

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

1 August 2010

10 o'clock in the morning



Part of living a faithful life is studying scripture and seeking to understand God through the stories in the Bible; coupling those stories with our own stories of faith. What do we do, however, when we come to a portion of scripture that is so far outside of our understanding that we cannot possibly understand how God could be a part of this story? We take another look. We talk about the story. We pray. Mostly, we remind ourselves that even in the midst of the greatest chaos, God is there.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Lento Expressivo (from Henry V Suite)

Jayson Engquist, organ
William Walton

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Daniel B. England

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Rejoice the Lord is King

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 204

OPENING PRAYER (In Unison)

God of fierce holiness, yet of tender mercy, we come to add our voices to the chorus of praise raised to you!

We come as we are –

Troubled and weary, grateful and grumpy, partially whole,
hopefully open, grateful for your promise that you accept us!

Move among us, stir in our midst, reside in the between of us to
renew of faith in you.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Oh, God, at times we find you confusing.

Or rather, is it that we are confused about who you are?

We hear stories of how people have understood you throughout
time, and we find it difficult to resonate with these stories.

We see, even today, people do things in your name that seem
contradictory to that which we believe.

Oh God, forgive us for using you to promote our own agendas.

Forgive us for the ways that we misrepresent you.

Encourage us to live fully into the love by which you have created
us.

Remind us that it is more important to be loving than it is to be
right.

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

Olga Hartwell

Genesis 19:1-11

The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and bowed down with his face to the ground. He said, 'Please, my lords, turn aside to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you can rise early and go on your way.' They said, 'No; we will spend the night in the square.' But he urged them strongly; so they turned aside to him and entered his house; and he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house; and they called to Lot, 'Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, so that we may know them.' Lot went out of the door to the men, shut the door after him, and said, 'I beg you, my brothers, do not act so wickedly. Look, I have two daughters who have not known a man; let me bring them out to you, and do to them as you please; only do nothing to these men, for they have come under the shelter of my roof.' But they replied, 'Stand back!' And they said, 'This fellow came here as an alien, and he would play the judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them.' Then they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near the door to break it down. But the men inside reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. And they struck with blindness the men who were at the door of the house, both small and great, so that they were unable to find the door.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Restore My Soul

The Summer Choir
Robert J. Powell

Restore my soul, O Lord,
And heal my heart's distress.
O cleanse me from my weariness,
And bring my spirit rest.

Restore my joy, O Lord,
My heart is standing still.
O touch me, reach my emptiness,
Retrieve my broken will.

O God, who sees beyond our sight,
Who hears our every prayer,
Remake our foolish human faith,
For always you are there.

Accept my life, O Lord,
My heart, flawed, frail and spent
Requires the comfort of thy love
To mend life's discontents.
(text by Beverly Easterling)

SECOND LESSON

Olga Hartwell

Luke 6:27-36

‘**B**ut I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

‘If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

*‡HYMN

O Savior, Let Me Walk With You *New Century (black) Hymnal 503*

SERMON

A Tale of Two Cities

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

You O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love to us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God. We worship you.

*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

Come, I Pray Thee

*The Summer Choir
Charles Callahan*

Come, I pray thee, thou sweet and true joy.
Enter a soul that longs for thee.
Enflame with thy divine fire all my heart.
Enlighten my inmost parts with thy radiant light.
(Richard Rolle, ca. 1290-1349)

*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

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (*seated*)

Prayer of Consecration

Serving of the Bread and Cup

In the tradition of our church, let us partake of the bread as it is served, remembering our individual uniqueness in the eyes of God and our diversity within the Body of Christ. Let us hold the cup until all have been served, remembering our oneness with God and our unity in the Body of Christ.

When receiving the juice tray, pass it along to your neighbor who will hold and "serve" you as you then take your cup.

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

Come Forth, O Love Divine *New Century (black) Hymnal 289*

*CLOSING SENTENCES

Leader: I am a person. We are a church, a nation. We are humanity.

People: Remind us that we are your creation

Leader: So that when we are met with times of trial or times of joy

People: We may find you anew!

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Sicilienne

Maria-Theresia von Paradis

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 may also be found there.

Calendar

TODAY

Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, RN is available in room 203 after the Worship Service. Stop in to have your blood pressure checked or discuss any health concerns.

Church School

There will be **no** Church School classes until Recognition Sunday, September 19th. Children are always welcome in worship and there is always Child Care for our youngest children. Early elementary children may also go to Child Care should they get restless in the Meetinghouse.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Church Office Summer Hours

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

Summer Beach Services

These services begin at 8 am at Tod's Point every Sunday of the summer through September 12. See our website, www.fccog.org, for more information.

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.

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 August. The August 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!

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.

Rummage Room News

The Rummage Room is closed until **Monday, August 30th**.

- Monday, August 30th - **Opening Day with all "New" Merchandise** - 10:00am - 5:00pm
- Wednesday, September 1st - **Begin taking-in donations** - 10:00am to 5:00pm

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE DONATIONS AT THE RUMMAGE ROOM DURING CLOSED MONTH OF AUGUST.

Rummage Room Wish List: Double and single strollers - girl's bike
- Cuisinart coffee maker - bric-a-brac - children's golf clubs - jewelry -
handbags - DVDs - musical instruments.

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

Director of Publications: Barbara Wilkov

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

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

Director of Music Emeritus: Dr. John Stansell