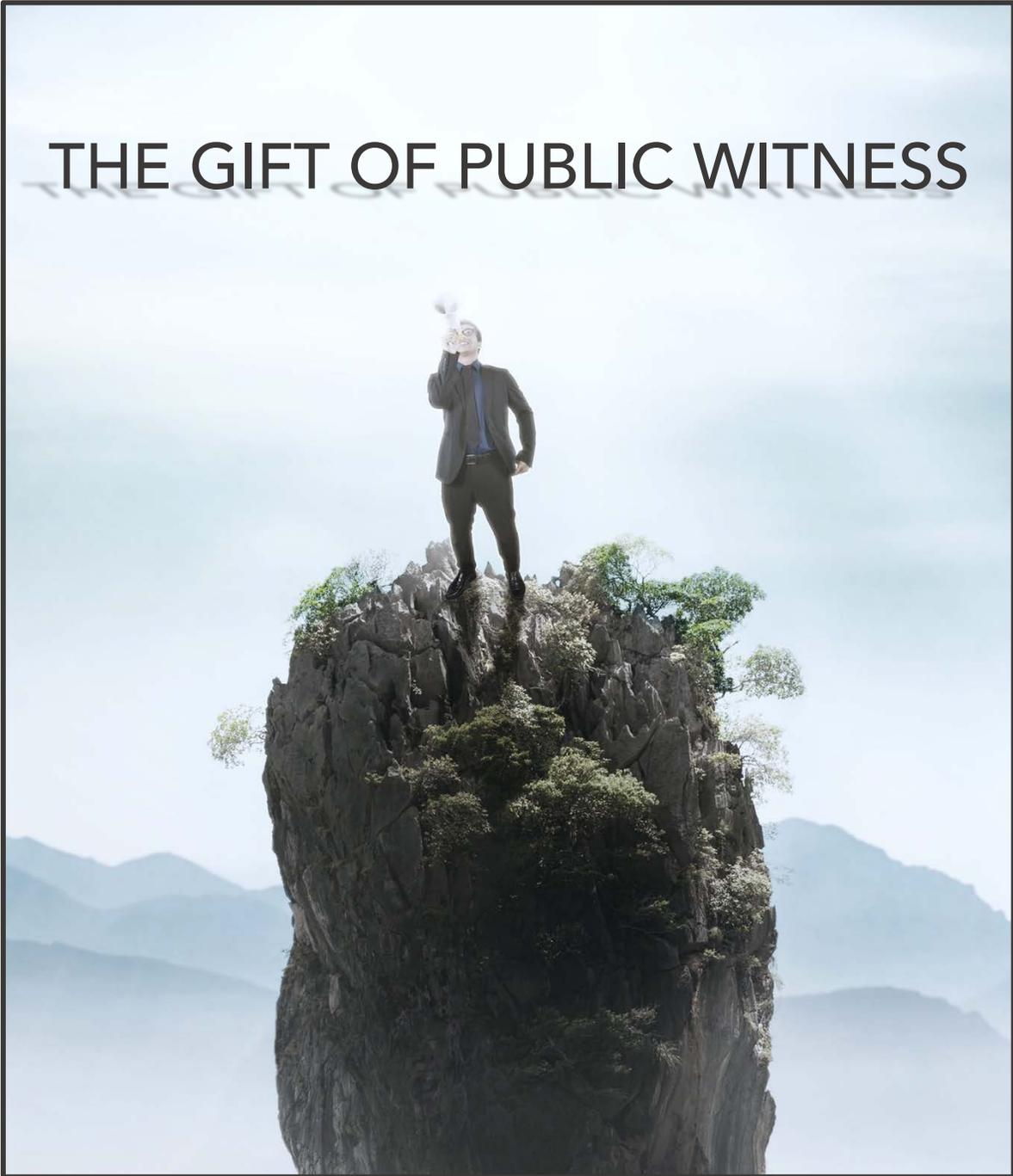




THE GIFT OF PUBLIC WITNESS



Sunday, February 9, 2020
10:00 am

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.

Welcome to this service of worship at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich.
Please join us in the auditorium after worship for our Community Hour.

