

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
GAUDETE (Joy) SUNDAY

Sunday, December 11, 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.



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.



Faith First-Love Always

ORDER OF WORSHIP

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Patrick Collin

*Please sign and pass the red Fellowship Pad found at the end of your row near the center aisle,
then pass it back to the center aisle, noting the names of those worshipping near you
so you may greet them at the end of worship.*

PRELUDE

Prelude On "Greensleeves"
Richard Purvis (1913-1994)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Our Advent waiting continues, O God,
All: **For your servant, your chosen one,**
One: In whom your soul delights,
All: **On whom you have poured your spirit.**
One: We cry out for justice,
All: **And he will bring it forth.**
One: He will come in gentleness,
All: **Yet he will never be crushed.**
One: He will establish your justice,
All: **And teach all the world your holy ways.**
One: So we wait in hope, O God,
All: **For your servant, your chosen one.**
One: In whom your soul delights,
All: **And on whom who have poured your spirit.**

CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

107 (The Pilgrim Hymnal)
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Tune: Picardy

† Please rise in body or in spirit

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Liz, Kellan, and Peter O'Connor

- One: With Isaiah we anticipate God's doing a new thing in Jesus Christ, to proclaim healing and liberation to all who suffer.
- All: **We light this first candle as a beacon of hope for those who wait.**
- One: We light this second candle as the fire of courage that we might bear witness to your justice.
- All: **We light this third candle as a light to the nations, a promise of redemption for the whole human family.**

MUSIC DURING CANDLE LIGHTING

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

Arr. James Kimball

The Palmer Handbell Choir

PRAYER (in unison)

God of grace and mercy, With the prophet Isaiah, we long for your justice to be done. As we wait for your promised savior, give us hope that all will be made right in you. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(During the response, the children will depart for Church School.)

RESPONSE

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 42: 1-9
Common English Bible
Pat Larrabee

But here is my servant, the one I uphold;
my chosen, who brings me delight.
I've put my spirit upon him;
he will bring justice to the nations.
He won't cry out or shout aloud
or make his voice heard in public.
He won't break a bruised reed;
he won't extinguish a faint wick,
but he will surely bring justice.

He won't be extinguished or broken
until he has established justice in the land.
The coastlands await his teaching.

God the Lord says—
the one who created the heavens,
the one who stretched them out,
the one who spread out the earth and its offspring,
the one who gave breath to its people
and life to those who walk on it—
I, the Lord, have called you for a good reason.
I will grasp your hand and guard you,
and give you as a covenant to the people,
as a light to the nations,
to open blind eyes, to lead the prisoners from prison,
and those who sit in darkness from the dungeon.

I am the Lord;
that is my name;
I don't hand out my glory to others
or my praise to idols.
The things announced in the past—look—they've already happened,
but I'm declaring new things.
Before they even appear,
I tell you about them.

SOLO

The Huron Carol ('Twas in the moon of wintertime)
Arr. Brenda Portman (b. 1980)
Daniel Young, tenor

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 12: 15-21
New International Version

Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. A large crowd followed him, and he healed all who were ill. He warned them not to tell others about him. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

“Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations.
He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets.
A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out,
till he has brought justice through to victory. In his name the nations will put their hope.”

MESSAGE

Called And Chosen
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

MULTIMEDIA REFLECTION

Running For The Light
Work of the People

†HYMN

For Everyone Born
Verses 1, 4, 5
Tune: For everyone born



1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,
to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
for young and for old, the right to be - long,
for just and un - just, a new way to live,
for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

Refrain

and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and
joy, com-pas - sion and peace: yes,
God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,
jus-tice and joy!

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

Mario Lotufo

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

And The Glory Of The Lord
G. F. Handel (1685-1759)
The Chancel Choir

†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.

†HYMN

117 (Pilgrim Hymnal)
Angels, From The Realms Of Glory
Tune: Regent Square

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Fanfare On "The Sussex Carol"
Don Michael Dicie (1941-2022)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

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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 Auditorium following worship this morning where you can greet each other and have a cup of coffee and some light snacks.

COMMUNITY HOUR



THIS SUNDAY - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY ~ December 11 11:30 a.m.

