

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER
Sunday May 15, 2022



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.

MASK UPDATE

All gatherings at the church are now mask optional.
The offices are open by appointment only during business hours.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Patrick Collins

PRELUDE

Meditation on “Breathe On Me, Breath Of God”

John Barr (b. 1938)

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, let us worship God who is creating a new heaven and a new earth. Today is a new day, a fresh start, and a day of new beginnings.

All: **Come, let us worship God who creates peace out of chaos, calm out of anxiety, and hope out of despair. Even when we are depressed, we trust God is with us.**

One: Come, let us praise God who chooses to be among us, one of us, a Disabled and Neurodiverse God dwelling among us living with mental health challenges, substance use disorders, brain disorders, and neurodiversity.

All: **Come, let us praise God who says to each one of us, “no matter who we are or what medications we take or our diagnoses or where we are on life’s journey: I will be your God.”**

One: Come, let us give thanks to God who promises to wipe away every tear from our eyes.

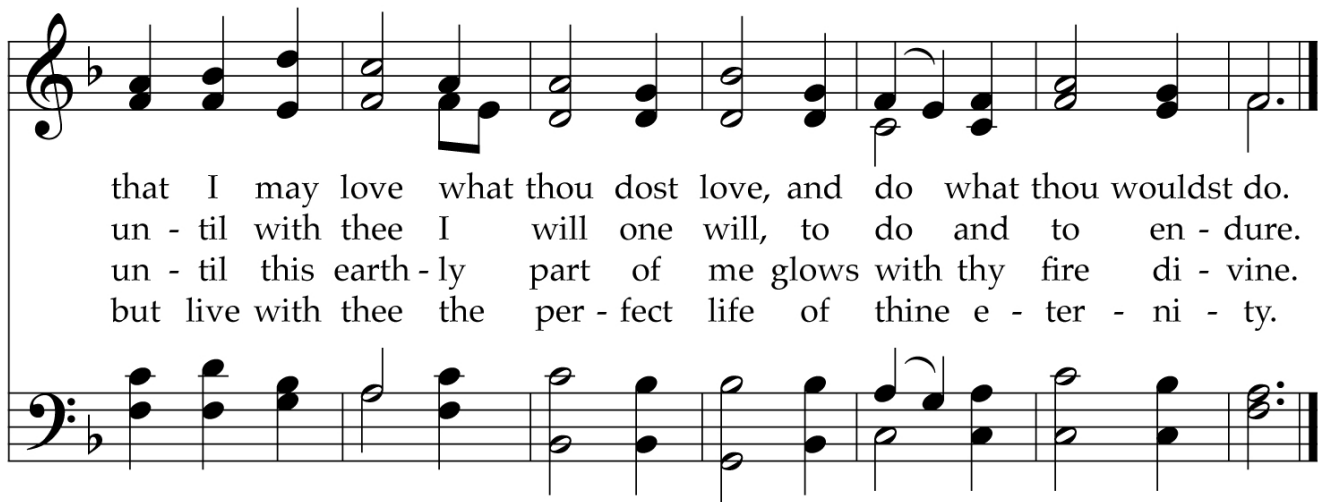
All: **Come, let us give thanks to God who loves us so much that death, mourning, crying, and pain cannot stop God from loving us. This is our greatest hope: we are held in God’s love.**

One: Come, let us rejoice, for God, the Alpha and Omega, is making all things new!

