

Welcome to this Festival Service of Worship at First Congregational Church as we recall and celebrate together the great Easter themes which are at the heart of the Gospel we share in as a gift from God. May the spirit of joy and affirmation, which is here, take hold of you in some long forgotten corners of your being and set you on that Way which is Christ's continuing presence on your journey. In the prompting words of Bliss Perry:

*“Easter begins, like all deep things, in mystery  
and ends, like all high things, in courage.”*

***Easter***

4 April 2010  
9 and 11 o'clock in the morning

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**PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

\*All who are able please stand  
‡Seating of latecomers

**PRELUDE**

Grand Choeur Dialogué

*organ and brass  
Engene Gigout*

**CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*9:00 am: Rev. Dr David D. Young;  
11:00 am: Rev. Mark D. Montgomery*

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

**PRAISING GOD**

**CALL TO WORSHIP AND EASTER PROCLAMATION**

**\*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today *New Century (black) Hymnal 233*  
Arrangement by John Ferguson

**OPENING PRAYER**

O God of light and life  
we give you thanks  
that you have not destined us  
to be defined by darkness.

Enlighten our hearts  
on this Day of Resurrection  
that our prayers might become  
new ways of seeing,  
and our songs, the counterpoint  
of a continuing melody in the soul.  
In the power of the risen Lord. Amen.

## CONFESSING TO GOD

### CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

There was darkness  
on that first Easter morning, O God... *(John 20:1)*  
the darkness which takes hold  
when hopes are dashed  
and we must pick up the pieces and try to make it on our own.

There is darkness in us  
on this Easter morning, O God...  
the darkness of our disbelief  
in any power or promise  
which cuts away the binding of death's strong hold on us.  
*(John 11:44)*

Forgive us on this Day of Resurrection  
for choosing the darkness  
when true light has come in Jesus the Christ.  
Renew us in the disciplines *(John 1:9)*  
of faith and worship,  
that we might be reborn  
as children of the morning,  
singing songs of praise and joy  
because in Christ the Lord there is no darkness at all.  
*(1 John 1:5)*

And so we dare to pray the prayer he taught...

### 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.

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### ‡Congregational Response

*Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON      *9:00 am: Peter Russell; 11:00 am: Pat Larrabee*  
John 11:17-27

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

## SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

*9:00 am: The Children's Choir;  
Mary Fike, flute  
Jim Taylor*

### Christ the Lord is Risen

Christ the Lord is risen again!  
Christ has broken every chain!  
Now throughout the world it rings  
that the Lamb is King of kings.  
Alleluia!

He who gave for us his life,  
who for us endured the strife,  
takes our sin and guilt away  
that with the angels we may say:  
Alleluia!

He who bore all pain and loss,  
comfortless upon the cross,  
is exalted now to save,  
wresting victory from the grave.

Lift your voice both loud and long,  
raise the everlasting song.  
Christ the Lord exalted high  
died the death we never will die,  
Alleluia!

*11:00 am: The Youth Choir; Carolyn Paulus, director;*

O Sons and Daughters

*Michael Larken*

O sons and daughters, let us sing  
Praises to Christ our heavenly King,  
Death, O death, where is your sting?  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

That Easter morn at break of day,  
The faithful women went their way,  
to seek the tomb where Jesus lay.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

An angel clad in white they see,  
Who sat and spoke unto the three,  
“Your Lord has gone to Galilee,”  
Alleluia!

That night the apostles met in fear;  
Amidst them came their Lord so dear,  
And said, “My peace be on all here.”  
Alleluia!

On this most holy day of days,  
To God your hearts, and voices raise  
In laud and jubilee and praise.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**SECOND LESSON**    *9:00 am: Michael Russell; 11:00 am: Pat Larrabee*  
Acts 2:29-36

“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand,

until I make your enemies your footstool.”<sup>7</sup>  
 Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that  
 God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you  
 crucified.”

