



THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, March 7, 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.

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](#)

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. Cydney Van Dyke

Using your smartphone messaging app, text **FCCOG Donate** to **73256**
or click [HERE](#) to access the online giving webpage

PRELUDE

Variations on "Christus, Der Ist Mein Leben"
Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

HYMN

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord
Tune: Repton

**How clear is our vocation, Lord, when once we heed your call
to live according to your word and daily learn, refreshed, restored,
that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.**

**But if, forgetful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
if worldly pressures fray the mind and love itself cannot unwind
its tangled skein of care: our inward life repair.**

**We marvel how your saints became in hindrances more sure:
whose joyful virtues put to shame the casual way we wear your name,
and by our faults obscure your power to cleanse and cure.**

**In what you give us, Lord, to do, together or alone,
in old routines or ventures new, may we not cease to look to you:
the cross you hung upon, all you endeavored, done.**

GATHERING PRAYER (Unison)

Rev. Patrick Collins

**Eternal God, whose signature we see, if we dare to look, in the creation of
the universe, help us this hour to look and to listen for your handwriting
and your voice in the places we gather.**

Connect our temporary praise to your timeless rhythms, your ageless melodies, your everlasting joyful noise. Guide us now to focus upon you, knowing that in you, our distractions become new possibilities for action.

Breathe life into our singing, our praying, our speaking, our listening, our touching, that all these activities might become more than they are. In our worship we reach out to you, O God, knowing that in and through us you are doing a new thing. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR CHILDREN (and the child in each of us) *Max & Bird*
a story by Ed Vere

FIRST LESSON

1 Corinthians 1: 18-25
Common English Bible
Lynn Robertson

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are being destroyed. But it is the power of God for those of us who are being saved. It is written in scripture: I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I will reject the intelligence of the intelligent. Where are the wise? Where are the legal experts? Where are today's debaters? Hasn't God made the wisdom of the world foolish? In God's wisdom, he determined that the world wouldn't come to know him through its wisdom. Instead, God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of preaching. Jews ask for signs, and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, which is a scandal to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles. But to those who are called—both Jews and Greeks—Christ is God's power and God's wisdom. This is because the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

ANTHEM

Have You Not Known?
K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)

*Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you that the everlasting God dwells on high in starry splendor?
His glory is unspeakable; his power shall never fail.*

*They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength.
They shall mount up as eagles; they shall run and not grow weary;
they shall walk and never faint.*

*To whom will God, the Lord, compare? Who can stand his equal?
By his word he formed the heavens; by his power he ever sustains them.
Vain rulers perish hopelessly; strong nations come to naught.*

*Then why complain, O Israel? Why downcast, O Jacob?
Do you think he does not see? Is your way now disregarded?
His knowledge is unsearchable, his wisdom strong and sure.*

*Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you that the everlasting God neither tires nor grows weary?
Even youths shall stumble helplessly, the young grow weak and faint.*

Isaiah 40:21-31

SECOND LESSON

Mark 8: 31-38
The Message

It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple those who were selling cattle, sheep, and doves, as well as those involved in exchanging currency sitting there. He made a whip from ropes and chased them all out of the temple, including the cattle and the sheep. He scattered the coins and overturned the tables of those who exchanged currency. He said to the dove sellers, “Get these things out of here! Don’t make my Father’s house a place of business.” His disciples remembered that it is written, Passion for your house consumes me.

Then the Jewish leaders asked him, “By what authority are you doing these things? What miraculous sign will you show us?”

Jesus answered, “Destroy this temple and in three days I’ll raise it up.”

The Jewish leaders replied, “It took forty-six years to build this temple, and you will raise it up in three days?” But the temple Jesus was talking about was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered what he had said, and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

MESSAGE

A Brand New Thing
Rev. Patrick Collins

MULTIMEDIA REFLECTION

Love Alone Is Worth The Fight
Switchfoot

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Cydney Van Dyke

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Today we join a vast cloud of witnesses who celebrated and shared in this sacred meal in the comfort of their own homes. We invite you during this time of communion to share whatever elements you have available to you knowing that all things of this life are sacred and holy.

HYMN

Your Law, O Lord, Is Perfect
Tune: Christus, Der Ist Mein Leben

**Your law, O Lord, is perfect, the simple making wise;
how pure are your commandments, enlightening my eyes!**

**More to be sought than riches, your words are my soul's wealth;
their taste is sweet like honey, imparting life and health.**

**My strength and my redeemer, lawgiver and true light,
my words and meditations make worthy in your sight.**

BENEDICTION

Rev. Patrick Collins

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Ceremonial March
Christopher Tambling (b. 1964)

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THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

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The First Congregational Church Of Greenwich**

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