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

Please let an usher know if you would like a Bible during the service.
We are happy to provide one upon request. You may also get one
from the bookshelf across from the sound booth room.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Prelude

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

Theodore Dubois (1837-1924)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. Patrick Collins

(please sign and pass the red fellowship pad found at the end of your row.)

CALL TO WORSHIP*

One: We are called to bring a new understanding of God: that God so loves the world.

All: We are the salt of the earth.

One: We are called to bring a new hope in God: that God gives us new life.

All: We are the light of the world.

One: We are called to follow the commandments and the law.

All: The Law of God is to love God and to love one another.

One: Come, let us be the salt of the earth, the light of the world.

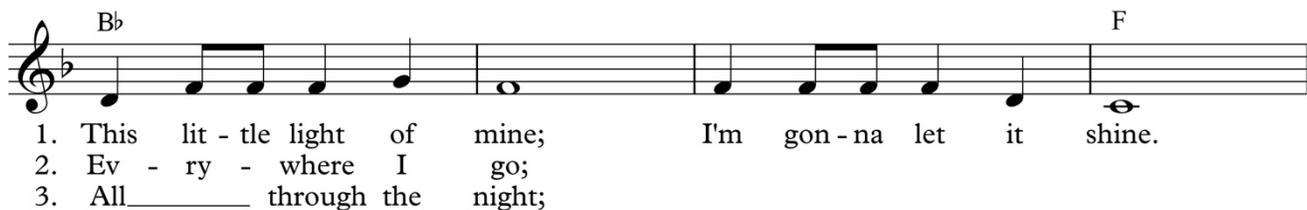
All: Come, let us love one another with the love of God.

HYMN*

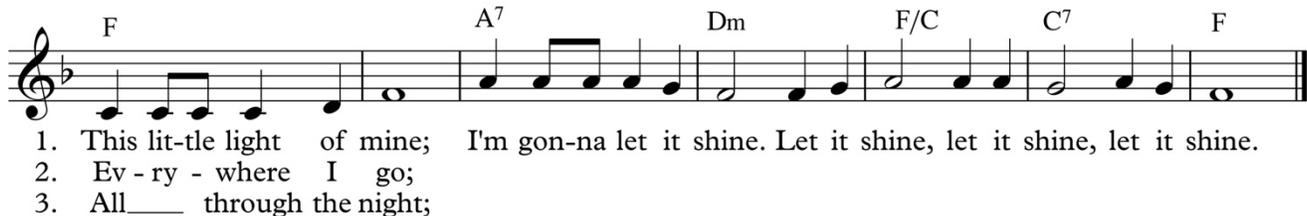
This Little Light of Mine



1. This lit - tle light of mine; I'm gon - na let it shine.
2. Ev - ry - where I go;
3. All _____ through the night;



1. This lit - tle light of mine; I'm gon - na let it shine.
2. Ev - ry - where I go;
3. All _____ through the night;



1. This lit-tle light of mine; I'm gon-na let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
2. Ev - ry - where I go;
3. All _____ through the night;

GATHERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

God of mystery and of judgment, who has made us to be salt and light in a tasteless, shadowed world, guide us in this time of worship. Grant us understanding and spiritual discernment so that others may see your good works through us, give you the glory, and be moved to serve you. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rosemary Lamie

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.

**All who are able, please rise.*

All children will now leave for a special Church School program in the Daniels Center. Parents are welcome to accompany their children and return to the service. Baby Nursery & Toddler Room are in the Red Door classroom for children 4 and younger.

HYMN*

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me!
This I know, for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me still today, Walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give Light and love to all who live. (Refrain)

FIRST LESSON

Marilyn Derr

1 Corinthians 2: 1-12 (Common English Bible)

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I didn't come preaching God's secrets to you like I was an expert in speech or wisdom. I had made up my mind not to think about anything while I was with you except Jesus Christ, and to preach him as crucified. I stood in front of you with weakness, fear, and a lot of shaking. My message and my preaching weren't presented with convincing wise words but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power. I did this so that your faith might not depend on the wisdom of people but on the power of God.