\*‡HYMN

## Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

All 1 Christ is ris-en! Shout Ho-san-na! Cel-e-brate this  
 Choir 2 Christ is ris-en! Raise your spir-its from the cav-erns  
 All 3 Christ is ris-en! Earth and heav-en nev-er more shall

day of days! Christ is ris-en! Hush in won-der:  
 of de-spair. Walk with glad-ness in the morn-ing.  
 be the same. Break the bread of new cre-a-tion

all cre-a-tion is a-mazed. In the des-ert  
 See what love can do and dare. Drink the wine of  
 where the world is still in pain. Tell its grim, de-

all-sur-round-ing, see, a spread-ing tree has grown.  
 res-ur-rec-tion, not a ser-vant, but a friend.  
 mon-ic cho-rus: "Christ is ris-en! Get you gone."

Heal-ing leaves of grace a-bound-ing  
 Je-sus is our strong-com-pan-ion.  
 God the First and Last is with us.

bring a taste of love un-known.  
 Joy and peace shall nev-er end.  
 Sing Ho-san-na, ev-'ry one!

SERMON *“I am the Resurrection and the Life”*

*Rev. Dr. David D. Young*

**RESPONDING TO GOD**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in God, the eternal Spirit, who is made known to us  
in Jesus our brother and to whose deeds we testify:  
God calls the world into being, creates humankind in the divine  
image and sets before us the ways of life and death.  
God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.  
God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of  
righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.  
In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen  
Lord, God has come to us and shared our common lot,  
conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole  
creation to its creator.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the  
Church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of  
all ages, tongues and races.

Blessing and honor, glory and power, be unto God. Amen.

*(from the United Church of Christ Statement of Faith)*

**\*Gloria**

*New Century (black) Hymnal 754*

*Glory to God the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy  
Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.  
Amen. Amen.*

**CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER**

*9:00 am: Rev. Daniel B. England;*

*11:00 am: Rev. Avery C. Manchester*

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*The Chancel Choir*

I am the Resurrection

*K. Lee Scott*

(The congregation is invited to join the choir for stanza 5.)

1) At Lazarus' tomb our weeping Lord  
gave thanks to God on high,

then called his friend to rise from death,  
restoring him to life and breath;  
the dead had heard him cry.  
“I am the resurrection and the life.”

2) And to the place of death he went,  
creation’s Lord and King;  
he bore all our infirmities,  
was bruised for our iniquities,  
and drew death’s dreadful sting.  
“I am the resurrection and the life.”

3) “Then Adam died,” the Scriptures say,  
which made creation weep;  
the Second Adam, Christ the Lord,  
once died, yet God his life restored,  
the first of them that sleep.  
“I am the resurrection and the life.”

4) Now set at God’s right hand on high,  
we wait for his return.  
With sounding trumpets through the skies,  
he then shall bid the nations rise,  
and all his power shall learn.  
“I am the resurrection and the life.”

5. Through - out e - ter - ni - ty in heav'n, in light of end - less  
day, his ran - somed ones for ev - er - more shall face to face their  
Lord a - dore, and joy to hear him say: "I  
am the res - ur - rec - tion, I am the res - ur - rec - tion, I  
am the res - ur - rec - tion and the life."

**\*Doxology**

*New Century (black) Hymnal 776*  
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all*  
*creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God,*  
*Triune, whom we adore. Amen. Amen.*

**\*DEDICATION OF OFFERING AND LENTEN OFFERING**

**GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD**

**\*CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Thine Is the Glory *Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 193*  
Arrangement by Robert Hobby

**\*CLOSING SENTENCES**

*Leader: On Easter Day the veil between time and eternity*  
*thins to gossamer*

People: And to what land do we belong?  
We are between the source and the song.

*Leader: Out of the cloud my Lord the Sun,*  
*Out of the earth my Lady Spring.*

People: Out of the seed the Princeling green,  
Out of the grave my God the King,  
Sing, Oh Sing!

*(Douglas Horton, Carleton Drewry, Michael Thwaites)*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CONGREGATION AND CHOIR RESPONSE**

Hallelujah! (from *Messiah*) *George Frideric Handel,*  
*Arranged by S. Drummond Wolff*

**POSTLUDE**

Finale (*Symphonie I, Op. 14*) *Terence J. Flanagan, organ*  
*Louis Vierne*

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Instrumentalists for the Services are: Lowell Hershey and Jim Cifelli, trumpets; Bill Bonnell, horn; Steve Shulman and Cliff Haynes, trombones and Eric Phinney, timpani. The participation of the instrumentalists is partially funded by the Frank and Dorothy Crabill fund.

