

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

5 September 2010

10 o'clock in the morning



W. H. P. 1801

IONA. II.

C. 18. 1801.

On this Labor Day weekend, when the "livin'-is-easy" days are coming to an end, we welcome you to this service of worship. We hope it will be an oasis before the onslaught of all that is fall. May the music cheer you, the conversation encourage you and the communion give you comfort and courage for the week ahead. Anyway, fear not. You are in a safe place of loving people.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Prelude and Fugue in E Major

*Mark Swicegood, organ
Camille Saint-Saëns*

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Daniel B. England

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 35

OPENING PRAYER *(In Unison)*

O God of our lives and being,
we have come today to be with those
of like mind and heart.

In the rhythms and surprises of the morning, help us to see your grace and the mercy which is your nature.

We want whatever is bothering us to dissipate, but if it doesn't, we ask for your courage to face it.

Above all, we seek to know how to follow your Word more faithfully that in the end we may be yours indeed. These things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God,

We said something this week which was sharp,
sharper than it should have been.

We cut a corner we should have done more fully.

We lied.

We knew better.

We didn't quite stand up for your church or your Christ.

We didn't notice someone who needed our soft eyes.

We were impulsive.

We were wrong.

And so we come now to confess these things.

And to ask your forgiveness so that, this week,
we can do better.

With your help.

With your grace.

With your Godly Spirit.

This we ask in the name of Jesus who 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

Jonah 3

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, ‘Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.’ So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, ‘Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!’ And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: ‘By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish.’

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

*‡HYMN

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound (1st verse)

New Century (black) Hymnal 547

Jonah 4

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, 'O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' And the Lord said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.'

But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' Then the Lord said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

*‡HYMN

God of the Sparrow God of the Whale

New Century (black) Hymnal 32

RESPONDING TO GOD***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ
his only Son our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried:
He descended into hell;
The third day he rose again
from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
The holy catholic Church;
The Communion of Saints;
The Forgiveness of sins;
The Resurrection of the body,
And the Life everlasting.
Amen.

(The Apostle's Creed *New Century (black) Hymnal Reading #881*)

***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

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

This Is Thy Temple

*The Summer Choir
Richard Shephard*

This is thy temple; here thy presence chamber;
here may thy servants, at the mystic banquet,
humbly adoring, take thy body broken,
drink of thy chalice.

Hallowed this dwelling where the Lord abideth,
this is none other than the gate of heaven;
strangers and pilgrims, seeking homes eternal,
pass through its portals.

Lord we beseech thee as we throng thy temple,
by the past blessings, by the present bounty,
favor thy children, and with tender mercy
hear our petitions. Amen.

***Doxology** *Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 514*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures
here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son,
and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

COMMUNION *(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.

Music During Communion

Pièce

Gabriel Fauré
Mary Fike, flute

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**

Great Is Your Faithfulness

New Century (black) Hymnal 423

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

Leader: When our expectations are disappointed, we get mad.

People: We get mad at each other and at you.

Leader: So infuse our expectations with wisdom.

People: That we might live in peace.

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Fugue in E-Flat Major(St. Anne)

Johann Sebastian Bach

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

Church School

There will be **no** Church School classes until Homecoming 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

Summer Beach Services

Next Sunday, September 12, is the last beach service at Tod's Point. The service begins at 8 am. See our website, www.fccog.org, for more information.

Tai Chi Classes with Luis Duarte

ALL ARE WELCOME

Improve your health and well being. Come and experience the many wonderful benefits of Tai Chi and Qi Gong exercises. Beginner classes are on Thursdays at 9 a.m. and Intermediate classes are on Wednesdays at 8 a.m. Only \$7 per class.

Bible Study

Several people have been asking about Bible Study this fall, led by Dan England. We will start the year with a study of the Book of Exodus, which will follow nicely from our study of Genesis last year. Bible Study will begin on October 3rd at 11:15 a.m. in the lounge so it wouldn't kill you to start reading Exodus during September. But reading it isn't onerous since it is full of great stories and wonderful characters and situations. If you've never been to one of our Bible Studies, please consider joining the scores of people who show up each week (Sundays after church and Tuesday nights). We have an astonishingly good time together.

Rummage Room News

The 46th Grand Opening took place Monday, August 30th.

Total sales set a new one-day record of \$12,166, an increase of \$1,100 over the previous record set during opening day in 2009 of \$11,098. Manager, Maria Drieghe, would like to thank all the volunteers who participated in the setting up and helped during Opening Day for their hard work and dedication. And a big **thank you** also goes to Jack Sweger for the beautiful new flower boxes that grace the front of the shop.

Rummage Room Hours: 10:00am - 5:00pm Monday through Friday. 10:00am – 1:00pm on Saturday.

Donations Accepted: 9:30am - 5:00pm Monday through Thursday. 9:30am to 1:00pm Friday and Saturday.

Wish List for September: Jewelry, handbags, shoes, good bric-a-brac, DVDs, adult and children's bikes, single and double strollers, books, musical instruments, small furniture and new and gently used clothing.

The Rummage Room Mission: All proceeds go to help women's and children's organizations locally and nationally. Please come shop, donate, and/or volunteer. The Rummage Room is a wonderful place to serve the Lord. Thank you.

Book Discussion Group

Hats Off!, the popular women's book discussion group, is off to an early start this year...**Thursday, September 23, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.** in the Lounge will be our first get together. The book selected

for our opening weeks is Anya Seton's great historical fiction work, *The Winthrop Woman*...a story that covers the early days of Old Greenwich and the surrounding area. The group meets at ten o'clock for light refreshments and catch-up news. We welcome all to become a part of this great group. For more details call Marcia Livingston, 203-625-0772.

Homecoming – September 19, 2010

Join us for our Homecoming Service of Worship and Celebration this September! We begin in the Meeting House to worship together. Following worship and Church School, we will gather on the lawn of the church for a wonderful celebration complete with games, bouncy houses, music and, of course, food! Here are the details....

When?

September 19, 2010

What Time?

10 AM Worship, 11:30 Celebration on the Lawn

How Much?

Donations accepted at the Door

What do I bring?

If your last name begins with letters A-L, bring a salad or side to share.

If your last name begins with M-Z, bring a dessert to share.

Parish Life will provide the burgers, hot dogs and grilled chicken along with all of the fixings!

How Do I Sign Up?

Just call the church office and let us know you are coming. You may also email Mark Montgomery at mmontgomery@fccog.org

...and they returned home to their own country by another way.

Hunger Mission Team

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED SEPTEMBER 18TH

The Hunger Mission Team is looking for 6-8 volunteers to help at Neighbor-to-Neighbor the morning of Saturday, September 18th.

This is a wonderful way to get introduced to the work that is done there—and engage with members of the Hunger Mission Team. We

need help from 8:30—12:30, and a 2 hour shift is fine if you are unable to give 4 hours: 8:30-10:30 or 10:30-12:30.

Please email Sheila Bennett at fccoghungermission@gmail.com if you can join the Team at Neighbor-to-Neighbor.

Volunteers are what make it possible for Neighbor-to-Neighbor to serve OUR neighbors.

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