



SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2023
EPIPHANY SUNDAY
TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING



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 Cydney Van Dyke

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.

If you are the person on the center aisle, please remove the completed sheet and place it in the plate during the offering.

PRELUDE

Variation 9 on “Puer Nobis Nascitur”

Christa Rakich (b. 1950)

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP

Reverend Patrick Collins

One: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

All: **The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!**

One: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

All: **The peoples who live in the shadows see a glorious light!**

One: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

All: **The Christ who embodies the Word unveils the hidden plan, making us joint heirs of the promise of salvation through the gospel!**

One: O come, let us worship the Lord,

All: **for God has done wondrous things!**

CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

We Three Kings

143 Pilgrim Hymnal

† Please rise in body or in spirit

PRAYER (in unison)

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'S MESSAGE

(During the response, the children will depart for Church School, or return to their seats.)

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

Matthew 2:1-12
New International Version
Joe McBride

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

ANTHEM

Now Greet The Swiftly Changing Year
Alfred Fedak (b. 1953)
The Chancel Choir

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 3: 13-17
New International Version

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

MESSAGE

A New Day Dawning
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

O Little Town Of Bethlehem
134 Pilgrim Hymnal

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.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

CALL TO OFFERING

Lynn Hawxhurst

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Christ Is The World's True Light
Walter Kendell Stanton (1891-1978)
The Chancel Choir

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

What Star Is This, With Beams so Bright
144 Pilgrim Hymnal

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Puer Nobis Nascitur
A. P. F. Boëly (1785-1858)

† 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
oooooooo
HOUR



Church School is back in action for 2023, starting with -

- Regular Church School on January 8th
- One Room Schoolhouse on January 15th
- Regular Church School January 22nd and 29th

Consider trying out teaching Church School in the new year!
All lessons and materials are provided, and no experience needed.
Your heart for our children to know God's love is more than enough.
Email Pastor Cydney (cydneyv@fccog.org) for any questions or thoughts.



MAKE THAT LAST HOLIDAY TASK EASIER..... SCHEDULE TREE RECYCLING PICK UP NOW!

Scan the QR code and select your pickup date
(January 8th, 14th/15th). Your tree will be
collected from your driveway
(no tinsel or wreaths please) and recycled at Greenwich Point.
Donation amount is \$35.



All funds raised from recycling pick up will go to support the 2023 mission trip to the Yakima Reservation in Washington state. You may leave your donation with the tree, send a check to FCCOG ("recycling" in the memo line) or we can call you for a credit card number.

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY

Beginning January 23rd, we're adding a new current events-based Bible Study opportunity! Using the Wired Word's curriculum, each week we'll discuss a topic or headline from the week's news and ask ourselves how our faith applies through guided questions and discussion. Learn more at thewiredword.com



There are two opportunities every week, starting January 23rd:

- Join Pastor Cydney for dinner on Mondays at 6:30pm at OG Social Club (48 Sound Beach Ave, Old Greenwich). Dinner optional.
- Join Pastor Patrick for lunch on Thursdays at Noon at FCCOG and on Zoom. BYO lunch optional.

Learn how the Bible is alive today and find hope no matter what's going on in the world.

THE 2023 "SOUPER BOWL" SUNDAY SOUP & CHILI SALE

Calling all cooks! It's time to show-off your soup-making skills once again by volunteering to make and donate a quart (or quarts) of soup or chili to benefit the FCCOG Women's Fellowship!

The sale will take place in the auditorium on Sunday, February 12, 2023 from 11 am to 1 pm. Quarts of homemade soup and chili will be sold for \$10 each.

Please sign up to donate after church in the auditorium beginning Sunday, January 15th and continuing for the next several Sundays. Restaurant-style food containers will be available when you sign up. You may also sign up in the church office. This annual event has proven to be easy, inexpensive and popular for both those who love to cook and those who love to eat! This is the only Women's Fellowship fundraiser for the year. Please contact Sue Wilder for more information.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE - AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A SHORT-TERM, VERY FULFILLING EXPERIENCE

The Allocations Committee is looking for a few women who would like to join us in participating in the Grant Review Process for the 2022-2023 Cycle. The Committee distributes the proceeds from the Rummage Room to deserving local programs.

DETAILS

- The Committee begins meeting Monday, January 16th at 7 pm and meets every other Monday through the month of March (6 meetings total).
- Meetings will be via ZOOM
- Members review the grant applications (using easy to use tools) to make recommendations to the Committee
- The Chair presents the recommendations to the Women's Fellowship Board in April for promotion to the Women's Fellowship for a Vote in May.