At the conclusion of the services this morning, you will receive a Daffodil, a symbol of new life. The Daffodils for the Easter Service are given in loving memory of Kay Davidson.

The offering received this morning during Worship is dedicated to our Lenten Offering. The Outreach Committee has focused our giving on the following agencies: The Foodbank of Lower Fairfield County, Neighbor to Neighbor, New Covenant House, St. Luke's Lifeworks, The Shelter for the Homeless and Church World Service. Recent years' Lenten Offerings have focused on hunger. We will continue to support the hunger initiatives in Fairfield County this year with 25% of our offering. 50% of our offering will go to homeless initiatives in Fairfield County and 25% of our offering will go to Church World Service to support short and long-term relief initiatives in Haiti.

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.

The 9:00 am Service will be broadcast at 10:00 am on WGCH 1490 AM Radio. The memorial fund honoring Elizabeth and Warren Dennison has provided for this radio broadcast. In addition, the service is available through the church's website, [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org). A bulletin can be found as well as a link to the live broadcast. Previous sermons may also be found there.

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## Easter Flowers

The decorations in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in joyful and loving memory (M) of, and in honor (H) of:

James Anderson III and Barbara M. Tufts, by Ty, Cyndy, Jay and Katie Anderson (M)

Edward and Eva Grant, by their daughter Carolyn Colegrove (M)

Allan W. Colegrove, by his wife Carolyn, Sally and Jonathan (M)

Sue, Anne and Bill Denne, by their family (M)

Beth Baldwin, by Anne Baldwin Castine (M)

Monique Gaden, by her family (M)

Roger A. Lepoutre, by the Lepoutre family (M)

Elenor Benedict, by the Bruce Benedict family (M)

Charlie Robertson, by Eric and Betsy Kreuter and Pam, Chase and Nina Kreuter (M)

Joan and Jim Kreuter, by their children and grandchildren (M)

William J. Provoost Jr., by his wife Suzanne, daughter Patti and son Jack (M)

My parents, Dorothy and John Green, in-laws, Willa and Bill Provoost Sr. and grandson, John Provoost, by Suzanne Provoost (M)

Eva Silvia Fossum, by family and grandchildren (M)

Leonard Mawhinney, by his daughter Carol

Our parents, Efraim and Victoria Olson and Ryan and Margaret Rosendale, as well as Aunt Erna Nelson, by Ken and Erna Olson (M)

My parents Lorraine and Daniel Radosh, by Sandra Radosh (M)

Our parents, by Earl and Darlene Moore (M)

Betty Finney, by Warner Finney (M)

My family, by Thelma J. Colegrove (M)

Mary and Clarence Suitts and Mildred and Albert Isaacson, by Gerald Isaacson (M)

My great-grandmother, Arlene Young and grandfather, Allen Besecker, by Terry Flanagan (M)

My great-grandmother, Juanita McCoy; grandfather, William E. Glover and grandparents, Samuel and Ruth Duncan, by Lisa Flanagan (M)

Our grandchildren, Finn and June, by Sue and Stu McCalley and Ginny and Don Breismeister (H)

Scott Jankovich and Daniel Jankovich, by Jean L. Jankovich (M)

Harold R. and Ruth B. Hopkins and Raymond L. and Mildred McC. Hamilton, by Rich and Bobbie Hopkins and family (M)

Charles J. Veith IV, by his sister Linda Veith Glover (M)

Bob Lindegren, by Ruth E. Lindegren (M)

My cousins, Sally Oberlin and Ellen Cramer, by Anne Stolley

John Provoost, by Jack, Judy, Michael, Jennifer and David Provoost (M)

Harrison D. and Louise G. Reed, by their son, D. Gifford Reed and family (M)

Rafic Zaitoon, by Rima Zaitoon (M)

Our Aunt Jessie P. Gisborne, Uncle Reginald Gisborne, Aunt Mary H. Hubbard and Uncle Henry Hubbard, by Claire Henry, Ruth Reed and their families (M)

Marjorie Mering Sherman, beloved wife, mother and grandmother, by Frank Sherman, Meg Sherman, Charlie Cook, Heather and Allen Zachary, Evan Cook and Liz Ryvkin (M)