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund from
UCC Mental Health Network



1 Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life a - new,
 2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
 3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
 4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,



that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
 un - til with thee I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
 un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
 but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

GATHERING PRAYER (in unison)

O God, come into our place of worship this day and enliven us. Come into each heart, each story, each prayer, each song, each life here today so that we may live and love with purpose, courage, and beauty. Give us hearts and minds, we pray, to be open to human vulnerability, to listen to each other with patience and thoughtful attention and support. Let us have grace for differences in our embodied experience, to resist what excludes and diminishes, and to dismantle what acts as barriers to flourishing together in love and justice. O God, help us to trust your Spirit's work to make us whole, together in relationships of mutuality and partnership. Gather us together now to be your people in the world after. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Adapted from Dr. Tom Reynolds
 from *UCC Mental Health Network*

CHILDREN'S STORY

"The End Is Just The Beginning"

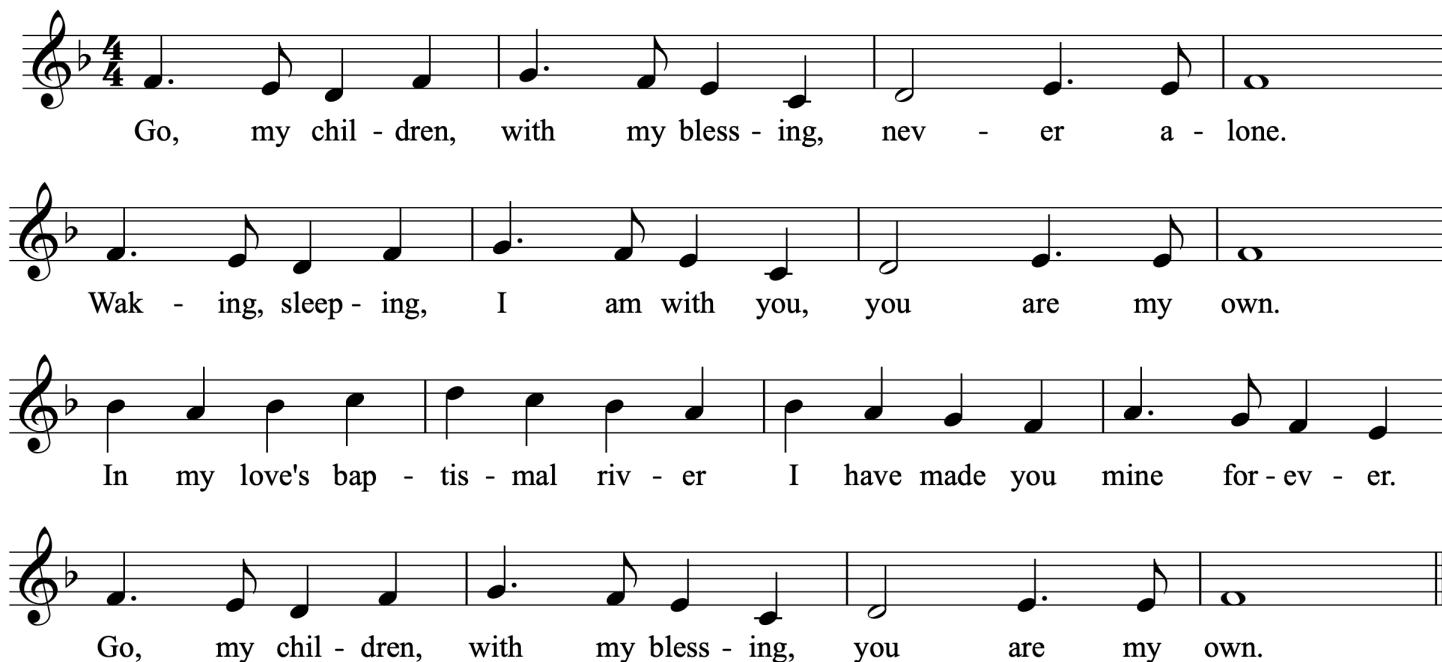
Written by Mike Bender, Illustrated by Diana Mayo,

Read by Cassandra Hartley

(During the sung response, children are dismissed for Church School)

RESPONSE

Go, My Children, With My Blessing



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.

In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.