BENEFITS

- A short-term commitment
- An opportunity to learn about the important work being done in our communities
- A sense of fulfillment, as the funds (>\$100,000) are granted to local organizations*

Please contact Sheila Bennett at sheilabennettms@gmail.com if you would like to participate.

***Last year we distributed \$142,145 to 41 organizations**



THE RUMMAGE ROOM

Shopping hours are Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., with the same hours for donation drop off.
Needs this week are:
Women's blouses
Table linens

APRIL SERVICE-LEARNING TRIP

Everyone ages 12 and up is welcome to join us on a special cultural immersion trip to the Yakima Reservation in Washington state. We will spend a week working with S.L.A.M. Trips, which is a native run organization.

More information is available [here](#) on their website. [Click here](#) to sign up, or contact the church office to reserve a spot as space is limited. Cost, schedule, and details will be available soon.



KidStuff
By Clergy Stuff
Narrative Lectionary Kid's Bulletin

January 8, 2023
Matthew 3:1-17

Jesus' Baptism

John the Baptist baptized people in the Jordan River. They said they were sorry for the bad things they had done and then went down under the water—Splash!—and came up new.


One day, Jesus asked John to baptize him. John's mouth dropped open. "What?!?" he cried. "You should be the one to baptize me!"

Jesus shook his head. "This is the way God wants it to be."

John scratched his chin. "Well...okay."

John dunked Jesus under the water—Splash! When Jesus came back up, suddenly God's Holy Spirit, in the shape of a dove, came down and landed on Jesus! Then God's voice echoed all around them. "This is my Son, and I love him."

John could hardly believe what he saw and heard! Something amazing was happening in the world, and it was all about this Jesus!

**REMEMBER THIS**
BAPTISM
A ceremony where we are washed with water and God's word and welcomed into God's family.

CHERUB CHOIR CELEBRATION SINGERS REHEARSALS



Cherub Choir (gr K-2)
Silver Door (Lower Level)
11:15-11:45 a.m.
Carol Woodman, director

Celebration Singers
(gr 3-6): Music Room (3rd Floor)
11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Craig Symons, director



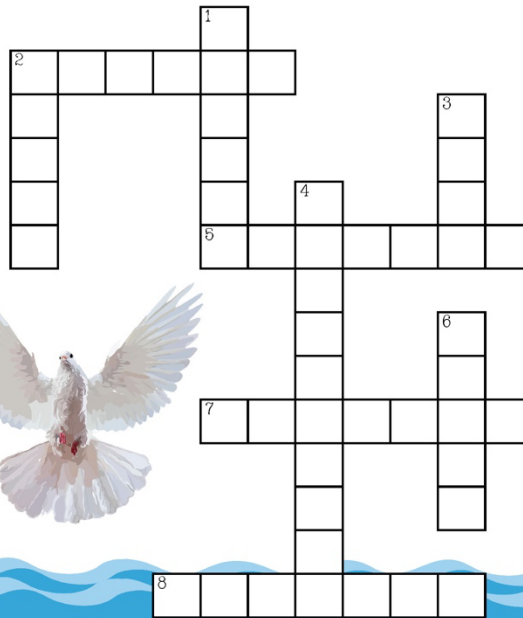
CROSSWORD

Use the story on the first page to help you fill in the crossword puzzle.

John the **[7 Across]**
baptized people in the
[2 Across] River.

One day, **[2 Down]**
asked John to
[8 Across] him. John's
mouth **[5 Across]** open.
"You should baptize me!"

But John finally agreed.
When Jesus came up
from the river, God's
[4 Down] came down
like a **[3 Down]** and
[1 Down] on Jesus!
Then God's said, "This is
[6 Down (2 words)],
and I love him."



Did You Know?

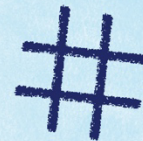
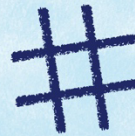
The Jordan River is 156 miles long. It flows through the Sea of Galilee where Jesus' friends did lots of fishing.

Some people still get baptized in the Jordan River today!



TRY IT AT HOME!

Ask a grown-up to tell you about your baptism or their own baptism. What was it like? What did it mean to them?



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Draw & Color

Draw a picture of your baptism
(the one you had or the one you'd like to have).

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

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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
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UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all