



## **THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

**Sunday, February 28, 2021**

**10:00 a.m.**

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

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## **SUNDAY MORNING LIVE STREAM WORSHIP**

**10:00 a.m.**

YouTube - [YouTube](#)

Facebook - [First Church](#)

Radio at [WGCH](#) 1490 AM or 105.5 FM

Download the bulletin [HERE](#)

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## **RUMMAGE ROOM**

### **Store Hours**

Monday - Thursday  
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

### **Donation Hours**

Wednesday & Thursday  
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

# 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

## PRELUDE

*Elegy*

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912)

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

## HYMN

*The God Of Abraham Praise*

Tune: Leoni

**The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,  
the Ancient of Eternal Days, the God of love!  
The Lord, the great I am, by earth and heaven confessed,  
we bow before your holy name, forever blest.**

**Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will.  
In prophet's word you spoke of old and you speak still.  
Established is your law, and changeless it shall stand,  
deep writ upon the human heart by your strong hand.**

**Your goodly land we seek, with peace and plenty blest,  
a land of sacred liberty and Sabbath rest.  
There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound,  
and trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.**

**You have eternal life implanted in the soul;  
your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.  
We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name:  
the first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!**

**GATHERING PRAYER** (Unison)

Drew Moore

**God of Abraham our father, God of Sarah our mother, we remember with gratitude your promise to us that you will always find ways for us to be used by you. You have given us everything. What can we give in thanks for our lives and your unending loving that gives us peace? Be our guide on our Lenten journey. Help us to turn away from our earthly ways that do not serve our purpose in you, and choose to follow Jesus in our pursuit of divine living. Let us listen for your call to us as we worship you today. Amen.**

**A MOMENT FOR CHILDREN (and the child in each of us)**

*“What Do You Do With An Idea?”*

Kobi Yamada & Mae Besom

**FIRST LESSON**

*The Truth That Ricochets*

Rev. Sarah Are

Andrea Woodman

I went to a lecture once—  
An interfaith conversation with  
interfaith leaders.  
Whispers bounced off the church’s  
tile floors  
As people shuffled into place,  
Carrying hope alongside assumptions—  
Mixed into pockets like loose change.

About halfway through the evening,  
A young woman in a blue hijab  
began speaking.  
She was the youngest person on the panel,  
Seated far to the left. You might almost  
miss her  
If you weren’t paying attention;  
But not here, not when she spoke.

In quiet determination she told us of fear  
and persecution.

She told us of hatred and racial slurs,  
Thrown at her people from car windows  
like bombs.

It was a truth I did not know,  
And that truth ricocheted like sunlight  
through the cathedral windows,

Touching almost everyone that day.

Then a man in the back, who could  
have been me—

Who has been me—

Approached the microphone and said,  
“Your people are persecuted. You live in  
fear. You are battered by hate.

If that is true, then why am I just now  
hearing about it?

Why is your story not on the news?

Why have you not spoken up about it?”

And the air was still, partly because we held  
our breath in anticipation,

And partly because the Spirit slows her  
dance when we stand at the edge  
of truth.

The woman in the blue hijab leaned into  
the microphone

And whispered with a quiet strength that  
can only come from years of practice:

“We are screaming.”

If there is one truth in my life  
That unfolds again and again,  
It is the need to listen.

For again and again, I will try,  
with good intentions,  
To act and walk with love.  
But again and again, I will make mistakes.  
Again and again, I will say the wrong thing.  
Again and again, they will call me Peter,  
And again and again, they will be right.

So again and again,  
I will pray for a truth that ricochets,  
For ears that will listen,  
And for space to hold truth.  
If people are screaming,  
And to be clear — people are screaming —  
I do not want to miss it.

## **ANTHEM**

*Have You Heard God's Voice?*  
Frederick Chatfield (b. 1950)  
The Chancel Choir Quartet

*Have you heard God's voice; has your heart been stirred?  
Are you still prepared to follow?  
Have you made a choice to remain and serve,  
though the way be rough and narrow?  
Will you use your voice; will you not sit down  
when the multitudes are silent?  
Will you make a choice to stand your ground  
when the crowds are turning violent?  
Will you walk the path that will cost you much  
and embrace God's love and sorrow?  
Will you trust in One who entrusts to you  
the disciples of tomorrow?*

*Will you watch the news with the eyes of faith  
and believe it could be different?  
Will you share your views using words of grace?  
Will you leave a thoughtful imprint?*

*In your city streets will you be God's heart?  
Will you listen to the voiceless?  
Will you stop and eat, and when friendships start,  
will you share your faith with the faithless?  
We will walk the path that will cost us much  
and embrace God's love and sorrow?  
Will you trust in One who entrusts to you  
the disciples of tomorrow.*

Words: Jacqui G. Jones

## SECOND LESSON

*Mark 8: 31-38*  
The Message

Jesus warned them to keep it quiet, not to breathe a word of it to anyone. He then began explaining things to them: “It is necessary that the Son of Man proceed to an ordeal of suffering, be tried and found guilty by the elders, high priests, and religion scholars, be killed, and after three days rise up alive.” He said this simply and clearly so they couldn’t miss it.

But Peter grabbed him in protest. Turning and seeing his disciples wavering, wondering what to believe, Jesus confronted Peter. “Peter, get out of my way! Satan, get lost! You have no idea how God works.”

Calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You’re not in the driver’s seat; I am. Don’t run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I’ll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to saving yourself, your true self. What good would it do to get everything you want and lose you, the real you? What could you ever trade your soul for?”

“If any of you are embarrassed over me and the way I’m leading you when you get around your fickle and unfocused friends, know that you’ll be an even greater embarrassment to the Son of Man when he arrives in all the splendor of God, his Father, with an army of the holy angels.”

## MESSAGE

*Church On The Edge*

## SOLO

Rev. Cydney Van Dyke

*Give Me Jesus*

Arr. Moses Hogan (1957-2003)

Hanna Golodinskii, soprano

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Patrick Collins

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Robbie Finch

**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.**

## HYMN

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

Tune: Faithfulness

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

### **Refrain:**

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.**

**(Refrain)**



**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!  
(Refrain)**

## **FAREWELL TO GINNY BREISMEISTER**

### **BENEDICTION**

Rev. Cydney Van Dyke

### **CHORAL RESPONSE**

*The Lord Bless You And Keep You*  
Peter Lutkin (1858-1931)

### **POSTLUDE**

*March*  
G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

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# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

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## Ministers - All Members Of The First Congregational Church Of Greenwich

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**Associate Pastor**

**Minister of Music**

**Director of Faith Formation**

**Director of Church Administration and Finance**

**Director of Membership**

**Parish Nurse**

**Administrative Assistant**

**Media, Tech and Content Coordinator**

**Database Administrative Assistant**

**Director of Preschool**

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**Pastors Emeriti**

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Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

Dr. Craig Scott Symons

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