



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2023
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
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 worshiping 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

Humming Song
Robert Schumann
Amadeus Angerer, piano

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: What mysteries there are in God's world!

All: **We, so sophisticated, stand in awe at the wonders of the natural world.**

One: We look at the tiniest of seeds and wonder what will happen

All: **From that small seed will grow a large shrub.**

One: Although we consider our gifts to be small and insignificant,

All: **God will use our gifts in miraculous ways. Praise the God of small seeds and mighty power. Amen.**

CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

Praise, My Soul, The King Of Heaven
16 Pilgrim Hymnal

† Please rise in body or in spirit

PRAYER (in unison)

Gracious God, your Son spoke to us in parables about the nature of your reign. Give us ears to hear and hearts to understand that we might be instruments of your peace and justice. Amen.

ANTHEM

Blessing
Lee Dengler
The Genesis Choir
Daniel Young, director

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

(During the response, the children will 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

Psalm 84: 1-7
New Revised Standard Version
Lynn Hawxhurst

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
My soul longs, indeed it faints,
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.
Even the sparrow finds a home
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise. Selah
Happy are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.
As they go through the valley of Baca,
they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.
They go from strength to strength;
the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

ANTHEM

And The Father Will Dance
Mark Hayes (b. 1953)
The Chancel Choir

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 13: 24-43
New Revised Standard Version

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

"I will open my mouth to speak in parables;
I will proclaim what has been hidden since the foundation."

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

MESSAGE

Amongst The Weeds
Reverend Patrick Collins

ANTHEM

Land Of Rest
Anne Krentz Organ
The Silverthorn Handchimes
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, piano

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

Mary Fike

OFFERTORY SOLO

How Great Thou Art
Dan Forrest (b. 1978)
Thomas Woodman, bass

†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.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord
269 Pilgrim Hymnal

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Sonata #6 in C Minor
Giovanni Battista Pescetti
Lucas Angerer, piano

† 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



TODAY, February 12 - Regular Church School
February 19 - One Room Schoolhouse
February 26 - Regular Church School
March 5 - Regular Church School

ANNUAL GIVING UPDATE

We are currently at \$576,046 of our \$724,000 goal. This puts us at 79% of our financial goal. Even better, we are now just under \$150,000. With 196 pledges, are at 63% of our pledger goal, with the average pledge being \$2,900. If you've made your pledge, we are grateful for your support. Now that the holidays are past, maybe some have put it off until the new year. Please continue to support the ministries of First Church with your annual pledge.



THE 2023 “SOUPER BOWL” SUNDAY SOUP & CHILI SALE IS TODAY!



The Women's Fellowship fundraiser takes place TODAY February 12 in the auditorium during Community Hour. Quarts of home soup and chili will be sold for \$10 each. Please pay with cash or check.

There is a varied selection of items guaranteed to delight your palate!

CHERUB, CELEBRATION SINGERS, & GENESIS CHOIR 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

Genesis Choir (gr 7-12 and early college ages)

Choir Room (3rd floor)

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Danny Young, director

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY

We now have a 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:

- 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.



Zoom Link for Thursday session only:

Topic: Wired Word Bible Study

Time: Jan 26, 2023 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88200872002?pwd=R2d5ZmcwV1hYMkxDQWU2WWYwaEZlZz09>

Meeting ID: 882 0087 2002

Passcode: FCCOG

One tap mobile

+13092053325,,88200872002# US

+13126266799,,88200872002# US (Chicago)

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

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:

Children's clothing and shoes

Men's shoes



We have 50 percent off everything this week and next week – PLUS Wednesday February 8th and Thursday February 9th are our famous BAG SALES DAYS!

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES



ASH WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 22

From 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., we hold **Ashes to Go**, where our pastors bless you and place ashes on your forehead in the parking lot while you remain in your car.

2023 LENTEN ORGAN RECITALS WEDNESDAYS AT 12:15 P.M.

March 1 – Craig Scott Symons

First Congregational Church of Greenwich

March 8 – Liya Petrides

St. Catherine Church, Riverside

March 15 – David Johnson

St. Paul's Episcopal, Riverside

March 22 – Leslie Smith

Round Hill Community Church, Greenwich

March 29 – Craig Scott Symons

First Congregational Church of Greenwich



WORSHIP SERIES & STUDY SESSIONS

Every Sunday during the season of Lent we will put the music of U2 in conversation with the Bible as we do the inner work and relationship building needed to create a faithful community.

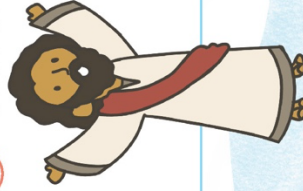
Love U2 and want to go deeper? Join us each Wednesday in March at 6:00 pm in the lounge for a faithful conversation about the weekly music selection.

WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the words from the story on the first page. Then unscramble the letters in the orange circles to solve the puzzle! (Answer on back page)

____ [SSJUE] TOLD EVERYONE STORIES THAT
OFTEN STARTED LIKE THIS: "THE ____ [GRINE]
OF GOD IS LIKE..."

THEN JESUS COMPARED IT TO SOMETHING PEOPLE
MIGHT ____ [USNTDAENRD], LIKE:
A ____ [DRATSUM] SEED, OR A WOMAN
ADDING ____ [STAYE] TO ____ [DABER]
OR A MAN BUYING A ____ [EVLABLUA]
____ [APLER].



THESE STORIES OF JESUS WERE CALLED:

_____.



TRY IT AT HOME!

Make up a parable. Compare God's reign to something in your life.
How is God's love like a teddy bear, for example? Or a video game?

Did You Know?

- There are 37 different parables that Jesus tells in the Bible.
- Sometimes Jesus had to explain to his friends what the parables meant.



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
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UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all