

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Second Sunday after Epiphany

16 January 2011

10 o'clock in the morning



WELCOME to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church on this mid-winter Sunday. While the cold outside brings a chill to our bodies, may the warmth of Christian community and the light of Christ kindle our inner glow which radiates more and more of the life God intends for us.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Voluntary in G minor

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

John Stanley

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

CALL TO THE 340th ANNUAL MEETING

Phoebe Griffith

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

New Century (black) Hymnal 558

OPENING PRAYER

O God, in mystery and silence
you are present in our lives,
bringing new life out of destruction,
hope out of despair,
growth out of difficulty.

We thank you that you do not leave us alone
but labor to make us whole.

Help us to perceive your unseen hand
in the unfolding of our lives
and to attend to the gentle guidance of your Spirit,
that we may know the joy you give your people. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

There have been times when we felt scattered about,
disjointed, dried up, all our energy gone.
There have been times when we have been cut off from
your spirit, unable to move, dead, lifeless.
Not trusting in your forgiveness or your power, we trust
only in ourselves, and our lives become dry and meaningless.
Fill us with your Spirit, O God, that we may be transformed.
May what was dead, constricted and cut off
become alive and connected to your presence,
that we may be energized to be your people in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray...

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

New Century (black) Hymnal 459 (verse 3)

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.*

As the response begins, the children will go with Susan and Rosemary to the Daniels Center for a Big Event focused on Mission and, specifically, the needs of an orphanage in Belize where our Youth Mission Trip will go in February. Parents should meet their children in the Daniels Center after worship.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Jean Watkins

Romans 8:9-17

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit

The Chancel Choir

arr. William Dawson

Vasil Golodinskii, baritone

SECOND LESSON

John 11:38-53

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew

that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what he had done. So the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the council, and said, “What are we to do? This man is performing many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation.” But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all! You do not understand that it is better for you to have one man die for the people than to have the whole nation destroyed.” He did not say this on his own, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus was about to die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but to gather into one the dispersed children of God. So from that day on they planned to put him to death.

*‡HYMN

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

New Century (black) Hymnal 410

SERMON

Dying for Change

Dr. David D. Young

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

He, although He was in the divine Form, did not think equality
with God a thing to be grasped;

But surrendered his rank and took the role of a servant;

Becoming like the rest of humankind, and appearing in a
human role;

He humbled Himself, in an obedience that went so far as to die.

For this, God raised Him to the highest rank of all;

That, at Jesus' name every knee should bow and every tongue
should own that “Jesus Christ is Lord.” *Philippians 2:6-11*

***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.*

CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

My Eyes for Beauty Pine

The Chancel Choir

Herbert Howells

***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**

In Christ There Is No East or West

New Century (black) Hymnal 394

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

*Leader: To give one's life away to what one knows
to be of highest worth, not only for oneself,
but for all humankind,
is the most mature experience open to a person.*

*People: It can help us face death and tragedy undismayed.
It possesses the secret of life everlasting.*

Leader: Religion is God looking over your shoulder.

People: Then remember the Guest we have within us.

D. Steere, G. Valatos, R. Niebuhr

***BENEDICTION**

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Johann Walther

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. 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 are no regular Church School classes today, but there is a Big Event which is a "one room schoolhouse" program for children of all ages. Older children are invited to join us and help the younger ones. Today's program will focus on mission - what it is, why do we do it, how do we do it – specifically, what we can do to help address the needs of an orphanage in Belize where our Youth Mission Team will travel in February. Next week regular Church School classes will resume.

Youth Ministry

There is no JPF or SPF today. All are encouraged to attend the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration this afternoon instead (see more details on next page).

Youth Choir

Youth Choir will rehearse today from 11:15 am – 12:15 pm in the Choir Room.

Blood Pressure Screening

A member of the Wellness Committee is available to check blood pressures in Room 203 following the Worship Service.

2011 Contribution Envelope Sets

2011 contribution envelope sets are available in the Auditorium during coffee hour today.

