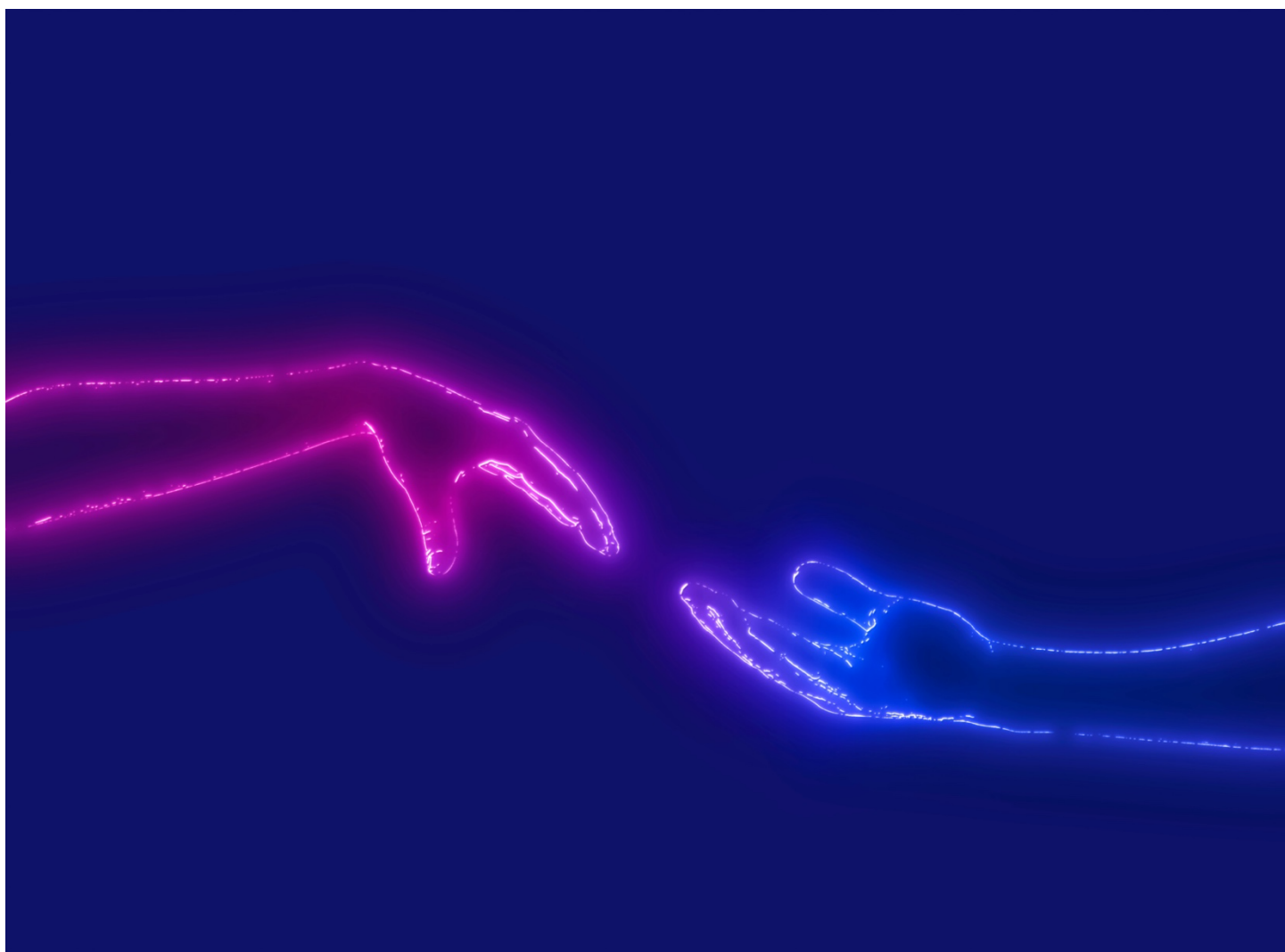




SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING



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

Prelude & Fughetta

Johann Kaspar Ferdinand Fischer (1656-1746)

Steven Russell, guest organist/director

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: People of God, open your eyes! Look around!

All: **The presence of our Lord Jesus Christ is here; among us and within us.**

One: God's salvation is close at hand; nearer than you know.