LITANY OF NAMING

Carol Woodman

- One: On this Mental Health Sunday, we join in this Litany of Naming.
- All: **As a congregation we are glad to lift up our voices and our spirits to break the silence that often happens when we are confronted with mental illness.**
- One: As a faith community, we name the gifts and the often-unnamed experiences which come to those who live with a mental illness such as major depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorder, schizophrenia, substance use, addiction, historic and generational trauma, racial trauma, grief and eating disorder.
- We name:
- All: **The Hope which upholds our spirit through honest sharing;**
- One: The Pain when people turn away because of fear;
- All: **The Courage to speak in a safe place the way that Jesus spoke truth with love;**
- One: The Strength from being with others who listen compassionately;
- All: **The Isolation that comes when no one knows what to say;**
- One: The Realization that mental illnesses and brain disorders can be managed;
- All: **The Exhaustion that comes with living with a mental illness as well as for those who are caregivers;**

One: The Welcome of mental health as part of our church's ministry and outreach;
All: **The Wisdom that comes when we become educated about mental health;**
One: The Spirituality that comes when we walk alongside those who show both resilience and vulnerability in their lives affected by mental illness;
All: **We receive these gifts that we have named, those which are welcomed and those that are challenges. We come before you, our God, knowing we are not alone and that You will show us a way to be and live. In the name of Jesus, we pray, Amen.**

ANTHEM

Restore My Soul
Robert Powell (b. 1932)
The Chancel Choir
Carolyn Paulus, conductor

*Restore my soul, O Lord, And heal my heart's distress.
O cleanse me from my weariness, And bring my spirit rest.
Restore my joy, O Lord, My heart is standing still.
O touch me, reach my emptiness, Retrieve my broken will.
O God, who sees beyond our sight, who hears our every prayer,
Remake our foolish human faith, For always you are there.
Accept my life, O Lord, My heart: flawed, frail, and spent,
Requires the comfort of thy love to mend life's discontents.*

Beverly Easterling

SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 1: 3-8
Common English Bible

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed! On account of his vast mercy, he has given us new birth. You have been born anew into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. You have a pure and enduring inheritance that cannot perish—an inheritance that is presently kept safe in heaven for you. Through his faithfulness, you are guarded by God's power so that you can receive the salvation he is ready to reveal in the last time.

You now rejoice in this hope, even if it's necessary for you to be distressed for a short time by various trials. This is necessary so that your faith may be found genuine. (Your faith is more valuable than gold, which will be destroyed even though it is itself tested by fire.) Your genuine faith will result in praise, glory, and honor for you when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you've never seen him, you love him. Even though you don't see him now, you trust him and so rejoice with a glorious joy that is too much for words.

MESSAGE

Four More Years!
Jon Hunt



1 You are be - fore me, Lord, you are be - hind,
 2 Then from your Spir - it where, Lord, shall I go;
 3 If I should take my flight in - to the dawn,
 4 If I should say, "Let dark - ness cov - er me,
 5 Search me, O God; search me and know my heart;



and o - ver me you have spread out your hand;
 and from your pres - ence where, Lord, shall I fly?
 if I should dwell on o - cean's far - thest shore,
 and I shall hide with - in the veil of night,"
 try me, O God; my mind and spir - it try;



such knowl - edge is too won - der - ful for me,
 If I as - cend to heav - en you are there,
 your might - y hand will rest up - on me still,
 sure - ly the dark - ness is not dark to you:
 keep me from an - y path that gives you pain,



too high to grasp, too great to un - der - stand.
 and still are with me if in hell I lie.
 and your right hand will guard me ev - er - more.
 the night is as the day, the dark - ness light.
 and lead me in the ev - er - last - ing way.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

CALL TO OFFERING

ANTHEM

What A Friend
Arr. Mark Hayes (b. 1953)
The Chancel Choir
Carol Woodman, soprano

DOXOLOGY



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise God, all crea-tures



high and low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise



God, in Je - sus ful - ly known: Cre - a - tor, Word, and Spir - it



one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

1 *Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!
오 신 실 하 신 주 오 신 실 하 신 주



Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.
날 마 다 자 비 를 베 푸 시 며



All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.
일 용 할 모 든 것 내 려 주 시 니



Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!
오 신 실 하 신 주 나 의 구 주

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Voluntary
Jeremiah Clarke (c.1674-1707)

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Bringing our message this morning is First Church member Jon Hunt. Jon is an organist and a singer and, for fifteen years, he was the December holiday pianist at the Empire State Building. Among Jon's accomplishments are: visiting all fifty states, being a contestant on "Jeopardy!", and keeping a daily diary for over fifty-five years.

TODAY'S EVENTS

COMMUNITY HOUR

Join us for Community Hour
following worship this morning!

Children will begin in worship today and go to Church School after the Children's Message.

LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday, May 21 is the rescheduled opportunity to do our Annual Spring Planting Project at Pilgrim Towers. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Refreshments will be served. This is an intergenerational event; everyone is welcome!



THE RUMMAGE ROOM

This week they are seeking men's suits and ties, ladies handbags, and cotton sweaters. Donation drop-off times are Monday – Thursday 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Last Call to Register for Women's Fellowship Annual Meeting/Luncheon!

Join the women of First Church
for our *Annual Meeting Luncheon* on
Wednesday, May 18th at 11:30am
in the auditorium.

We will give an overview of the year,
elect officers for the coming year and vote on allocations
to charities for 2022.

The \$15 ticket includes a catered lunch by Happiness Is . . .
and speakers from two of the agencies that will receive
grants from us this year.

Advance registration and payment are REQUIRED.

Car Westbrook will be at Community Hour this Sunday
to accept checks and registrations.

You can also register by emailing:
carwestbrook@optimum.net

Your check for \$15 should be made out to:
Women's Fellowship FCCOG and mailed to the church
(108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, CT 06870)
or delivered to the church office. If the office is locked,
you can leave your check in the plastic bin outside the
office entry doors. The deadline for registration and
payment is Sunday, May 15th.

FLOWER MINISTRY

Volunteers are needed for the rewarding task of repurposing our Sunday flowers. Occasionally, for Sunday worship services, there are flowers decorating the Chancel. After the service, the flowers are broken down into smaller bouquets and delivered to church members and friends who are experiencing an illness or loss, or perhaps a joyous milestone. Church staff provide the volunteers with the names of suggested recipients. Volunteers can sign up for one week at a time, with no long-term commitment. If you'd like to be part of our volunteer pool, please contact Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse at susana@fccog.org.



YOUNG ARTISTS PHILHARMONIC CONCERT THIS AFTERNOON, SUNDAY MAY 15 5 P.M.

The Young Artists Philharmonic, which rehearses in our building, is presenting their **Spring Concert at 5 p.m. this afternoon** in the Meetinghouse. They have graciously extended an invitation to our members to attend the concert for free. Simply state you are a church member and enjoy the performance!

GREENWICH *a cappella*

Greenwich a capella will be presenting their Spring Showcase on **Sunday, May 22, at 4 p.m.** This group also rehearses in our building and will be featuring the professional a capella group **Backtrack**. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased by clicking [THIS LINK](#) For more information, head to www.greenwichacapella.com



SAVE THE DATES!

NEXT WEEK - MAY 22 - MUSIC SUNDAY

Join us on **Sunday, May 22**, for the return of this annual tradition at First Church. Selections by Cherub, Children's, Chancel, and Silverthorn Handchime choirs will highlight this special service. The Chancel Choir will be featuring *Mass in G Major* by Franz Schubert, complete with string quartet and organ accompaniment. Following the service, our Community Hour will be held in the Memory Garden with strawberries, croissants, and whipped cream for all! Take this opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors - what better way to introduce them to First Church than with the talents of our members on this special day of music!



