride

Then Scrooge found himself face to face with the unearthly visitor. It was a strange figure – like a child: yet not so like a child as like an old man. Its hair, which hung about its neck and down its back, was white as if with age; and yet the face had not a wrinkle in it. It held a branch of fresh green holly in its hand. But the strangest thing about it was, that from the crown of its head there sprang a bright clear jet of light, by which all this was visible; and which was doubtless the occasion of its using, in its duller moments, a great extinguisher for a cap, which it now held under its arm.

“Are you the Spirit, sir, whose coming was foretold to me?” asked Scrooge.

“I am!”

The voice was soft and gentle. Singularly low, as if instead of being so close beside him, it were at a distance.

“Who, and what are you?” Scrooge demanded.

“I am the Ghost of Christmas Past.”

“Long past?” inquired Scrooge.

“No, your past. Rise and come with me.”

Scrooge could not plead that the weather was cold and that he was wearing only his slippers, dressing-gown and nightcap. The ghost's grasp, though gentle as a

woman's hand, was not to be resisted. The ghost took Scrooge back in time, to a familiar place.

"Good Heaven!" said Scrooge, clasping his hands together, as he looked about him. "I was bred in this place. I was a boy here!"

"You recollect the way?" inquired the Spirit.

"Remember it!" cried Scrooge with fervour; "I could walk it blindfold."

"Strange to have forgotten it for so many years!" observed the Ghost. "Let us go on."

They walked along the road; Scrooge recognising every gate, and post, and tree; until a little market-town appeared in the distance, with its bridge, its church, and winding river. Some shaggy ponies now were seen trotting towards them with boys upon their backs, who called to other boys in country gigs and carts, driven by farmers. All these boys were in great spirits, and shouted to each other, until the broad fields were so full of merry music, that the crisp air laughed to hear it.

"These are but shadows of the things that have been," said the Ghost. "They have no consciousness of us." Why was he rejoiced beyond all bounds to see them! Why did his cold eye glisten, and his heart leap up as they went past! Why was he filled with gladness when he heard them give each other Merry Christmas, as they parted at cross-roads and bye-ways, for their several homes! What was merry Christmas to Scrooge? Out upon merry Christmas! What good had it ever done to him?

ANTHEM

Out Of The Wintry Gloom
Richard Shephard (b. 1949)
The Chancel Choir Quartet

SECOND LESSON

Galatians 1: 1-2, 13-24
Common English Bible
Andrea Woodman Osker

From Paul, an apostle who is not sent from human authority or commissioned through human agency, but sent through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised him from the dead; and from all the brothers and sisters with me.

To the churches in Galatia.

You heard about my previous life in Judaism, how severely I harassed God's church and tried to destroy it. I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my peers, because I was much more militant about the traditions of my ancestors. But God had set me apart from birth and called me through his grace. He was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might preach about him to the Gentiles. I didn't immediately consult with any human being. I didn't go up to Jerusalem to see the men who were apostles before me either, but I went away into Arabia and I returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days. But I didn't see any other of the apostles except James the brother of the Lord. Before God, I'm not lying about the things that I'm writing to you! Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, but I wasn't known personally by the Christian churches in Judea. They only heard a report about me: "The man who used to harass us now preaches the faith that he once tried to destroy." So they were glorifying God because of me.

MESSAGE

Bring It All!
Rev. Patrick Collins

MULTIMEDIA REFLECTION

To The Table
(Zach Williams Cover)
Feir Weiss

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Cydney Van Dyke

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.

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

I Wonder As I Wander
John Jacob Niles
Hanna Golodinskii, soprano

HYMN

Lift Up The Gates Eternal

Refrain:

**Lift up the gates eternal; lift up your voices;
the King of glory comes; the nation rejoices.**

**See, all the earth is God's, its people and nations;
God built it on the deeps and laid its foundations.**

**Who can go up this mountain, who stand in praising?
Those who are pure, who come with clean hands upraising. (Refrain)**

**Come, lift your voices high; be lifted to glory;
the Lord our God approaches; come, shout the story.**

**Who is this glorious one, for whom we are waiting?
We wait the mighty Lord, our God celebrating. (Refrain)**

**Come, lift your heads with joy; come, lift up your tower;
the King of glory comes in full might and power.**

**Who is this King of glory of whom we're singing?
Our God, the Lord of Hosts, the victory is bringing. (Refrain)**

BENEDICTION

Rev. Patrick Collins

CHORAL RESPONSE

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

POSTLUDE

Savior Of The Nations, Come
J. S. Bach

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 - ALL MEMBERS OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Minister of Music
Director of Faith Formation
Director of Church Administration and Finance
Director of Membership
Parish Nurse
Administrative Assistant
Database Administrative Assistant
Director of Preschool
Preschool Administrative Assistant
Pastors Emeriti

Reverend Patrick Collins
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke
Dr. Craig Scott Symons
Rosemary Lamie
Steve Summerton
Ginny Breismeister
Susan Asselin, RN
Wendy Spezzano
Sue Wilder
Darla Kohler Steiner
Melanie Garnett
Reverend Dr. Thomas L. Stiers - Reverend Sally Colegrove

