

**NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**Sunday, August 7, 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.

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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.



## SUPPORTING FIRST CHURCH

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



## MASK GUIDELINES

All gatherings at the church are mask optional.

The offices are open by appointment only during business hours.

# FAITH FIRST. LOVE ALWAYS.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Patrick Collins

### PRELUDE

*Andante*

Richard Lloyd (1933-2021)

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

### †CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather together to worship, knowing that God is already here among us;

**All: knowing that there is nothing that separates us from the presence of our Lord.**

One: Wherever we are, wherever we go,

**All: God is near.**

One: So let us enter into this service of worship with confidence and hope,

**All: knowing that God is already with us, and that God stands eager to meet us and bless us with God's love.**

### †HYMN

*God, Who Stretched The Spangled Heavens*

Tune: Holy Manna



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi -  
2 Proud - ly rise our mod - ern cit - ies, state - ly  
3 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the  
4 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it



nite in time and place, flung the suns in burn - ing  
build - ings row on row. Yet their win - dows, blank, un -  
child - hood of our race; known the ec - sta - sy of  
chal - lenge us a - new, chil - dren of cre - a - tive



ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space,  
feel - ing, stare on can - yoned streets be - low,  
wing - ing through un - trav - eled realms of space;  
pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - oring you.



we, your chil - dren in your like - ness, share in - ven - tive  
where the lone - ly drift un - no - ticed in the cit - y's  
probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield - ing un - i -  
May our dreams prove rich with prom - ise, each en - deav - or



powers with you. Great Cre - a - tor, still cre -  
ebb and flow, lost to pur - pose and to  
mag - ined power, fac - ing us with life's de -  
well be - gun. Great Cre - a - tor, give us



at - ing, show us what we yet may do.  
mean - ing, scarce - ly car - ing where they go.  
struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.  
guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

## PRAYER (in Unison)

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.  
We come convinced of many things but trusting very few.

Holy God of limitless surprises, meet us here in this place as we touch that which  
we cannot see that which we have not dared to hope. In your holy and many  
names, we pray, Amen.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*(Children return to their seats during the singing of the response)*

## 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.

## FIRST LESSON

*Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16*  
New International Version  
Barbara Norrgard

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.

By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

## ANTHEM

*God Of All Creation*  
David Kelley  
The Summer Choir

*God of all creation, for whom the church, in liturgy and song,  
has borne faithful witness through the centuries; let us be your instruments of praise,  
that in us may be found that new dimension of sound  
which tunes our souls and bodies to the infinite beauty of your truth  
and the profound glory of your eternal light.*

Gordon Giles

## SECOND LESSON

*Luke 12: 32-40*  
Common English Bible

“Don’t be afraid, little flock, because your Father delights in giving you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to those in need. Make for yourselves wallets that don’t wear out—a treasure in heaven that never runs out. No thief comes near there, and no moth destroys. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be too.

“Be dressed for service and keep your lamps lit. Be like people waiting for their master to come home from a wedding celebration, who can immediately open the door for him when he arrives and knocks on the door. Happy are those servants whom the master finds waiting up when he arrives. I assure you that, when he arrives, he will dress himself to serve, seat them at the table as honored guests, and wait on them. Happy are those whom he finds alert, even if he comes at midnight or just before dawn. But know this, if the homeowner had known what time the thief was coming, he wouldn’t have allowed his home to be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Human One is coming at a time when you don’t expect him.”

## MESSAGE

*At The Heart Of It All*  
Reverend Patrick Collins

## †HYMN

## *We Walk By Faith*

Tune: Dunlap's Creek

1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with  
2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor  
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and  
4 And when our life of faith is done, in

gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as  
fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise  
may our faith a - bound to call on you when  
realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you

none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."  
we re - joice and cry, "My Lord and God!"  
you are near and seek where you are found.  
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

## 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

Andrea Woodman

## ORGAN OFFERTORY

*Venite*

Norman Warren

## †DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures  
here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## COMMUNION

**Invitation**

**Words of Institution**

**Communion Prayer**

**Taking of Elements**

*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.*

## †HYMN

## *In The Bulb There Is A Flower*

Tune: Promise



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;  
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;  
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!  
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.  
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,  
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

## BENEDICTION

## CHORAL RESPONSE

## POSTLUDE

*Pesante e Maestoso*

Andrew Fletcher

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***Directly following the service, one of our pastors will remain in the Chapel to be available to anyone who has a pastoral care concern.***

Join us for Community Hour in the back of the Meetinghouse following worship this morning, where our hosts for the month of August are members of the Church Council.

Individually wrapped snacks and coffee or tea are served where you can greet each other and continue sharing God's love in an informal atmosphere.

## COMMUNITY HOUR

### MEETINGHOUSE FLOWERS

Flowers in the Meetinghouse on Sunday mornings are something we all enjoy. These flowers not only beautify our worship space, but are given to honor very special people or occasions in our lives. In addition to remembering a loved one, you can give flowers in celebration of:

- Marriages
- Anniversaries
- Baptisms
- Birthdays
- To say "congratulations" or "thank you."

Donors can be an individual or a group.



Consider a Sunday this year when you would like to thank God and honor a special person or memorable moment in your life with a gift of flowers. Mail or drop off your check for \$100 to the Church Office (payable to First Congregational Church) with detailed information on who or what you would like recognized and we'll take care of the rest! Following worship, your flowers can be taken home or will be reorganized into smaller arrangements and distributed to homebound or ill members who would enjoy a token of beauty in their homes. Deadline for donations is *at least 2 weeks in advance of the Sunday* to guarantee floral arrangements.



### SUMMER BEACH SERVICES SUNDAY AT 8 A.M.

Please join us at Tod's/Greenwich Point for early morning worship. You don't have to be a Greenwich resident to attend!

Tell the person at the park entrance that you're there for First Congregational worship and you'll get in.

## THE RUMMAGE ROOM

The Rummage Room will be **closed beginning Monday, August 8th** for summer break and restocking.

**The Grand Reopening will be Tuesday, September 6th at 11:00 a.m.**

Please do not leave any donations during this time.  
We look forward to accepting donations once the shop reopens.



# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

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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**

**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

Susan Asselin, RN

Wendy Spezzano

Greg Girolamo

Stephen Lucin

Daniel Lepoutre

Bob Small

Sue Wilder

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Julio Yika

Jennifer DiCarlo

Reverend Dr. Thomas L. Stiers - Reverend Sally Colegrove



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OF CHRIST  
a just world for all