

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**EPIPHANY SUNDAY**

**Sunday, January 2, 2022  
10 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 worship service. May it be a blessing to you.

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## CHILDREN IN WORSHIP



*God puts the wiggle in children  
and calls it good... and so do we!*

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 welcome children as they are in worship, we've created the **PrayGround**, located in the front of the chapel (right side of the Meetinghouse) where children and others can engage in worship through movement and prayerful play.

The **PrayGround** offers space for movement and sensory materials for all ages to worship with and through. The presence of all God's children is a gift to the church, which offers hope for all.

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

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Patrick Collins

## PRELUDE

*Pan & Pastorale*  
Johannes Donjon (1839-1912)  
Tessa Laffan, flute

## †CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

All: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

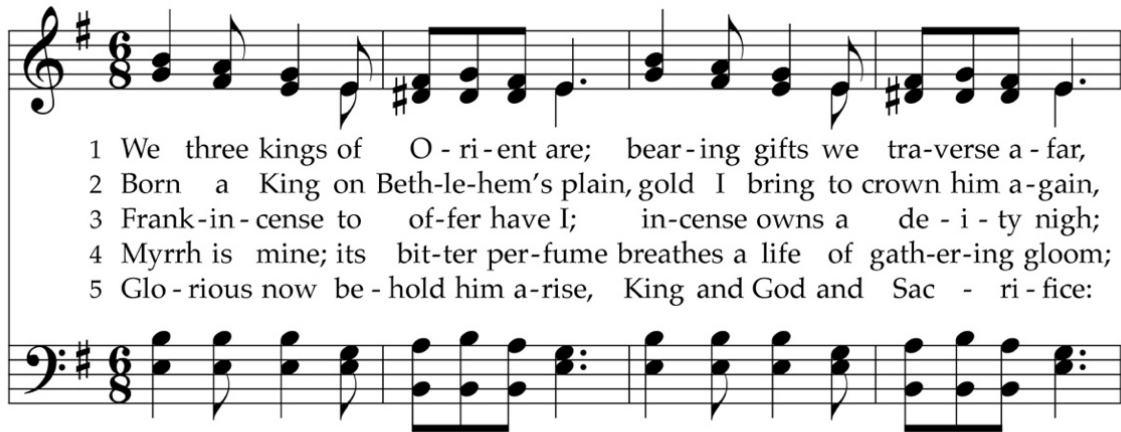
One: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

All: **We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

One: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

All: **In him was life, and the life was the light of humanity.**

† Please rise in body or in spirit



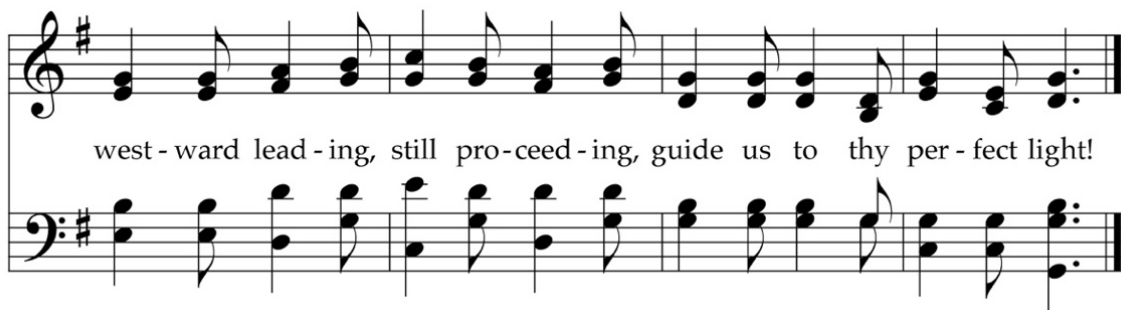
1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,  
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,  
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;  
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;  
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:



field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.  
 prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

*Refrain*


O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!