Pilgrim Towers trip to deliver Christmas Gifts and make a craft with the residents. All FCCOG members and families welcome.

December 18: Regular Church School

It's time to sign up to be in the traditional "Once in Royal David's City" Christmas pageant at 3 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Email CydneyV@fccog.org or Donna.hascher@gmail.com and let us know if you want to be part of the cast. Children can be an angel, shepherd, king, an animal in the stable, or the little drummer boy.

December 25 and January 1: No Church School



***TODAY**
Sunday, December 11
5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Annual Christmas Party*

Celebrate the holidays with your
First Church family!

Join us for fun,
generous hors d' oeuvres, and a full bar

ANNUAL GIVING UPDATE

We are at 152 pledges to date - \$480,809 in pledged amounts. If you haven't made your pledge, please consider supporting the wonderful programs at First Church and go to www.iamfirstchurch.com



WHAT IS ADVENT? LIKE, REALLY.

Advent Faith Formation Series

Wednesday, December 14

Wednesday, December 21

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

First Church Lounge



Each week we will watch a brief video on advent featuring some of the preeminent voices in progressive Christianity like Father Richard Rohr, Nadia Bolz-Weber, Brene Brown, and Parker Palmer. Come as you are and join us as we discuss what advent really means for our lives today.



CHRISTMAS EVE GIFTS FOR *COVENANT TO CARE FOR CHILDREN OF CT* (formerly known as white gifts)

White Gifts are clothing, toys, books, or other useful items that, for many years, have been offered on Christmas Eve. Typically wrapped in white paper, they would give the illusion of snow under the trees in the Meetinghouse.

This year we will be collecting the gifts, however, they do not need to be wrapped. All gifts will be donated to Covenant To Care for Children in Hartford, CT, who distributes them throughout the year to children who are in the statewide foster care system.

Bring them to any of the Christmas Eve services and place them under the tree in the narthex before entering the sanctuary.

THE RUMMAGE ROOM

The Rummage will close for a holiday break starting Tuesday December 20th and reopen on Monday January 2nd. Please do not leave any donations during this time. Thank you!





THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS THAT WORKED ON THE 56TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE AND WREATH SALE!

Thank you to everyone for all your efforts in planning, creating, setting up, advertising, selling, decorating, loading, and promoting! This event would not have come together without all your efforts, talents, and generosity. You are the BEST volunteers!

Merry Christmas!

----- ✂ cut here ✂ -----

Christmas Meetinghouse Flowers

The Deacons invite contributions for decorations for the Meetinghouse this Christmas. Any amount is welcome. Please deliver the completed form with your check to the church office on or before Monday, December 19, 2022. Thank you!

Please check one of these choices: ☐ In Memory of ☐ In Honor of

Name: _____

By: _____

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ made out to First Congregational Church of Greenwich ("Flowers" in the memo)

Please print legibly to minimize spelling errors.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

- **10 a.m. Children's Service** especially designed for younger children and their families and music by The Cherub Choir.
- **3 p.m. Family Service** with "Once in Royal David's City" pageant and music by The Celebration Singers.
- **5 p.m. Community Candlelight Carol Sing** on the front lawn of the church.
- **6 p.m. Festival Carol Service** with candlelight and music by a brass quintet and The Chancel Choir.
- **9 p.m. Candlelight Service with Communion** and music by The Genesis/Alumni Choir and harp.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 10 A.M.

Breakfast Church in the Auditorium

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

108 Sound Beach Avenue Old Greenwich CT 06870

203-637-1791 • 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

Livestream Director

Audio Technician

Database Administrative Assistant

Interim Facility Manager

Sextons

Director of Preschool

Assistant Director of Preschool

Pastors Emeriti

Reverend Patrick Collins

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Susan Asselin, RN

Wendy Spezzano

Greg Girolamo

Daniel Lepoutre

Bob Small

Sue Wilder

Julio Yika

Curtis Gay, Qasim Hussaini

Jennifer DiCarlo

Kayla Vozzella

Reverend Dr. Thomas L. Stiers - Reverend Sally Colegrove



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all