Bible Study

A new study of the Gospel of Luke led by Dan England will commence today beginning at 11:15 am in the lounge. The same class (sort of) will be held this Tuesday, January 18 at 7:30 pm. Luke is a fascinating gospel with so many stories that are unique to his gospel. The question is where did these stories come from and why does Luke think they are important to our understanding of Jesus and Christian living. Last year we had at least 60 regular attendees every Sunday and sometimes more. Isn't it time you found out what all the fuss is about? Join us.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration

An Interfaith Service of Joy & Thanksgiving for the Life of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., sponsored by the Greenwich Fellowship of Clergy, will be held today at 2:00 pm at Central Middle School, 9 Indian Rock Lane, Greenwich. Join us for a time of thanksgiving and fellowship with speakers and choirs from Greenwich churches and synagogues.

Come to the Cabaret – Tickets Go On Sale Today!

That's right! The First Congregational Church of Greenwich will be presenting a Cabaret with performances by some of our church members! From the classics of Cole Porter to the latest Broadway shows, we are going to have a wonderful evening of music. The full proceeds from this event will benefit the Youth Outreach and Music Programs. See the January Meetinghouse Monthly for more details about this exciting event. Please note the dates are *Friday, January 28 and Saturday, January 29*. Don't miss it! Buy your tickets today!

NEWS AND NOTICES

Call to the 340th Annual Meeting

The 340th Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, is hereby called for 8:00 pm on *Wednesday, January 26, 2011*. The meeting will be held in the Meetinghouse:

- To hear and act upon the annual reports of the pastors, officers and committees;
- To hear and act upon the report of the Nominating Committee, and to elect officers for the coming year;
- To adopt the budget for 2011;
- To hear and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Trustees to co-invest in the purchase of a home in our community with Rev. Susan Murtha; and,
- To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Phoebe Griffith, Church Clerk

Flu Vaccines Available by Appointment with the Parish Nurse

It's not too late to protect yourself against the flu, and this year's formula includes protection against the H1N1 virus that caused illness among so many young adults last season. Our Parish Nurse will vaccinate those 18 years of age or older who bring payment of \$30 cash or check (made out to FCCOG). Call Sue Asselin, RN at ext. 21 to schedule a quick appointment.

Tai Chi Classes with Luis Duarte

All are welcome! Improve your balance, health and well-being. Come and experience the many wonderful benefits of Tai Chi and Qi Gong. Classes are held on Wednesdays at 8 am and Thursdays at 9 am. Only \$7/class if paid by the month and \$8/class for "drop ins." Join us! You'll love it!

Rummage Room News

The Rummage Room will hold a sale on *Monday, January 17th*, as it is a holiday for Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. **ALL CLOTHING AND ITEMS IN THE SHOP WILL BE 50% OFF.**

We have had some wonderful donations since the beginning of 2011. You will want to come in and take advantage of this sale as the next big “everything 50% off sale” won’t take place until March 21st, 22nd and 23rd, followed by the annual end-of-the-winter store-wide bag sale on the 24th, 25th and 26th.

Wish List For February: Valentine’s and St. Patrick’s Day items, ski clothing, cross-country skis and boots, ski helmets, ski poles, JEWELRY, bric-a-brac, and Spring clothing, shoes and handbags. (We cannot sell down-hill skis or down-hill ski boots.)

The Rummage Room Hours: The Rummage Room is open for shopping and donations Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and on Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Please do not leave donations when the shop is closed.

As always, your continued support is appreciated so The Rummage Room can meet their goal in 2011 of continued support to organizations that help women and children better their lives.

If you are tiring of winter and it seems to be getting you down a bit, “Write it on your heart, that EVERY day is the best day of the year.”

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Food Collection

A reminder that the Food Collection Barrel will remain in the back of the Meetinghouse, so please contribute food each week. Adding a few items to your weekly grocery store visit will make a significant difference at Neighbor to Neighbor. Items currently in need at Neighbor to Neighbor:

- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Pasta Sauce
- Dried Beans (Kidney and Black)
- 100% Juice
- Canned Tomatoes
- Peanut Butter (no larger than 28 oz., please)
- Jelly.

If you’ve forgotten your food items this morning, feel free to email fccoghungermission@gmail.com with your contact information and someone will pick up the food from your home and deliver to the Church for Neighbor to Neighbor.

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870
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www.fccog.org

Ministers: The Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. David D. Young

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

Associate Pastor for Christian Education: Rev. Susan J. Murtha

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

Minister of Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

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