## UNISON PRAYER

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

**Light of Christ, awaken us this hour to the glory of your presence in our midst. Shine among us in such a way that the darkness without and within may be pushed back, such that we might truly see what is really real. Help us to recognize our sin for what it is. Enable us to behold the world as you created it to be, as you created us to be. Empower us to move from darkness to light, from sin to new life. May your light within us shine through into worship this day, as all days. This we pray in the name of the Word made flesh, the light which is the light of all people. Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

*Ephesians 1: 3-14*

The Message

Betsy Kreuter

How blessed is God! And what a blessing he is! He's the Father of our Master, Jesus Christ, and takes us to the high places of blessing in him. Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!) He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son.

Because of the sacrifice of the Messiah, his blood poured out on the altar of the Cross, we're a free people—free of penalties and punishments chalked up by all our misdeeds. And not just barely free, either. Abundantly free! He thought of everything, provided for everything we could possibly need, letting us in on the plans he took such delight in making. He set it all out before us in Christ, a long-range plan in which everything would be brought together and summed up in him, everything in deepest heaven, everything on planet earth.

It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.

It's in Christ that you, once you heard the truth and believed it (this Message of your salvation), found yourselves home free—signed, sealed, and delivered by the Holy Spirit. This down payment from God is the first installment on what's coming, a reminder that we'll get everything God has planned for us, a praising and glorious life.

## ANTHEM

*Shepherd's Farewell* (from *L'enfance du Christ*)

Hector Belioz (1803-1869)

The Chancel Choir

Steven Russell, director/organist

*Thou must leave Thy lowly dwelling, the humble crib, the stable bare.  
Babe, all mortal babes excelling, content our earthly lot to share.  
Loving father, Loving mother, shelter Thee with tender care!*

*Blessed Jesus, we implore Thee with humble love and holy fear.  
In the land that lies before Thee, forget not us who linger here!  
May the shepherd's lowly calling, ever to Thy heart be dear!*

*Blest are ye beyond all measure, thou happy father, mother mild!  
Guard ye well your heav'nly treasure, the Prince of Peace, the Holy Child!  
God go with you, God protect you, guide you safely through the wild!*

## SECOND LESSON

*John 1: 1-18*

Common English Bible

In the beginning was the Word  
and the Word was with God  
and the Word was God.  
The Word was with God in the beginning.  
Everything came into being through the Word,  
and without the Word  
nothing came into being.  
What came into being  
through the Word was life,  
and the life was the light for all people.  
The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

A man named John was sent from God. He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light.

The true light that shines on all people  
was coming into the world.  
The light was in the world,  
and the world came into being through the light,  
but the world didn't recognize the light.  
The light came to his own people,  
and his own people didn't welcome him.  
But those who did welcome him,  
those who believed in his name,  
he authorized to become God's children,


born not from blood  
nor from human desire or passion,  
but born from God.  
The Word became flesh  
and made his home among us.  
We have seen his glory,  
glory like that of a father's only son,  
full of grace and truth.

John testified about him, crying out, "This is the one of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater than me because he existed before me.'"

From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace;  
as the Law was given through Moses,  
so grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ.  
No one has ever seen God.  
God the only Son,  
who is at the Father's side,  
has made God known.

**MESSAGE**

*A Matter Of Perspective*  
Reverend Patrick Collins




1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;  
 2 An - gels sang a - bout his birth; wise men sought and found him;  
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;



there he lay, the un - de - filed, to the world a strang - er.  
 heav-en's star shone bright-ly forth, glo - ry all a - round him.  
 he is still the un - de - filed, but no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Sav - ior?  
 Shep-herds saw the won-drous sight, heard the an - gels sing - ing;  
 Son of God, of hum - ble birth, beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race who have found his fa - vor.  
 all the plains were lit that night; all the hills were ring - ing.  
 praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glo - ry!



## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

### THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

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.

