

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

11 July 2010

10 o'clock in the morning



Welcome to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church.
May this service and congregation warm your heart and spirit as the
summer sun warms our bodies and our earth. May you also know the gifts
of deep joy and faith this day!

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Scherzo, Opus 2

Mark Swicegood, organ

Maurice Duruflé

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Daniel B. England

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION

Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

New Century (black) Hymnal 55

OPENING PRAYER *(In Unison)*

O God of laughter and joy,

we are grateful for your spirit which accompanies us
through the highs and lows of life's experiences.

Grant us a deeper appreciation

of the faith to which we are called

as we enter this time of worship together,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*in unison*)

God of love,

You have called us from lives of works to lives of faith;
yet we have tried to earn your love,
as if that depended on our efforts.

You have lifted us from sorrow to joy;
yet we prefer to live in the darkness,
where we are not confronted by your mysteries.

You have shown us the way to fulfillment;
yet we continue to search for it,
assuming it may be found rather than lived.

Forgive us, we pray, so that with renewed energies
we might accept the courage of faith,
the gift of joy, the life of fulfillment,
that comes to those who dare to love;
through the one who risked the gift of life,
and in whose name we pray together the prayer he
taught us to pray, saying...

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

Stephanie Woodman

Psalm 2

Why do the nations conspire,
and the peoples plot in vain?
The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together,
against the Lord and his anointed, saying,
'Let us burst their bonds asunder,
and cast their cords from us.'

He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord has them in derision.
Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,
'I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill.'

I will tell of the decree of the Lord:
He said to me, 'You are my son;
today I have begotten you.
Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.
You shall break them with a rod of iron,
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.'

Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.
Serve the Lord with fear,
with trembling kiss his feet,
or he will be angry, and you will perish in the way;
for his wrath is quickly kindled.

Happy are all who take refuge in him.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth

*The Summer Choir
John Rutter*

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*‡HYMN

Bring Many Names

New Century (black) Hymnal 11

SERMON

Humor and Faith

*Rev. Dr. David D. Young***RESPONDING TO GOD*****AFFIRMATION OF FAITH***Leader: The church of Jesus Christ**is where a child of God brings a balloon**is where old women come to dance**is where young men see visions and old men dream dreams.**People: The church of Jesus Christ**is where lepers come to be touched**is where the blind see and the deaf hear**is where the lame run and the dying live.*

*Leader: The church of Jesus Christ
is where daisies bloom out of barren land
is where children lead and folk follow
is where the mountains are moved and walls come tumbling
down.*

People: The church of Jesus Christ
is where loaves of bread are stacked in the sanctuary to feed
the hungry
is where coats are taken off and put on the backs of the
naked
is where shackles are discarded and kings and shepherds sit
down to life together.

*Leader: The church of Jesus Christ
is where barefoot children run in giggling procession
is where the minister is ministered unto
is where the anthem is the laughter of the congregation
and the offering plates are full of people.*

People: The church of Jesus Christ
is where people go when they skin their knees or their hearts
is where frogs become princes and Cinderella dances beyond
midnight
is where judges don't judge and each child of God is
beautiful and precious.

*Leader: The church of Jesus Christ
is where the sea divides for the exiles
is where the ark floats and the lamb lies down with the lion
is where people can disagree and hold hands at the same time.*

People: The church of Jesus Christ
is where the night is day
is where trumpets and drums and tambourines declare God's
goodness
is where lost lambs are found.

*Leader: The church of Jesus Christ
is where people write thank-you notes to God
is where work is a holiday
is where seeds are scattered and miracles are grown.*

People: The church of Jesus Christ
is where home is, is where heaven is, is where a picnic is
communion and people break bread together on their knees.