What we say is wisdom to people who are mature. It isn't a wisdom that comes from the present day or from today's leaders who are being reduced to nothing. We talk about God's wisdom, which has been hidden as a secret. God determined this wisdom in advance, before time began, for our glory. It is a wisdom that none of the present-day rulers have understood, because if they did understand it, they would never have crucified the Lord of glory! But this is precisely what is written: God has prepared things for those who love him that no eye has seen, or ear has heard, or that haven't crossed the mind of any human being. God has revealed these things to us through the Spirit. The Spirit searches everything, including the depths of God. Who knows a person's depths except their own spirit that lives in them? In the same way, no one has known the depths of God except God's Spirit. We haven't received the world's spirit but God's Spirit so that we can know the things given to us by God.

SOLO

Never Alone

Carol Woodman, soprano
E. C. Heidelberg

SECOND LESSON

Rev. Patrick Collins

Matthew 5: 13-20 (The Message)

"Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

"Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put

**All who are able, please rise.*

you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

"Don't suppose for a minute that I have come to demolish the Scriptures—either God's Law or the Prophets. I'm not here to demolish but to complete. I am going to put it all together, pull it all together in a vast panorama. God's Law is more real and lasting than the stars in the sky and the ground at your feet. Long after stars burn out and earth wears out, God's Law will be alive and working.

"Trivialize even the smallest item in God's Law and you will only have trivialized yourself. But take it seriously, show the way for others, and you will find honor in the kingdom. Unless you do far better than the Pharisees in the matters of right living, you won't know the first thing about entering the kingdom.

MESSAGE

The Gift of Public Witness

Rev. Patrick Collins

HYMN*

Renew Your Church

New Century (black) Hymnal #311

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

CALL TO OFFERING

Andrea Woodman Osker

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Dixit (from Solemn Vespers)

The Chancel Choir
W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)
Hanna Golodinskii, soprano
Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano
Daniel Young, tenor
Thomas Woodman, bass

(English translation)

The Lord said to my Lord; sit at my right hand, until I place your enemies as a footstool for your feet.
The rod of your power, the Lord will send forth from Zion: rule in the midst of your enemies.
Sovereignty is with you on the day of your strength,
In the splendor of the Holy Ones: Out of the womb before the light I begot you.

The Lord has sworn, and will not repent of it:
You are priest forever according to the order of Melchisedech.

The Lord at your right hand crushes kings in the day of His wrath.
He will pass judgment on the nations; He will pile up calamities, and shatter heads in many lands. He will drink from the rushing stream on the way; therefore He shall lift up His head.

DOXOLOGY*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Andrea Woodman Osker

**All who are able, please rise.*

HYMN*

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

New Century (black) Hymnal #181

BENEDICTION

Rev. Patrick Collins

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Fugue

François Couperin (1668-1733)

**All who are able, please rise.*



Directly following the service, one of our pastors will remain in the Chapel to be available to anyone who has a pastoral care concern.



Our PrayGround Rocks!

We've created a space where children and others can move a bit during worship. There's a rug, a few quiet play things, and pillows for propping. There are rocking chairs for anyone who finds the movement soothing. Additional children's books are on the bookshelves near the back of the chapel.

A Note about Welcoming Children

To our parents and caregivers: God put the wiggle in children... do not feel you have to suppress it during worship. The presence of all God's children is a gift to the church, which offers hope for all. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me." At First Church we believe that the way we welcome children in worship directly affects the way they respond to God, the church, and to one another. To the members of our congregation, please know that a smile of encouragement is always welcome to parents with small, active children.

For those who are interested, we do have child care available for babies and toddlers every Sunday, for the entirety of the church service, in the preschool classrooms. For toddlers and preschoolers who stay in church, we have a "PrayGround" located in the back of the chapel (right side of the Meeting House).

The 10:00 am service is broadcast live each week on **105.5FM or WSTC-AM 1400** (please note the transmission is weak on the west side of Greenwich) or you can stream it online at WGCH.com. In addition, the service is available through a link on the church's website at www.fccog.org. A bulletin is there as well as a link to the live broadcast. Previous sermon recordings are also available.