### CALL TO OFFERING

Debbie Berner

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*New Year Carol*  
Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)  
The Chancel Choir

*Here we bring new water from the well so clear for to worship God with, this happy New Year  
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine; the seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.*

*Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe, open you the West Door, and turn the Old Year go.  
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine; the seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.*

*Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin, open you the East Door, and let the New Year in.  
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine; the seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.*

Anonymous

### †DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise \*him, all crea-tures

here be-low; praise \*him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise

Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

**Invitation**

**Prayer of Consecration**

**Words of Institution**

**Receiving the Bread and Cup**

*In the tradition of our church, let us partake of the bread (gluten-free) and the cup together,  
remembering our individual uniqueness in the eyes of God  
and our diversity and unity within the Body of Christ.*

*Those receiving communion are asked to come forward by the center aisle,  
receive the bread and an individual cup, return to your seat by the side aisle, where you will  
consume the bread and juice and put your mask back in place.*

## UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**The bread has been broken, the cup has been poured, the meal has been shared.  
Gracious God, we give thanks for bread for the journey, for your wisdom guiding  
us along the way. May there be friends to share the road as we dare to dream of  
creation renewed, and hope in the promise of justice for all. Amen.**

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

*Fine*

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth  
 3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

*to Refrain*

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

**BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

*Russian Sailor Dance*  
Emmett Collins, piano

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## **TODAY'S EVENTS**

### **COMMUNITY HOUR**

In light of the rapid spread of COVID-19,  
Community Hour is suspended until further notice.

Today is All-Ages worship in the Meetinghouse.  
Church School resumes next Sunday, January 9, 2022.



### **OFFERING ENVELOPES**

From the manufacturer/producer  
of our offering envelopes:

*Due to many circumstances outside of our control,  
we will be delayed shipping your box set envelope  
order in time for January 2022.*



Once they are delivered to us, they will be displayed for your retrieval.

***Steve Summerton***  
Director of Church Administration & Finance



## QUARTERLY MEETING

The Church Council invites you to our  
**Quarterly Meeting on  
Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
immediately following the 10 a.m. service in  
the Meetinghouse and via Zoom.

Hear updates from various committees  
including:

- Outreach with information on how we helped agencies in our community
- An update from the Preschool about enrollments
- Mid-year status of the budget
- See a photo montage of our membership in action and celebration

If there are topics on your mind, this is a great opportunity to bring them forward for discussion. We look forward to seeing you.

***Clem Lepoutre***

Council Chair, First Church



## NEW YEAR INVOLVEMENT

As 2022 spreads itself before you,  
why not take the opportunity  
to serve First Church  
as an usher, a scripture reader,  
or call to offering reader.

You can use our SignUpGenius page to sign  
yourself up through May, 2022. Simply head  
to our website [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org), scroll to the  
bottom under “Quick Links”, and select the  
way in which you’d like to serve!



## STEWARDSHIP 2022 – SO MUCH MORE THAN SUNDAY!



### YOUR GENEROSITY HAS AN IMPACT!

Annual pledging funds all the good works of our church. Pledges enable us to run the church, build faith formation, and take outreach to new heights. If you have pledged before, we are grateful for your participation. If you have not pledged, please join us this year and click [www.iamfirstchurch.com](http://www.iamfirstchurch.com) to make your pledge.

*The Stewardship Committee*



# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

108 Sound Beach Avenue Old Greenwich CT 06870  
203-637-1791 • [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org)

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

**Senior Pastor**  
**Associate Pastor**  
**Minister of Music**  
**Faith Formation and Education Coordinator**  
**Director of Church Administration and Finance**  
**Parish Nurse**  
**Administrative Assistant**  
**Director of Public Relations**  
**Livestream Director**  
**Audio Technician**  
**Database Administrative Assistant**  
**Sextons**  
**Sunday Sexton**  
**Director of Preschool**  
**Preschool Administrative Assistant**  
**Pastors Emeriti**

Reverend Patrick Collins  
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke  
Dr. Craig Scott Symons  
Rosemary Lamie  
Steve Summerton  
Susan Asselin, RN  
Wendy Spezzano  
Stephen Lucin  
Daniel Lepoutre  
Bob Small  
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Curtis Gay, Qasim Hussaini  
Julio Yika  
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