

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

30 January 2011

10 o'clock in the morning



WELCOME to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church. What draws us together is the compelling presence and love of Jesus Christ who asks us to grow and expand our lives in his will and way. Pointing to this transforming process, the Apostle Paul wrote,

*But I keep on struggling trying to catch on to why
Christ Jesus caught hold of me.*

Philippians 3:12

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Introduction, Minuet, and Prayer

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Leon Boellmann

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Johann J. Schütz, 1640-1690
Tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812-1897

MIT FREUDEN ZART 8.7.8.7.8.8.7.
Bohemian Brethren's "Kirchengesänge," 1566

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the vocal line and a bass clef staff for the organ accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/8. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the vocal staff. The lyrics are: 1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, The God of all cre - a - tion, 2 What God's al - might - y power hath made, Now grace and mer - cy keep - eth; 3 Then all my glad - some way a - long, I sing a - loud thy prais - es, 4 O ye who name Christ's ho - ly name, Give God all praise and glo - ry;

The God of power, the God of love, The God of our sal - va - tion;
 By morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade God's watchful eye ne'er sleep - eth;
 That all may hear the grate - ful song My voice un - wea - ried rais - es;
 All ye who live by love, pro - claim A - loud the won - drous sto - ry!

With heal - ing balm my soul is filled, And ev - ery faith - less
 With - in the keep - ing of God's might, Lo! all is just and
 Be joy - ful in the Lord, my heart, Both soul and bod - y
 Cast each false i - dol from its throne, Our God is One, and

mur - mur stilled: To God all praise and glo - ry.
 all is right: To God all praise and glo - ry.
 bear your part: To God all praise and glo - ry.
 God a - lone: To God all praise and glo - ry. A - men.

OPENING PRAYER

When all of our
 best efforts
 have somehow proved
 less than enough
 we are drawn to an awareness
 of the deeper realities
 of the Spirit in our lives.
 Keep then,
 O God of caring,
 our inner restlessness
 within your promise of rest,
 that we might be renewed

through this hour of worship
and be equipped once again
for faithful living
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*In Unison*)

Oh God of realism,
we confess that we are masters
of the art of avoidance,
preferring postponement
to the honesty of facts well-faced.
Oh God of risk,
we confess our love affair with safety,
choosing to filter your strong call
through the screen of excuses.
O God of renewal,
we confess our inability
to trust your promises,
always knowing better
what our future ought to be.
Forgive us
in this precious time
of inner reflection
for our easy escapes,
our casual timidity,
our lack of faith,
that we might know your power of transformation
which draws us to Christ
in whom all things hold together and
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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Stephanie Woodman

Hebrews 6:9-12

Even though we speak in this way, beloved, we are confident of better things in your case, things that belong to salvation. For God is not unjust; he will not overlook your work and the love that you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do. And we want each one of you to show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope to the very end, so that you may not become sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Cantate

The Children's Choir

Mary Lynn Lightfoot

SECOND LESSON

Carolyn Paulus

Luke 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that

way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.” Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”

*‡HYMN

Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 322

As the hymn begins, the Church School children and teachers will leave for their classrooms. Children in second grade and older will leave independently. Children in kindergarten and first grade will meet their teachers at the back of the Meetinghouse (narthex) and will go to their classrooms as a group.

SERMON

Up a Tree

Dr. David D. Young

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

New life in Christ

does not release us from conflict
with unbelief, pride, lust and fear.

We still have to struggle
with disheartening difficulties and problems.

Nevertheless, as we mature in love
and faithfulness in our life with Christ,

We live in freedom and good cheer,
bearing witness on good days and evil days,
confident that the new life
is pleasing to God and helpful to others.

The new life finds its direction
in the life of Jesus,
his words and deeds, his struggles against temptation,

his compassion, his anger,
and his willingness to suffer death.
The teaching of prophets and apostles
guides us in living this life,
and the Christian community
nurtures and equips us for our ministries.
So be it! Amen.