All: The church of Jesus Christ is where we live responsively to
God's coming

Ann Weems

***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 OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM
The Lord Is A Mighty God

The Summer Choir
Felix Mendelssohn

***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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

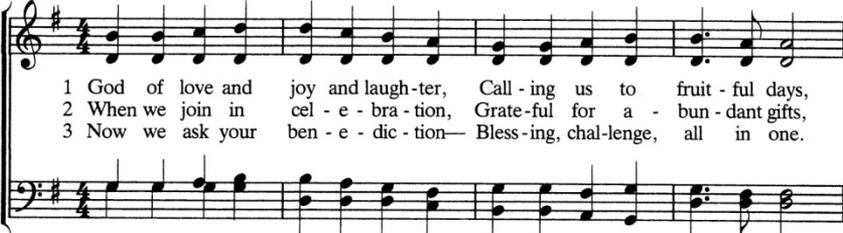
Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

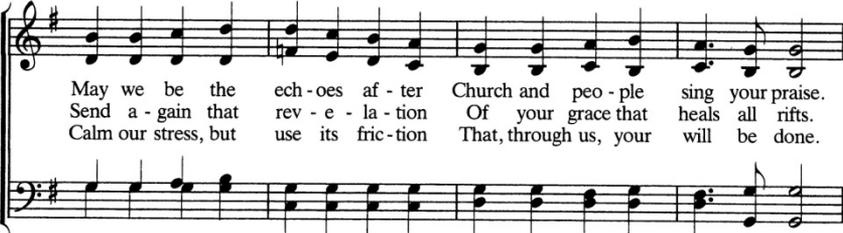
GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

***CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION**
God of Love and Joy and Laughter
(see the next page for the words and music)

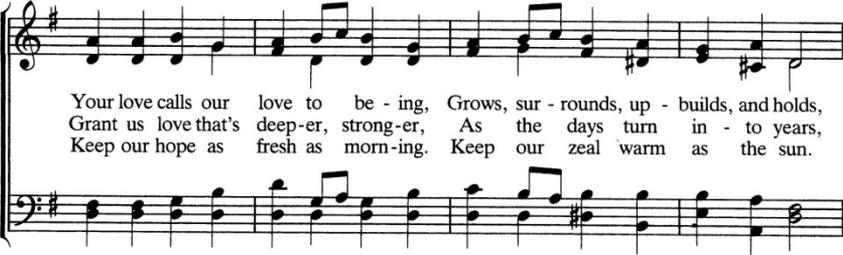
God of Love and Joy and Laughter



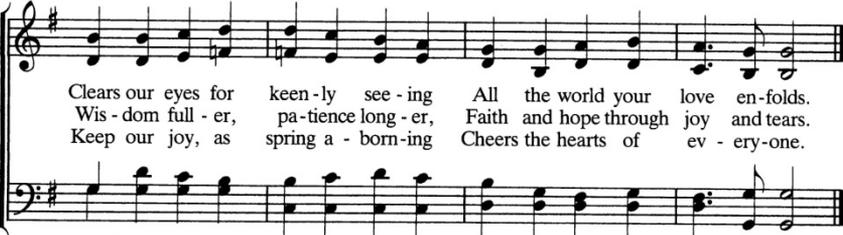
1 God of love and joy and laugh-ter, Call - ing us to fruit - ful days,
2 When we join in cel - e - bra - tion, Grate - ful for a - bun - dant gifts,
3 Now we ask your ben - e - dic - tion— Bless - ing, chal - lenge, all in one.



May we be the ech - oes af - ter Church and peo - ple sing your praise.
Send a - gain that rev - e - la - tion Of your grace that heals all rifts.
Calm our stress, but use its fric - tion That, through us, your will be done.



Your love calls our love to be - ing, Grows, sur - rounds, up - builds, and holds,
Grant us love that's deep - er, strong - er, As the days turn in - to years,
Keep our hope as fresh as morn - ing. Keep our zeal warm as the sun.



Clears our eyes for keen - ly see - ing All the world your love en - folds.
Wis - dom full - er, pa - tience long - er, Faith and hope through joy and tears.
Keep our joy, as spring a - born - ing Cheers the hearts of ev - ery - one.