JUNE 3 -19 - ARPEGGIO MUSIC FESTIVAL

Arpeggio is an ambitious new music festival spanning three weekends in June 2022. Based at First Congregational Church of Greenwich, its inaugural theme is "100 Years of American Music." Nine concerts will feature a breadth of performers and genres. There is truly something for everyone!

The festival kicks off its opening weekend, June 3, 4, 5 and features ensembles, a different one each day.

On Friday, June 3 at 7 p.m.

The Deming String Quartet, based in Connecticut, plays the much-loved Adagio for Strings by Samuel Barber; works by Thelonius Monk, George Gershwin and film composer Bernard Hermann; and two works by Connecticut composers Charles Ives and Larry Deming.

On Saturday, June 4 at 7 p.m.,

The Chamberlain Brass Quintet

performs works by Leonard Bernstein. Aaron Copland, Billy Strayhorn and others.

And on Sunday, June 5 at 2 p.m., Continuo Winds,

a Connecticut-based woodwind quintet, plays works by William Grant Still, one of America's great early Black composers; Gunther Schuller; Bernstein and Copland.

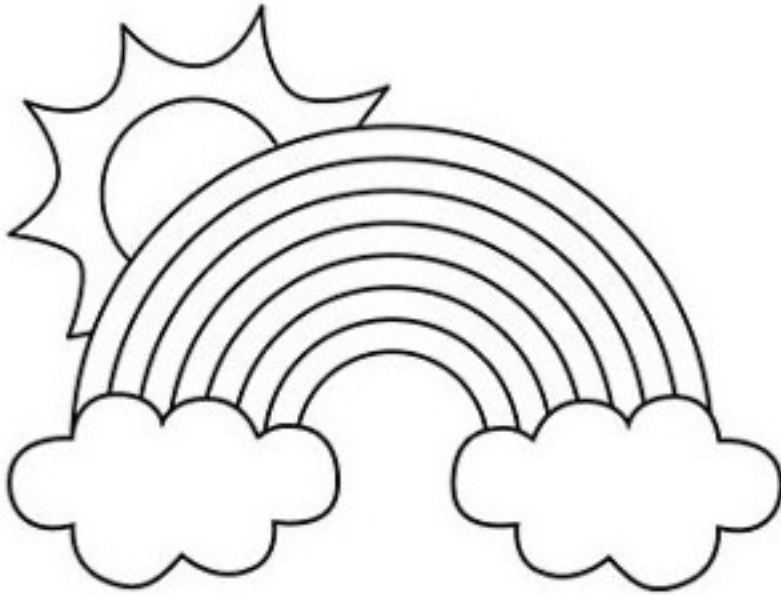
JUNE 5 – 10 A.M – CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

JUNE 12 – 10 A.M. – CELEBRATION SUNDAY FOR CHURCH SCHOOL

JUNE 26 – 8 A.M. – BEACH SERVICES BEGIN AT GREENWICH POINT

JUNE 26 – 11 A.M. – ANNUAL MEETING FOLLOWING 10 A.M. WORSHIP

COLORING PAGE



God is always with me.

"I am with you always, to the very end of the age." - Matthew 28:20, NIV



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

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203-637-1791 • 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
Parish Nurse
Church Office Coordinator
Financial Administrator
Director of Public Relations
Livestream Director
Audio Technician
Database Administrative Assistant
Facilities Manager
Sextons
Sunday Sexton
Director of Preschool
Pastors Emeriti

Reverend Patrick Collins
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke
Dr. Craig Scott Symons
Rosemary Lamie
Susan Asselin, RN
Wendy Spezzano
Greg Girolamo
Stephen Lucin
Daniel Lepoutre
Bob Small
Sue Wilder
Enkel Mari
Curtis Gay, Qasim Hussaini
Julio Yika
Jennifer DiCarlo
Reverend Dr. Thomas L. Stiers - Reverend Sally Colegrove



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all