



SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023
FIFTH 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 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

Come Sunday

Duke Ellington (1899-1974)

Carol Woodman, soprano

Alan Johnson, drums

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, pianist

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come, for God gathers us here, with that community called faith:

All: **where the hungry are served first, where the thirsty drink life's water.**

One: We come, for God welcomes us here into that home called grace:

All: **where the naked are clothed in robes of hope; where the stranger is embraced as the long-lost prodigal.**

One: We come, for God reunites us here, sisters and brothers in that family called love:

All: **where the imprisoned model justice, where the sick are cradled in God's peace.**

CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

Standing In The Need Of Prayer

519 New Century Hymnal

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison – remain standing)

God of the people, you have called us to walk humbly before you and to share in the struggle with the least of these, yet we have failed to live up to this call. Today, we come before you asking your Spirit to empower us to be agents of transformation for the world. Make us instruments from which all the oppressed can find the living waters of God, who calls us to live a life of service, of humility, and of reconciliation with you, with creation, and with the world. Amen.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

†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.

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

Ezekiel 34: 11-16

Common English Bible

Helen Ingraham

The Lord God proclaims: I myself will search for my flock and seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out the flock when some in the flock have been scattered, so will I seek out my flock. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered during the time of clouds and thick darkness. I will gather and lead them out from the countries and peoples, and I will bring them to their own fertile land. I will feed them on Israel's highlands, along the riverbeds, and in all the inhabited places. I will feed them in good pasture, and their sheepfold will be there, on Israel's lofty highlands. On Israel's highlands, they will lie down in a secure fold and feed on green pastures. I myself will feed my flock and make them lie down. This is what the Lord God says. I will seek out the lost, bring back the strays, bind up the wounded, and strengthen the weak. But the fat and the strong I will destroy, because I will tend my sheep with justice.

So the Lord God proclaims to them: I will judge between the fat and the lean sheep. You shove with shoulder and flank, and with your horns you ram all the weak sheep until you've scattered them outside. But I will rescue my flock so that they will never again be prey. I will even judge between the sheep! I will appoint for them a single shepherd, and he will feed them. My servant David will feed them. He will be their shepherd. I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David will be their prince. I, the Lord, have spoken.

ANTHEM

The Peace Of Christ
John Rutter (b. 1945)
The Chancel Choir

The peace of God which passeth all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost be amongst you and remain with you always. Amen.

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 25: 31-46
Common English Bible

“Now when the Human One comes in his majesty and all his angels are with him, he will sit on his majestic throne. All the nations will be gathered in front of him. He will separate them from each other, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right side. But the goats he will put on his left.

“Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who will receive good things from my Father. Inherit the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world began. I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.’

“Then those who are righteous will reply to him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’

“Then the king will reply to them, ‘I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.’

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Get away from me, you who will receive terrible things. Go into the unending fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels. I was hungry and you didn’t give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you didn’t give me anything to drink. I was a stranger and you didn’t welcome me. I was naked and you didn’t give me clothes to wear. I was sick and in prison, and you didn’t visit me.’

“Then they will reply, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and didn’t do anything to help you?’ Then he will answer, ‘I assure you that when you haven’t done it for one of the least of these, you haven’t done it for me.’ And they will go away into eternal punishment. But the righteous ones will go into eternal life.”

MESSAGE

Lead With Love
Reverend Patrick Collins

ANTHEM

MLK arr. Bob Chilcott
The Chancel Choir
Pride (In The Name Of Love)
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

Lynn Robertson

ORGAN OFFERTORY

Meditation
Brenda Portman (b. 1980)

†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

I'll Fly Away
595 New Century Hymnal

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Lobe Den Herren
Max Reger (1873-1916)

† 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



- 3/26 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)



NEW CROSSWALK LIGHTING

The town of Greenwich has installed new crosswalk lights in front of the church, going into Binney Park. Numerous accidents have happened at the crosswalk in the past, so please use this light system to cross Sound Beach Avenue safely.



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

FINAL LENTEN ORGAN RECITAL WEDNESDAY AT 12:15 P.M.

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.

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.

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



EASTER FLOWERS AND BRASS

The Deacons invite contributions for flowers & brass in the Meetinghouse this Easter.
You may give to either one or both. Any amount is welcome.

Please deliver this completed form with your check to the Church Office
(payable to *The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*)
on or before Wednesday, April 5 at 12 noon in order to be included in the bulletin listing.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Please accept my contribution to the (check one or both):

_____ Easter Flower Fund _____ Easter Brass

In MEMORY of:

In HONOR of:

By:

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____

(Please print names legibly to minimize spelling errors.)

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



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all