

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Sunday, January 9, 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.

---

## 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.

---

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

*Prelude In E Minor*

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

## †CALL TO WORSHIP

One: When we pass through the waters,

All: **God is there with us.**

One: When we suffer and feel hopeless,

All: **God is there with us.**

One: When we are joyful and celebratory,

All: **God is there with us.**

One: Whether we feel triumphant or defeated,

All: **God is there with us, always.**

One: Come, let us worship together with Emmanuel, God with us.

## †HYMN

*Take Me To The Water*

Tune: Take me to the water

1 Take me to the wa - ter. Take me to the wa -  
2 I love Je - sus. I love Je -  
3 He's my Sav - ior. He's my Sav -  
4 Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah. Glo - ry hal - le - lu -

ter. Take me to the wa - ter to be bap - tized.  
sus. I love Je - sus, yes, I do.  
ior. He's my Sav - ior, yes, he is.  
jah. Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah to be bap - tized.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

## UNISON PRAYER

Most wonderful God, foolish and flawed though we are, we too delight in your beloved Son. As in his name we gather in the house of many praises, may the heavens be opened for us, that we may catch a glimpse of that light and love that transforms our common days with a beauty not of our making. Through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen!

*(Children will leave for Church School)*

## RESPONSE

This Little Light Of Mine

*This little light of mine - I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine - I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine - I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine*

## FIRST LESSON

*Isaiah 43: 1-7*  
New International Version  
Joe McBride

But now, this is what the Lord says—  
he who created you, Jacob,  
he who formed you, Israel:  
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters,  
I will be with you;  
and when you pass through the rivers,  
they will not sweep over you.  
When you walk through the fire,  
you will not be burned;  
the flames will not set you ablaze.  
For I am the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;  
I give Egypt for your ransom,  
Cush and Seba in your stead.  
Since you are precious and honored in my sight,  
and because I love you,  
I will give people in exchange for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.  
Do not be afraid, for I am with you;  
I will bring your children from the east

and gather you from the west.  
I will say to the north, 'Give them up!'  
and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.'  
Bring my sons from afar  
and my daughters from the ends of the earth—  
everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made."

## ANTHEM

*Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day*  
Richard Shephard (1949 - 2021)  
The Chancel Choir

*Tomorrow shall be my dancing day, I would my true love did so chance  
to see the legend of my play, to call my true love to my dance;*

*Chorus*  
*Sing, O my love, this have I done for my true love.*

*Then was I born of a virgin pure, of her I took fleshly substance.  
Thus was I knit to man's nature, to call my true love to the dance.*

*In a manger laid and wrapped I was, so very poor; this was my chance,  
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass, to call my true love to my dance.*

*Then afterwards baptized I was; The Holy Ghost on me did glance,  
My Father's voice heard from above, to call my true love to my dance.*

## SECOND LESSON

*Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22*  
Common English Bible

The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ. John replied to them all, "I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I'm not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can't be put out." With many other words John appealed to them, proclaiming good news to the people.

When everyone was being baptized, Jesus also was baptized. While he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit came down on him in bodily form like a dove. And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."

## MESSAGE

*Believe*  
Reverend Patrick Collins





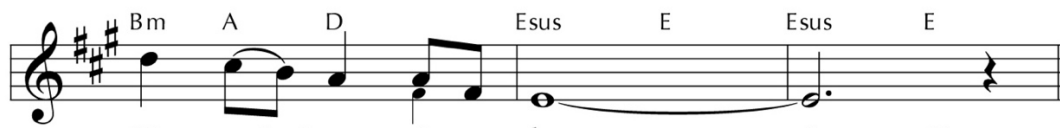
1 "I will come to you in the si - lence;  
 2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less;  
 3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,  
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom; I



I will lift you from all your fear.  
 I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the  
 heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.  
 am the peace the world can - not give.



You will hear my voice; I claim you as my choice. Be  
 shad - ows of the night, I will be your light.  
 All the blind will see; the lame will all run free, and  
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here. (to stanza 2)  
 Come and rest in me. (to Refrain)  
 all will know my name. (to Refrain)  
 up, now walk and live! (to Refrain)



Do not be a - fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine."

4 "I

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### 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

Andrea Woodman

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Down To The River To Pray*

Arr. Robert E. Lee (b. 1951)

The Chancel Choir

### †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

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis-mayed,  
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,  
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,  
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!  
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;  
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;  
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,  
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,  
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign  
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.  
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.  
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.  
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."



## BENEDICTION

## CHORAL RESPONSE

## POSTLUDE

*Fugue In E Minor*  
J. S. Bach

*All hymns reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-726454. All rights reserved.*

## TODAY'S EVENTS

### COMMUNITY HOUR

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

## CHURCH SCHOOL

We will have church school today, although we must be mindful of the current COVID environment and family preferences. It is our plan to accommodate children both in person and on Zoom. So we will set up the Lounge as a one room schoolhouse and have one Zoom link for those at home. Looking forward to being together.



## 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 TODAY**  
**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



## A CHANGE IN RADIO BROADCAST

At First Church we seek to ensure that our church and community members feel connected and informed about our many ministries in the best manner possible. As of January 1, 2022, we no longer broadcast our Sunday morning worship services on WGCH.

Our livestream will continue, and to supplement the small number of church members who aren't comfortable with the new live streaming technology, we are adding a phone audio streaming service option. Church members can sign up to receive a phone call at the start of worship to hear a live audio broadcast from the Meetinghouse. Or if you prefer to call on your own, the phone number to access audio via phone is 833-318-3375.



## 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*

### RECEPTION TO HONOR BOB SMALL – SPACE LIMITED!

All are invited to join us as Reverend Tony Bolton and the First Congregational Church of Greenwich honor Robert Small with the **Tony B'er of the Year Award**. Please RSVP using the link below, and plan to join us Tuesday, January 25th from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm at First Church for a small reception and gathering in Bob's honor.

The event will be available live on the First Church YouTube page. Due to COVID, in-person reservations will be limited to 30, so RSVP early. Click on the link below to reserve your spot!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090845adaa2baaf85-tony>

# 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

Sue Wilder

Curtis Gay, Qasim Hussaini

Julio Yika

Jennifer DiCarlo

Melanie Garnett

Reverend Dr. Thomas L. Stiers - Reverend Sally Colegrove



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
a just world for all