Marian and Fred Hout, by Sue Hout Baker, Sara, Charlie and Liz (M)

Our son, Kim Reynolds, by Harlan and Wendy Reynolds (M)

Melita and John Magness and Dana Anderson, by their family (M)

Eileen Sheehan Snyder and Dorothy O'Donnell Sheehan, by the Alfano family (M)

Past family members, by Virginia Liddell (M)

Carolyn Paulus and the Youth Choir (H)

George Finch, by Jane H. Finch (M)

Jack and our parents, by Bobby Littlefield (M)

Our parents and our sisters, by Bob and Harriet Starr (M)

Don and David Walton, by Connie Walton (M)

Jessie Larson, by Kirk and Karen Young (H)

Barbara Carto and Phil and Alice Young, by their son and daughter David and Michelle Young (M)

## *Calendar*

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### **TODAY**

#### **Church School**

There are no Church School classes today as we worship together in the Meetinghouse on this Easter Sunday. Next week we will worship together once again as the public schools are on vacation. Church School will resume on April 18. Today, we especially acknowledge our Baby Nursery and Toddler Room volunteers who so generously and lovingly give their time to our youngest children!

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### **THIS WEEK**

#### **Tai Chi**

April classes on Wednesday continue as follows: 7, 14, 21 and 28 at 8:00 am. Thursday classes continue as follows: 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 9:00 am. The fee is \$35. See you there!

The **Children's Choir** rehearses on Wednesday from 5:00 to 6:00 pm in the Choir Room followed by pizza in Room 303.

**Hats Off!**, the women's book discussion group is continuing its journey reading *Brava Valentine* by Adrianna Trigiani. We meet every Thursday morning in the Lounge from 10:00 to 11:30 am. Come join us.

**Chancel Choir** rehearses on Thursday evening from 7:30 to 9:00 pm in the Choir Room.

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### **NEWS AND NOTICES**

#### **Interested in Learning about Joining the Church?**

Our next New Member Class will be held on Sunday, April 18, 2010 at 11:15 am in the Lounge. It will last approximately two hours and will include lunch. During the class, prospective new members have the opportunity to hear about the history and faith of our denomination, the United Church of Christ, and to learn more about our church and meet the clergy as well as staff. Attending does not obligate you to join but we hope that this time together will strengthen you on the journey of faith. New members will be received the following Sunday, April 25. Child care will be provided at both times. Please feel welcome to join us. If you are

planning to attend or you have questions, please contact Ginny Breismeister at [ginnyb@fccog.org](mailto:ginnyb@fccog.org) or 203-637-1791, extension 26.

### **CROP Walk comes to Greenwich!**

*What is CROP?* Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty

*What is a CROP Hunger Walk?* Neighbors walking together to take a stand against hunger in our world - together we raise awareness and funds for international relief and development, as well as local hunger-fighting.

*When and where is the CROP Walk?* April 25, 2010, in Old Greenwich, starting at First Church.

*Why do we walk?* We walk because they walk! We walk to raise awareness and raise money for hunger relief in our area and throughout the world. The money raised will support hunger projects in Port Chester, Greenwich and throughout the world.

*Who walks?* Families, single people, children in strollers, men, women, people with disabilities, people who are happy, people who want to make a difference, people with animals, children, absolutely anyone can be a part of the CROP walk - even if walking is not your thing, you can volunteer in many other ways! Walkers will come from churches and agencies in Greenwich and Port Chester, NY.

*How can I sign up?* Come by our table in the Auditorium following church, any Sunday between now and the event, to sign up, volunteer or just learn more about CROP.

### **Rummage Room News**

Wish List: a rocking horse, a wedding veil, garden tools, fireplace tools, an adult desk, a children's wagon, Mother's Day items, Jewelry, good bric-a-brac, a clock radio, a knife sharpener, a jogger's stroller, a skateboard and a Karaoke machine with microphone. All clean and saleable donations would be appreciated. Please remember to ask for a tax slip. Thank you.

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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)

Ministers: Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. David D. Young

Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry: Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

Minister of Communication and Adult Education: Rev. Daniel B. England

Minister of Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Director of Music/Senior Organist: Dr. John Stansell

Associate Organist/Director: Terence J. Flanagan

Director of Church School: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

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