



SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023
THIRD 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 Patrick Collins

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

Three Little Birds

The Cherub Choir

Carol Woodman, director; Andrea Woodman, Lynn Hawxhurst, assistants

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come!

All: Come and worship,

One: We are invited to the banquet.

All: Let us clothe ourselves in love.

One: Come and feast at God's table.

All: We will honor God's gracious invitation.

CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

Who Trusts In God, A Strong Abode
355 Pilgrim Hymnal

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison – remain standing)

God of endless invitation, we come into your presence just as we are, seeking your voice. Our days and weeks are filled with opportunities to choose lesser ways than how you invite us to be. In moments when we choose anger, help us to say yes to your gentleness and grace. When we are tempted to use hurtful language against another, help us to say yes to your patience. When we fail to see you in the face of a brother or sister living on the street or the coworker struggling to do their part or the child crying out for attention, help us to say yes to your compassion. Give us the humility of Jesus so we will clothe ourselves with your love. Amen.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

†ASSURANCE OF GRACE

- One: Hear this Good News! In Christ there is room for all and through Christ, all is forgiven.
- All: **By the love of God, what we have confessed is restored. All that we have brought before God is made new and we are again whole. Thanks be to God!**

†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.
- All: **And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(During the response, the children will go to 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

Colossians 3: 1, 5-14
The Message
Barbara Norrgard

So if you’re serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides.

Your old life is dead. Your new life, which is your real life—even though invisible to spectators—is with Christ in God.

And that means killing off everything connected with that way of death: sexual promiscuity, impurity, lust, doing whatever you feel like whenever you feel like it, and grabbing whatever attracts your fancy. That’s a life shaped by things and feelings instead of by God. It’s because of this kind of thing that God is about to explode in anger. It wasn’t long ago that you were doing all that stuff and not knowing any better. But you know better now, so make sure it’s all gone for good: bad temper, irritability, meanness, profanity.

Don't lie to one another. You're done with that old life. It's like a filthy set of ill-fitting clothes you've stripped off and put in the fire. Now you're dressed in a new wardrobe. Every item of your new way of life is custom-made by the Creator, with his label on it. All the old fashions are now obsolete. Words like Jewish and non-Jewish, religious and irreligious, insider and outsider, uncivilized and uncouth, slave and free, mean nothing. From now on everyone is defined by Christ, everyone is included in Christ.

So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.

ANTHEM

Let Nothing Ever Grieve Thee
Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
The Chancel Choir

*Let nothing ever grieve thee, distress thee, nor fret thee; heed God's good will, my soul, be still, compose thee.
Why brood all day in sorrow? Tomorrow will bring thee God's help benign and grace sublime in mercy.
Be true in all endeavor, and ever do bravely; what God decrees brings joy and peace, he'll stay thee. Amen.*

Paul Fleming (1866)

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 22: 1-14
Common English Bible

Jesus responded by speaking again in parables: "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding party for his son. He sent his servants to call those invited to the wedding party. But they didn't want to come. Again he sent other servants and said to them, 'Tell those who have been invited, "Look, the meal is all prepared. I've butchered the oxen and the fattened cattle. Now everything's ready. Come to the wedding party!"' But they paid no attention and went away—some to their fields, others to their businesses. The rest of them grabbed his servants, abused them, and killed them.

"The king was angry. He sent his soldiers to destroy those murderers and set their city on fire. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding party is prepared, but those who were invited weren't worthy. Therefore, go to the roads on the edge of town and invite everyone you find to the wedding party.'

"Then those servants went to the roads and gathered everyone they found, both evil and good. The wedding party was full of guests. Now when the king came in and saw the guests, he spotted a man who wasn't wearing wedding clothes. He said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' But he was speechless. Then the king said to his servants, 'Tie his

hands and feet and throw him out into the farthest darkness. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.'

"Many people are invited, but few people are chosen."

MESSAGE

Worn With Love
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

SOLO

With Or Without You
U2 /Bono
Danny 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

Andrea Woodman

ORGAN OFFERTORY

Prelude In G Minor
Clara Schumann (1819-1896)

†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

Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing
63 Pilgrim Hymnal

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Postlude In F Minor
Louise Adolpha Le Beau (1850-1927)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

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



3/12 Regular Church School
3/19 Regular Church School
3/26 Regular Church School
4/2 Palm Sunday All Ages in Worship, Peace Pole Dedication to Rosemary Lamie right after the service.
4/8 Easter Saturday- Egg dying and Egg Hunt
4/9 Easter Services - All ages in worship



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

PRAYER BOOK HOW-TO

Prayer is one of the strongest binders of community. Prayers written in the Prayer Book in the Narthex (back of the church) will be lifted during the worship service.

WHO: Yourself, Others (with their permission), Situations/People/Places

- 1) If praying for others, please only use their name if they have given you permission to do so.
- 2) Use first names only. Or pseudonyms like "Mr./Mrs. M." or simply "for a friend..."
(Don't worry, God knows who the prayer is about).

WHAT: Joys, Concerns, Thanksgivings, Hopes, anything!

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

ALL RECITALS are held in the Meetinghouse.



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.

You can also join us on Zoom for these sessions!

Topic: Me, We & U2 Study Sessions

Time: 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88348274912?pwd=Tk1MY3RrUUN0bkQ0QkJRaXJJeTB0QT09 >

Meeting ID: 883 4827 4912

Passcode: FCCOG

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:

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 882 0087 2002

Passcode: FCCOG

One tap mobile

+13092053325,,88200872002# US

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
- Jewelry
- Lady's handbags
- Spring shoes



PARISH NURSE

Sue Asselin, RN, is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following today's worship service, in her office to the right of the Auditorium stage. During the week, she is available by appointment by calling 203-637-1791 ext. 821.

ANNUAL GIVING UPDATE



We are happy to report that we've crossed the 200-pledgor line with 201 pledges, for a total of \$582,491.04. We now stand at just over 80% of our goal and 64% of pledges.

If you've made your pledge, we are grateful for your support. Please continue to support the ministries of First Church with your annual pledge.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

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

What spiritual clothing are you wearing today?

If God's invitation is for all—good and bad—how does uniqueness or “being special” fit into the kin-dom of God?

In what ways do you think we should show up in the world that honors the intention of the inviter (God).

When have you felt excluded? What impact did it have on you? Did you resolve to do anything as a result? Was God a part of that resolution? Why or why not?

JOURNALING SPACE

Use this space to write freely your thoughts and reflections

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

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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

Administrative and Communications Colleague

Livestream Director

Audio Technician

Database Administrative Assistant

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

Carolyn Samuel

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