All: **We open our hearts and minds to the Spirit and worship God together!**

CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days
153 Pilgrim Hymnal

† Please rise in body or in spirit

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

O Lord of mercy, who resists the proud and receives the humble, we ask for honesty to accept responsibility for our errors and to understand the reasons for our failures. We ask for the courage to make our confessions, to seek your forgiveness for our offenses, to make restitutions where possible, and to extend the same forgiveness to others that you extend to us. May we have the grace to submit our lives you. For all the ways we fall short, O Lord, forgive us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

God makes peace within us. Let us claim it. God makes peace between us. Let us share it.

One: God has received us, pardoned us and loved us; let us forgive each other in love and share the peace of Christ with a hand to hand, eye to eye, and heart to heart greeting.
May the peace of Christ be with all of you.

C: And also with you.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

RESPONSE

Go, My Children

“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 1: 12- 20
New Revised Standard Version
Pat Larrabee

When you come to appear before me,
who asked this from your hand?
Trample my courts no more!
Bringing offerings is futile;
incense is an abomination to me.
New moon and Sabbath and calling of convocation—
I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity.
Your new moons and your appointed festivals
my soul hates;
they have become a burden to me;
I am weary of bearing them.
When you stretch out your hands,
I will hide my eyes from you;
even though you make many prayers,
I will not listen;
your hands are full of blood.
Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;
remove your evil deeds
from before my eyes;
cease to do evil;
learn to do good;

seek justice;
rescue the oppressed;
defend the orphan;
plead for the widow.
Come now, let us argue it out,
says the Lord:
If your sins are like scarlet,
will they become like snow?
If they are red like crimson,
will they become like wool?
If you are willing and obedient,
you shall eat the good of the land,
but if you refuse and rebel,
you shall be devoured by the sword,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

ANTHEM

If We Believe That Jesus Died
John Goss (1800-1890)
The Chancel Choir

*If we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.
For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord,
shall not prevent them which are asleep.
For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel,
and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:
Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds,
to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.
Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

1 Thessalonians 4:14,18

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 18: 21-35
New Revised Standard Version

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the

lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

MESSAGE

The Gift Of Forgiveness
Reverend Patrick Collins

SOLO

Sometimes You Can't Make It On Your Own
U2 - Bono
Daniel Young, tenor

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

Henry Hull

ORGAN OFFERTORY

Prelude
J. K. F. Fischer

†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 *In The Cross Of Christ I Glory*

193 New Century Hymnal

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Prelude, Fugue, & Finale
J. K. F. Fischer

† Please rise in body or in spirit

All hymns reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-726454. All rights reserved.

*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



February 26 - Regular Church School
March 5 - All-Ages Worship
March 12 - Regular Church School



GENESIS CHOIR REHEARSAL

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

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

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? Starting Wednesday, March 1, join us each Wednesday in March at 6:00 pm in the lounge for a faithful conversation about the weekly music selection.

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:

Easter items - Decorations, Easter baskets, Rabbits



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Take some time this week to answer and reflect on the following questions

Is there someone in your life you need to forgive?

Do you find it difficult to receive forgiveness?

Have you had an experience where offering forgiveness allowed you to see things from a new perspective?

How could you practice forgiveness on a daily basis?

Do you believe God freely offers forgiveness for our shortcomings?

JOURNALING SPACE

Use this space to write freely your thoughts and reflections on forgiveness



KidStuff

By Clergy Stuff

Narrative Lectionary Kid's Bulletin



February 26, 2023

Matthew 18:15-35

Forgiveness

Jesus' friend, Peter, had an important question for Jesus.

"Jesus, if one of our friends does something I don't like, do I have to forgive him?" he asked.

"Of course," Jesus said.

Peter frowned. "But what if he does it more than once?"

"Forgive him more than once," Jesus answered.

"But how many times do I have to forgive him? As many as seven times?"

Jesus sighed. "Oh, Peter, Peter. Not just seven times. Or seventeen, or twenty-seven. Even as many as seventy-seven times. And more!"

Peter was surprised. "Really? Wow. That's a lot."

"No one is perfect, Peter. God wants us to forgive our sisters and brothers from our hearts so we can all live together in peace."



REMEMBER THIS

FORGIVE

To let go of anger about something someone has done to harm us.

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