***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. Susan J. Murtha*

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *The Chancel Choir*
Lord of the Worlds Above *Eric Thiman*

***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**
O Jesus, I Have Promised *Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 218*

***CLOSING SENTENCES**
Leader: To fledgling birds,
flight in the sky may appear incredible.
People: They may, with apparent reason,
measure the highest limit

*of their possibilities, by the
limited standard of their nest.*

*Leader: Yes, there is a silent voice
that speaks to them
that they are more than they are.*

*People: And that they must not laugh
At the message of soaring wings
and glad songs of freedom.*

Rabindranath Tagore

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Rigaudon

Andre Campra

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

Today most of our classes will be learning about the "Prodigal Son" as found in Luke 15:11-32. The 3rd grade will learn about

Jesus as a young boy. Next Sunday the 5th grade will cook chili for the Soup Kitchen. All classes will continue their collection of items for the children in Belize.

Youth Choir

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

Church School Teachers' "Soup for the Soul" Meeting and Dinner

A Church School teacher's meeting and dinner will be held today from 5:30 to 7:00 pm in the Daniels Center. Child care and dinner will also be provided for the teachers' children in Room 104.

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.

Youth Ministry

Join us tonight for our Y! programs. Fellowship for those in grades 6-8 (JPF) is from 5:00-6:00 pm and grades 9-12 (SPF) meets from 7:00-8:00 pm.

THIS WEEK

Soup's On! Lunch and Learn - February 2, 12 Noon to 1:15 pm

Gavin Pritchard, Registered Dietician from Greenwich Hospital's Center for Healthy Living will discuss and demonstrate techniques for creating simple, delicious, and nutritious soups. Participants will partake in a lunch of homemade soups and bread, and are sure to leave with recipes to try at home. Because of the lunch provided, RSVP's are necessary for this popular community event. Please call 203-863-4277 to register, or register online by going to www.greenhosp.org and then following the link located in the description of the program in the left-hand column under "Special Events." (Inclement weather date: Thursday, February 3).

NEWS AND NOTICES

Hold the Date! Wonderful Wednesday, February 9, 2011

It's time again for our next Wonderful Wednesday celebration. This is an all church event. The evening will begin with dinner at 6:00 pm followed by participation in a group workshop (your choice depending on your interests). The evening will end promptly at 8:00 pm. See the details in the February Meetinghouse Monthly and at www.fccog.org.

Red Cross Blood Drive – Saturday, February 12

This community blood drive, sponsored by Women's Fellowship and the Wellness Committee, runs from 8:30 am to 1:15 pm. Please donate the *Gift of Life* or donate some prepared food. Deviled eggs and finger sandwiches are particularly appreciated. Blood donation appointments can be made by calling 1-800-RED CROSS. Food contributions can be planned by calling Betsy Kreuter at 203-698-3016 or Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse at extension 21. There will also be a sign-up sheet in the coming weeks at Coffee Hour and in the church office on weekdays.

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

FEBRUARY EVENTS CALENDAR:

- Look for 50% off sales on selected items each week during the month of February. The Manager will make this decision on a weekly basis starting with 50% off of all Valentine's

clothing and items, including anything the color red, from Monday, February 7th through Saturday, February 12th.

- Monday, February 21st, will be the start of a three day President's Day sale with 50% off everything in the shop.
- Then the famous Rummage Room bag sales begin on Thursday, February 24th, with everything you can stuff in a bag for \$12. Friday, February 25th the price drops to \$8 per bag and Saturday, February 26th, the price is all the way down to \$1 per bag! Come often because everything in the shop must go by 1:00 pm on Saturday. It is amazing the selection of high quality items that are still available on Saturday.
- Monday, February 28th, The Rummage Room will open at 1:00 pm with all 'NEW' Spring clothing and items. And you will find there is much to choose from when you come in to shop! And think what fun it will be to be shopping for SPRING!

WISH LIST FOR FEBRUARY:

Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day clothing and items; Spring clothing for the entire family; shoes; handbags; JEWELRY; good bric-a-brac; bikes and baby strollers ... single and double; and small furniture.

RUMMAGE ROOM SHOPPING AND DONATION HOURS:

Monday through Friday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Saturday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Please do not leave donations outside when the shop is closed.

Please find the time to shop, donate and volunteer with us. Funds from The Rummage Room help support many women's and children's organizations in Connecticut, nationally, and world-wide, and we would not have been able to do this without your generous support the past 47 years. Thank you.

And, remember, as you celebrate Valentine's Day: *"The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved ... loved not for ourselves, rather, loved in spite of ourselves."* ~ Victor Hugo
(continued on back cover)

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), and Jelly.

If you've forgotten your food items this morning, feel free to email fccogungermission@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
203-637-1791
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