



Living The Parables

Sunday, July 26, 2020
10:00 a.m.

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 welcome you this day and we're glad you made the choice to join us for this live stream worship service. May it be a blessing to you.

FIRST CHURCH CONNECTS WITH YOU DURING THE WEEK

- Sunday: 10 a.m. Worship –
Live Stream - [YouTube](#)
Facebook - [First Church](#)
Radio at [WGCH](#) 1490 AM or 105.5 FM
Download the bulletin [HERE](#)
- Monday: Music on Mondays (e-blast by Craig Symons)
- Wednesday: Wisdom on Wednesdays (e-blast by Rev. Patrick Collins)
- Thursday: Faith Formation at Home for All and Faith Formation for Children, Youth and Families (e-blasts by Rosemary Lamie, Director of Faith Formation)
- Friday: [Fridays on Facebook](#)
(live @ 3:00 p.m. with Rev. Patrick Collins)

Please make sure your email is on our list of recipients.
If you are not on our mailing list, send your address to wendys@fccog.org

Please note:
The First Church building is closed until further notice.

THE RUMMAGE ROOM IS NOW OPEN!

Monday through Thursday 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Donations are accepted Wednesday & Thursday 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

One box of books at a time.

Reminder: Clothing needs to be clean, no stains or holes.

Please note we do not accept these items:

Furniture

Pillows

Ski's and Ski boots

Suitcases

Baby equipment - Strollers, Car Seats, High Chairs

Computer Monitors, Printers.

CALL TO A SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A Special Meeting of the members of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Old Greenwich, CT is hereby called for Sunday, August 2, 2020 at 11:00 AM EDT following the Worship Service. The meeting will be held electronically using Zoom.us for the following purposes:

- To hear and act upon the recommendation of the Associate Pastor Search Committee to call an Associate Pastor;
- To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Pat Larrabee
Church Clerk

ZOOM INVITATION INFORMATION

Topic: Special Congregational Meeting

Time: Aug 2, 2020 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89602297964?pwd=Vk55bmZFTkFrZkkxcnRieUF1QmhwZz09>

Meeting ID: 896 0229 7964

Password: 698681

To join by telephone with audio only:

Dial: +1 646 558 8656 US

Meeting ID: 896 0229 7964

Password: 698681

This meeting may be recorded for purposes of taking of Minutes.

If you have questions about using Zoom, please email patmendelsohn@aol.com

ORDER OF WORSHIP

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. Patrick Collins

Using your smartphone messaging app, text **FCCOG Donate** to 73256

OR click [HERE](#) to access the online giving webpage

OR scan the QR code below using your smartphone



CALL TO A SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Pat Larrabee
Church Clerk

PRELUDE

Promenade

Gordon Young (1919-1998)

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Patrick Collins

One: Called to be branches in Christ's body,

All: we yearn to be connected to the vine.

One: Called to be mustard bushes offering shade to God's creatures,

All: we search for places to plant the seeds of faith.

One: Called to be growing with God in the midst of this world's painful questions,

All: we seek God's nurturing presence

HYMN

O Worship The King

**O worship the King, all glorious above!
O gratefully sing God's power and God's love:
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.**

O tell of God's might; O sing of God's grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,
whose chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form;
and bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.

The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, your power has founded of old;
established it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills; it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

GATHERING PRAYER (IN UNISON)

God of all creation, we thank you for the mustard seed and for the wonders of yeast. We are grateful for how these things teach us about your love. We ask you to plant your seed into our lives, help us work your yeast into our hearts, so that wonderful things may happen. We ask this all in Jesus' name.

THE 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.

FIRST LESSON

Faith Like A Mustard Seed

by Josette Ferguson

Kate Collins

Faith is more than words
It's a feeling
A belief
Knowing things are taken care of
And knowing
That You are taken care of

Faith is more than a feeling
It's a state of mind
A place of serenity
A great state of being
Relying on
A sense of stillness
To give You peace

Faith can be that peace
When it's believed
And felt in a way
That can't be described
But can be seen
In the actions
That speak bigger than Me
But can be felt
In those I've touched
Or have touched me.

That faith may start small
But can be transformative
And create change

A mustard seed
May start small

Yet it can become some thing
Bigger than itself

My faith is that mustard seed
Small at first
But when I
Continuously believe in it
It becomes larger
Than I ever thought it would be

DUET

The Prayer
David Foster (b. 1949)
Hanna Golodinskii, soprano
Daniel Young, tenor

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 13: 31-33 (Common English Bible)

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw

them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

MESSAGE

Living The Parables
Rev. Sally Colegrove

MULTIMEDIA REFLECTION

Sing & Rejoice
Arr. Glen Thomas Rideout

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Ryan Gackenheimer

HYMN

As Trees From Tiny Seeds Can Grow

**As trees from tiny seeds can grow, as yeast expands the lifeless dough,
as light, unhampered, shines around, so does God’s gracious love abound.**

**As hidden treasure is reclaimed, we, God’s new people are renamed.
For us, the pearl, long sought, is found. Christ is our treasure sure and sound.**

**We are not promised weed-less fields. Nor are we given equal yields.
But God’s true faithfulness shall stay with us, supporting all the way.**

**As coins, once lost, are found with joy. As Jesus loves each girl and boy,
so we, now found by God, rejoice, lifting in praise one heart and voice.**

BENEDICTION

Rev. Patrick Collins

RESPONSE

God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again
William Toomer
Hanna Golodinskii, soprano

POSTLUDE

Flourish
Gordon Young

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Reverend Dr. Thomas L. Stiers - Reverend Sally Colegrove