All services are now live-streamed on **YouTube.com**. Search for First Congregational Church of Greenwich and subscribe to our channel.

NEWS & NOTICES

TODAY



CHURCH SCHOOL

Today, there will be an all age program in the Daniels Center to make Valentines for Vets and other special friends of First Church. We will also have some games. Limbo anyone? Next Sunday is Presidents Day weekend and all schools will be on break either for the week before or for the long weekend. There will be no Church School; Child care will be available as always.



CHOIR REHEARSALS TODAY

Cherub Choir: Rainbow Room (Lower Level) 11:15-11:45 am
Youth Choir: Choir Room (3rd Floor) 11:15 am -12:15 pm

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FIRST CHURCH?

Meet the pastors TODAY at 11:15 am in the Auditorium

Folks interested in getting to know the Church, take a tour and inquire about First Church are invited to have coffee and conversations with the Pastors.

2ND HOUR BOOK DISCUSSION: "*The Gift of Years*" by Joan Chittister, led by Avery Manchester, Marty Bitner and Rosemary Lamie, will meet after Church. Get your coffee or tea and come to the Lounge. This is the last in this series but you're welcome to come even if you haven't attended yet. We will also discuss other similar programs we may offer in the future.



PARISH NURSE

Sue Asselin, RN, is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following today's worship service, in her office (to the right of the Auditorium stage). During the week, she is available by appointment, which can be made by calling ext. 821.

UPCOMING



MOVIE NIGHT: HARRIET: Friday, February 21 at 7:00 pm in the Meetinghouse
Celebrate African American History Month with us by learning about the fascinating life of slave-turned-abolitionist Harriet Tubman. Free Popcorn! *Rated PG-13*

REV. PATRICK COLLINS' INSTALLATION: Sunday, February 23 during the 10:00 am Service
Special Music from Music by the Children's, Youth, and Chancel Choirs, with bass and drums.

ASHES TO GO: Ash Wednesday, February 26th, 7:00 am to 9:00 am in the church parking lot
A new approach to a centuries-old Christian tradition, clergy and lay people visit transit stops, street corners, coffee shops, and college campuses to mark the foreheads of interested passers-by with ashes and invite them to experience the power of God's eternal love and grace in an informal way.

LENTEN COMMUNITY DINNER #1: February 26th at 6:00 pm in the Auditorium
Topic: *For the Beauty of the Earth* with Rev. Patrick Collins and hosted by FCCOG Staff. Sign up at www.fccog.org/event/lenten-community-dinner-1

"Resilience: The Biology of Stress & The Science of Hope"
Monday, March 9 at 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the FCCOG Lounge

Timely documentary about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Toxic Stress. Experts and practitioners are proving what's predictable is preventable. Special presentation by Dr. Alice Forrester, Executive Director of Clifford Beers Clinic in New Haven, CT. Co-sponsored by the First Church Preschool and First Church. RSVP at darlak@fccog.org.



SERVICE SUNDAY PROJECT: Sunday, April 19, 2020
Join your friends and family for this great event! More details to come.



NEWS FROM THE RUMMAGE ROOM

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich • 203-637-1875
www.fccog.org/about-us/the-rummage-room

Donations have still been light this past week. We accept all seasons of clothing. Would appreciate donations!

Manager Leanne's Wish List:

Men's ties, men's Suits, ladies' handbags

Shop Hours:

Monday-Friday 10 am - 5 pm
Saturdays 10 am - 1 pm

Donations accepted:

Monday-Thursday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm
Friday & Saturday 9:30 am - 12:30 pm



108 Sound Beach Avenue • Old Greenwich CT 06870
203-637-1791 • www.fccog.org

Ministers: The members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Senior Pastor: Reverend Patrick Collins

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care: Reverend Avery C. Manchester

Minister of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Family Ministries: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Church Administration and Finance: Steve Summerton

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner

Preschool Administrative Assistant: Melanie Garnett

Administrative Assistant: Wendy Spezzano

Communications Specialist: Dalinda Rioseco

Database Administrative Assistant: Sue Wilder

Pastors Emeriti: Reverend Dr. Thomas L. Stiers and Reverend Sally Colegrove