Jane Parker Huber, 1985

Words © 1986 Jane Parker Huber

HYMN TO JOY 87 87 D
Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824
Arr. by Edward Hodges (1796-1867)

From *A Singing Faith*. Words © 1985 Jane Parker Huber. Used by permission.

*CLOSING REFLECTIONS

Leader: My Lord hides Himself, and my Lord wonderfully reveals Himself.

People: My Lord has encompassed me with hardness, and my Lord has cast down my limitations.

Leader: My Lord brings to me words of sorrow and words of joy, and He Himself heals their strife.

People: I will offer my body and mind to my Lord,
I will give myself to Him, and I will never forget my Lord!

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Fugue sur le theme du Carillon du Soissons *Maurice Duruflé*

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 have **child care for babies and toddlers** every Sunday in the Preschool area. Your children are always welcome for the entire service or for a respite time if needed. Please see an usher if you need directions.

The 10:00 am Service is broadcast live each week on WGCH 1490 AM Radio. In addition, the service is available through the church's website, www.fccog.org. A bulletin can be found there as well as a link to the live broadcast. Previous sermons are also there.

Calendar

TODAY

Church School

Summer Church School, a multi-age one room classroom of 4 through 10 year olds, resumes today for three more Sundays in July. Younger children are welcome in Child Care.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Call to Special Congregational Meeting

A special meeting of the congregation is hereby called for Sunday, July 18 following the 10 am Worship Service. The meeting will be held in the Meetinghouse:

- to hear and act upon the recommendation of the Associate Pastor Search Committee to call a new Associate Pastor of Christian Education
- and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Phoebe Griffith,
Church Clerk

Church Office Summer Hours

First Church weekday office hours until September 7 will be 9am to 3pm. Volunteer receptionists will be on duty during those hours. Of course, you can leave a voicemail message at any time of day or night.

Bible Study

Today at 11:15, we will gather in the Lounge for a showing of the Bruce Metzger video on Revelation. This is a great review of the book if you came to the series and a wonderful introduction if you missed it. So join us – you wouldn't want to miss the end of the world twice.

Summer Beach Services

These services begin at 8 am at Tod's Point every Sunday of the summer except August 1st. See our website, www.fccog.org, for more information.

Women's Fellowship Summer Tai Chi Classes

Just a reminder that Tai Chi with Luis Duarte will be held on Thursdays (only) at 8:30 am in July and August. The July session is \$35 for five classes--(only \$7 a class). There are wonderful varieties of exercises. Come join this special group and bring along friends. You do not have to be a member of the church to join in. See you on Thursday!

Join the Summer Choir

There's no weeknight rehearsal during the summer. Rather, the choir meets Sunday mornings for a 9:00 am warm-up and rehearsal in the Meetinghouse. Adults and youth are welcome. It's a great time to see if choir is right for you. You can even come just to the rehearsal, if you feel you're not quite "ready for prime time." As much as is possible during this time of music-staff transition, scores for the next week's anthems will be found on the cabinet outside the Choir Room on the third floor, and learning files to help singers with their parts will be found on the website, www.fccog.org under Music/Choir Learning Files.

Food Collection

A reminder that the Food Collection Barrel will remain in the back of the Meetinghouse throughout each month, to encourage month-round contributions.

A Food Collection Bin will be available at the Beach Services as well to encourage our Beach Service Attendees to remember the hungry.

Nights Off

Due to popular request, Nights Off, the Women's Fellowship's evening group, will meet at Greenwich Point (in the picnic area on the path beyond the Chimes Building) twice this month, on July 12th and July 26th, around 6 pm. For July 12th, if there is a chance of rain, please contact Rosemary Lamie at (203) 637-1791 or (203) 698-2708) to confirm a change in venue (her house) or if you do not have a beach pass and need access to Greenwich Point. Bring a beverage and a snack to share. This is a great opportunity for fellowship and getting to know other women church members.

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870

203-637-1791

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

Interim Director of Music: Mark Swicegood

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

Director of Music Emeritus: Dr. John Stansell