

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2023
FOURTH 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

Praise God, All You Christians

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We follow a God who calls us to take risks.

All: **Help us God of risk-taking!**

One: We follow a God who calls us to be “all in.”

All: **Help us God to be “all in.”**

One: We follow a God who calls us to be present.

All: **Be present with us in this time and place, oh God.**

CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

Where Cross The Crowded Ways Of Life

543 New Century Hymnal

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison – remain standing)

Merciful God, forgive us when we invest our energies into increasing our personal prosperity rather than enriching people's lives with the good news of Jesus Christ and when we squander our gifts by failing to use them to build people up. Forgive us when we conceal the wideness of your mercy by our lack of compassionate behavior. Forgive us when we fail to be adventurous in spreading the gospel around. Increase our capacity to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed even if this means taking risks and expending whatever energy we may have. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

† Please rise in body or in spirit

†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.**

†RESPONSE

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul.

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul.

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

Hebrews 11:1-9

Common English Bible

Patricia Mendelsohn

Faith is the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we don't see. The elders in the past were approved because they showed faith.

By faith we understand that the universe has been created by a word from God so that the visible came into existence from the invisible.

By faith Abel offered a better sacrifice to God than Cain, which showed that he was righteous, since God gave approval to him for his gift. Though he died, he's still speaking through faith.

By faith Enoch was taken up so that he didn't see death, and he wasn't found because God took him up. He was given approval for having pleased God before he was taken up. It's impossible to please God without faith because the one who draws near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards people who try to find him.

By faith Noah responded with godly fear when he was warned about events he hadn't seen yet. He built an ark to deliver his household. With his faith, he criticized the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes from faith.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was going to receive as an inheritance. He went out without knowing where he was going.

By faith he lived in the land he had been promised as a stranger. He lived in tents along with Isaac and Jacob, who were coheirs of the same promise. He was looking forward to a city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

ANTHEM

Lacrimosa (from *Requiem*)
W. A. Mozart (1833-1897)
The Chancel Choir

*Lacrimosa dies illa
Qua resurget ex favilla
Judicandus homo reus.
Huic ergo parce, Deus:
Pie Jesu Domine,
Dona eis requiem. Amen.*

*Full of tears will be that day
When from the ashes shall arise
The guilty man to be judged;
Therefore spare him, O God,
Merciful Lord Jesus,
Grant them eternal rest. Amen.*

12th century text

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 25: 14-30
New International Version

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!’

“The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

“Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

“So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

MESSAGE

Worth The Risk
Reverend Patrick Collins

SOLO

I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For
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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

My Song In The Night
Arlen Clarke (b. 1954)

*O Jesus, my Savior, my song in the night, come to us with thy tender love, my soul's delight.
Unto thee, O Lord, in affliction I call, my comfort by day, my Song in the Night.
O why should I wander a stranger from thee, or cry in the desert thy face to see?*

Anonymous

†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

Children Of God
533 New Century Hymnal

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

In Thee, Lord, Have I Put My Trust
J.S. Bach

† 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

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.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

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

4/16 One Room Schoolhouse - Lounge
(Public School Spring break)



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 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=R2d5ZmcwV1hYMkxDQWU2WWYwaEZXZz09>

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:

- Men's & Women's Shoes
- Ladies Handbags
- Jewelry



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

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

Where are you being called to take a risk in your life?

How can you shift your perspective to be more open to the journey of life?

How do you handle disappointments? How do you react when you don't get the result you expected?

JOURNALING SPACE

Use this space to write freely your thoughts and reflections

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 2, Palm Sunday 10 a.m.

Palm Procession and All-Ages Worship
Peace Pole Dedication to Rosemary Lamie right after the service.

Thursday, April 6, Maundy Thursday

6 p.m. Dinner/Communion in Auditorium
Soup, Mac and Cheese and Bread provided. Attendees to bring a side.
7 p.m. Service of Tenebrae with Washing of the Feet in Meetinghouse

Friday, April 7, Good Friday

Good Friday Vacation Bible School 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Greenwich YMCA
in conjunction with Second Congregational including feet-washing & swim at the
YMCA pool with gym inflatables & a pancake lunch!

K-Grade 5: \$20 Children under 5: must be accompanied by a guardian
Grades 6-12: welcome to attend as CITs and for High School service hours
RSVP by April 5 to Jenny@2cc.org

Annual Community Cross Walk 12 p.m.

First Church & Second Church members & friends gather to carry a large wooden cross to the beach. With each step of our journey we recall the passion of Jesus. The cross we carry to the beach is the same one we use for our annual Sunrise worship service at the beach.

Good Friday Service at Second Congregational Church 7 p.m.

The clergy and musicians at the First and Second Congregational churches are joining together to offer a meditative and thought-provoking service of word and reflection on this most somber of evenings.

Saturday, April 8 - Easter Egg Dying and Egg Hunt

10 a.m. Egg Dying – Daniels Center
Two Easter Egg Hunts on the church property:
10:30 a.m. 1st Egg Hunt
11:30 a.m. 2nd Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 9, Easter Sunday

6:15 a.m. Sunrise Service - Greenwich Point
9 a.m. & 11 a.m. Festival Easter Services - Meetinghouse

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
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



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OF CHRIST
a just world for all