

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

6 February 2011

10 o'clock in the morning



Welcome to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church. Each of us has come today by different roads and for different reasons. But, in all, God has summoned us; in this hour, may God's Spirit also unite us. May our praising and singing, our praying and listening, our giving and receiving nurture each need, join us in purpose, and send us into the world as bearers of Christ's gospel.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

O Stainless Lamb of God

*Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ
J. S. Bach*

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

New Century (black) Hymnal 1

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, I am not trying to make my way to your height,
for my understanding is in no way equal to that,
but I do desire to understand a little of your truth
which my heart already believes and loves.

I do not seek to understand so that I can believe,
but believe so that I may understand.
And what more, I believe that unless I do believe,
I shall not understand. Amen.

St. Anselm, 11th century

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

Dr. David D. Young

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

Almighty God, what can we say to thee? We are as we are:
sometimes too well-fed and self-satisfied,
having no need of you;
sometimes crippled and torn,
having no love for you;
sometimes empty and afraid,
having no trust in you.

We are as we are: we have not sought you seriously,
listened to you earnestly,
followed you faithfully.

Forgive us, but more so overcome us.

We ask in the name and spirit of Christ who taught us to pray

Adapted, Arnold Kenseth

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.*

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

COMMISSIONING OF YOUTH DELEGATES TO BELIZE

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Katie Weatherseed

Isaiah 58:6-12

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

The Youth Choir; Carolyn Paulus, director

Praise Him!

Craig Courtney

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Praise God in his sanctuary, praise him for his mighty acts,

Praise him in the firmament of his power.

Praise him according to his excellent greatness!

I will extol the Lord, my God, and I will bless his name forever,

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.

The Lord is righteous and holy.

The Lord is gracious and kind; full of compassion, slow to anger.

His tender mercies are over all his works; he is good to all.

*Praise Him! Praise God in his sanctuary, praise him for his
mighty acts,
Praise him in the firmament of his power.
Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord!*

SECOND LESSON

Pat Mendelsohn

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"— these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

*‡HYMN

Behold the Goodness of Our Lord

Fred R. Anderson, 1986

Jessie Seymour Irvine, 1872
Harm. T. C. L. Pritchard, 1929

1. Be - hold the good - ness of our Lord, How blest it is to be
2. Like pre - cious oil up - on the head, A heal - ing for our strife,
3. As dew on Zi - on's moun - tain - top Brings fresh - ness to its door,

A com - pa - ny of God's be - loved, In ho - ly u - ni - ty.
It flows through - out our com - mon bond, Re - fresh - ing all of life.
Our Lord com - mands this in our midst And brings life ev - er - more.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system contains three verses of lyrics. The second system contains the concluding lines of the hymn.

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

Deeper into Communion

Rev. Susan J. Murtha

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that our covenant with
God and each other calls us:
to love God with all that we are
and our close and distant neighbors as ourselves;
to seek peace with justice and equity for all people;
to foster community across every barrier and division;
to attend to God's unfolding and reconciling word;

to support each other in our frailties and strengths,
that we may embody that love which overcomes
fear and death.

We testify to our faith, confessing always
our reliance on God's grace in Christ
and on the power of the Holy Spirit. 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 OFFERING *Rev. Avery C. Manchester*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *The Chancel Choir*
Thou Art God *Lionel Bourne*

***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, we will partake of the bread as it is
served, thanking God for Christ's death for each one of us. We will
hold the cup and drink of it together, affirming our oneness as the
Body of Christ.*

COMMUNION SOLO *Terry Beurline, tenor*
If, With All Your Hearts (from *Elijah*) *Felix Mendelssohn*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O Lord of this feast, we have no way to utter our thanksgiving for
this table – for your solemn pledge of solace for our pain,

forgiveness for our sins, and the unspeakable joy that we shall rise out our death in the presence of angels and before our God who made heaven and earth. Not words, but our hearts and our deeds we give as thanks. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

***CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds *New Century (black) Hymnal 393*

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

Leader: No heaven can come to us unless our hearts find rest in it today.

People: We shall take heaven.

Leader: No peace lies in the future which is not hidden in the present instant.

People: We shall take peace.

Leader: The gloom of the world is but a shadow. Behind it, and yet within our reach, is joy.

People: We shall take joy.

Adapted, Fra Giovanni Giocondo, 15th Century

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Festival March in D

Paul Van Dyke

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 prayer - talking and listening to God - specifically they will learn about The Lord's Prayer. The 3rd Grade will learn about Jesus' baptism by John and choosing his disciples. The 5th Grade will be cooking chili to be delivered to the Soup Kitchen. All classes will continue their collection of items for the children in Belize.

Confirmation Class

Our confirmands will meet in the Chapel area of the Meetinghouse at 11:15 today to prepare for their trip to Pilgrim Towers. There they will conduct life interviews with the residents. After lunch together, hosted by Pilgrim Towers, the confirmands will ask the residents a series of questions that are designed to engage both parties in conversations that will be enlightening for both.

Youth Choir

There is no Youth Choir rehearsal 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.

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

Wonderful Wednesday – February 9

Join us for February's Wonderful Wednesday all church celebration this Wednesday! 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 or 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.

NEXT WEEK

Youth Ministry

The Youth Mission delegates and their advisors are departing for Belize next Sunday. There will be no JPF or SPF that Sunday, February 13 or the following Sunday, February 20.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Flu Vaccines Available by Appointment with the Parish Nurse

It's still 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

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 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.

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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