

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

8 August 2010

10 o'clock in the morning



What is normal? Our tendency is to look at our own lives and consider this the norm. In reality, there are many different ways to exist, many different ways to understand, many different ways to live, and many different ways to consider God.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE
Fanfare

Jayson Engquist, organ
John Cook

CALL TO COMMUNITY
Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Daniel B. England

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Praise to the Living God *New Century (black) Hymnal 8*

OPENING PRAYER *(In Unison)*

We gather as a people, yet we gather as individuals.

We are a people seeking a universal truth,
and a connection with one another.

We are also individuals who experience you in different ways
and understand you relative to our own lives.

Draw us together in a common spirit,
a spirit which seeks more to understand than to be understood.
Draw us to you and allow us to re-think ourselves

and even our assumptions about you.
God, we come to worship you!
Fill us with your spirit and open our eyes.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we are a people on a journey!

We are truth seekers.

We are people who have had a profound experience of you
and want others to know you as we have known you.

Forgive us, however, when we consider our experience of you to
be the only answer.

Forgive us when we close ourselves to your story
as known by those sitting next to us.

Forgive us when we get frustrated
because we cannot help someone understand as we understand.

Open our eyes as we open our hearts to you even now.

Great, living God, awaken us anew to your ancient story
and to your story being revealed to us even now.

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

Pat Larrabee

Genesis 19:12-29

Then the men said to Lot, 'Have you anyone else here? Sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone you have in the city—bring them out of the place. For we are about to destroy this place, because the outcry against its people has become great before the Lord, and the Lord has sent us to destroy it.' So Lot went out and said to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, 'Up, get out of this place; for the Lord is about to destroy the city.' But he seemed to his sons-in-law to be jesting.

When morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, 'Get up, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or else you will be consumed in the punishment of the city.' But he lingered; so the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the Lord being merciful to him, and they brought him out and left him outside the city. When they had brought them outside, they said, 'Flee for your life; do not look back or stop anywhere in the Plain; flee to the hills, or else you will be consumed.' And Lot said to them, 'Oh, no, my lords; your servant has found favour with you, and you have shown me great kindness in saving my life; but I cannot flee to the hills, for fear the disaster will overtake me and I die. Look, that city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one. Let me escape there—is it not a little one?—and my life will be saved!' He said to him, 'Very well, I grant you this favour too, and will not overthrow the city of which you have spoken. Hurry, escape there, for I can do nothing until you arrive there.' Therefore the city was called Zoar. The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar.

Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulphur and fire from the Lord out of heaven; and he overthrew those cities, and all the Plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the Lord; and he looked down towards Sodom and Gomorrah and towards all the land of the Plain, and saw the smoke of the land going up like the smoke of a furnace.

So it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the Plain, God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in which Lot had settled.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

The Summer Choir

Have No Fear, Little Flock

Heinz Werner Zimmermann

Have no fear, little flock, for the Father has chosen to give you the kingdom. Have no fear, little flock!
Have good cheer, little flock, for the Father will keep you in his love forever. Have good cheer, little flock!
Praise the Lord high above, for he stoops down to heal you, uplift and restore you. Praise the Lord high above!
Thankful hearts raise to God, for he stays close beside you, in all things works with you. Thankful hearts raise to God!

SECOND LESSON

Pat Larrabee

Luke 4:1-4

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."'

*‡HYMN

O Grant Us Light

New Century (black) Hymnal 469

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 PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Sing a New Song

The Summer Choir

Roland Martin

Sing a new song to the Lord. Wonders he has done.
His right hand and holy arm victory have won.
The Lord makes known his triumph, his righteousness is shown;
In the sight of all the nations his glory shall be known.

He recalls his faithful love to his Israel.
All the ends of earth have seen, and his glory tell.
Acclaim the Lord all you peoples; Lift your voice, rejoice and sing;
With trumpet, harp and voices, shout with joy before the King!

Let the sea resound with praise, and all that dwell therein,
The lands around the earth and his praise begin.
Then clap your hands you rivers, and mountains lift your voice,
The Lord, our God, shall come, and his people shall rejoice.

Psalm 98, paraphrased

***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**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION

Forward through the Ages *New Century (black) Hymnal 377*

*CLOSING SENTENCES

Leader: We are a people filled with the spirit of God.

People: Give us courage to share our story.

Leader: We are a part of an entire world in which God is at work

People: Give us courage to find you in the stories of others.

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Gigue in G

John Bull

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!

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.

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.



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