

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023  
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER  
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.

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## 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.*

### STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Philip Wentworth

### CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Judy Gordon

### PRELUDE

*This Is The Day*  
The Cherub Choir  
Micah Collins, piano  
Carol Woodman, director  
Andrea Woodman, ukulele  
Lynn Hawxhurst, assistant

### †CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God has made all things clean.

All: **Who are we to say otherwise?**

One: God calls us to accept all people as God's beloved children.

All: **Give us open minds and loving hearts, O God.**

### CHORAL INTROIT

### †HYMN

*Alleluia! Gracious Jesus*  
257 New Century Hymnal

### †PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison – remain standing)

God, Loving Creator, Son and Spirit, we come. Yet we know we come with doubts and fears. We know we come in ignorance. We know we have failed you, your creation and your people, in many ways. Trusting in your love, we turn again to you. As we open our hearts to your mercy and forgiveness, grant us your peace. Accept these prayers, accept our worship, accept us, through your love, 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 (remain standing)



## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*(During the response, the children will 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

*Psalm 29*

New Revised Standard Version

Betsy Kreuter

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.  
Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;  
worship the LORD in holy splendor.

The voice of the LORD is over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders,  
the LORD, over mighty waters.  
The voice of the LORD is powerful;  
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.



The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.  
He makes Lebanon skip like a calf  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.  
The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl  
and strips the forest bare,  
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.  
May the LORD give strength to his people!  
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

## ANTHEM

*Great And Marvelous Are Thy Works*  
Allen Orton Gibbs (1910-1996)  
The Chancel Choir

*Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; Just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.  
Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name.*

*For thou only art holy, for all nations shall come and worship before thee;  
for thy judgements have been revealed.*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

*Revelation 15:3b-4*

## SECOND LESSON

*Acts 10: 9 - 29*  
New Revised Standard Version

About noon the next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while it was being prepared he fell into a trance. He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners. In it were all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. Then he heard a voice saying, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean." The voice said to him again, a second time, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." This happened three times, and the thing was suddenly taken up to heaven.

Now while Peter was greatly puzzled about what to make of the vision that he had seen, suddenly the men sent by Cornelius appeared. They were asking for Simon's house and were standing by the gate. They called out to ask whether Simon, who was called Peter, was staying there. While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Look, three men are searching for you. Now get up, go down, and go with them without hesitation, for I have sent them." So Peter went down to the men and said, "I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for your coming?" They answered, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish people, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say." So Peter invited them in and gave them lodging.

The next day he got up and went with them, and some of the brothers and sisters from Joppa accompanied him. The following day they came to Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. On Peter's arrival, Cornelius met him and, falling at his feet, worshiped him. But Peter made him get up, saying, "Stand up; I am only a mortal." And as he talked with him, he went in and found that many had assembled, and he said to them, "You yourselves know that it is improper for a Jew to associate with or to visit an outsider, but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean. So when I was sent for, I came without objection. Now may I ask why you sent for me?"

## MESSAGE

*Disruption And Expansion*  
Reverend Patrick Collins

## †HYMN

*Joy Dawned Again On Easter Day*  
241 New Century Hymnal

## 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

Carol Woodman

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Lauda Anima*  
Mark Andrews (1875 - 1939)  
The Chancel Choir

*(Text to this anthem can be found in The Pilgrim Hymnal, #16)*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below: Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## †HYMN

*O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing*  
42 New Century Hymnal

## BENEDICTION

## CHORAL RESPONSE

## POSTLUDE

*Fugue (Mass of the Convents)*  
François Couperin (1668-1733)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

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*Great And Marvelous Are Thy Works* used with permission by St. James Music Press, license No. #3730.

*Directly following the service, one of our pastors will remain in the Chapel to be available to anyone who has a pastoral care concern.*

## COMMUNITY HOUR

Join us for Community Hour in the Auditorium following worship this morning where you can greet one another, have a cup of coffee, and some light snacks.



## BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING TODAY

Did you know that maintaining a healthy blood pressure is one key to preventing a stroke? Others include a healthy diet, regular exercise, and refraining from smoking. Learn more at [heart.org](http://heart.org) or [stroke.org](http://stroke.org).

Your 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.

## RISE AGAINST HUNGER PACKATHON SUNDAY APRIL 30



First Church will be underwriting the cost of the 20,000 meals.  
Please consider a donation toward this fundraising effort - every donation makes a difference! [You may donate here.](#) (Select Outreach as the donation category)



### **Come and Join Us!**

**Sunday April 30 at 10am**

**No need to register - families are welcome at First Congregational Church of Greenwich, 108 Sound Beach Ave, Old Greenwich**

**Questions? Call 203 637 1791**

**Sign up - The link is here. Or scan the QR code**



### **JOBS FOR ALL AGES!**

- Fun, music filled morning
- Families welcome!
- Bring friends who would like to see First Church in action!
- Come for an hour, or stay for two
- Community service hours available



## APRIL 30 WORSHIP

Next Sunday, April 30, we will gather as a congregation to put our faith life into action as we pack 20,000 meal kits for Rise Against Hunger, and our regular worship time will take a different form next Sunday. However, if you desire a regular worship experience, the Chancel Choir will be joining with the Chancel Choir at Second Congregational in their 10:30 a.m. service. All are welcome to attend worship at Second Congregational, 139 E. Putnam Avenue in central Greenwich.

## 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) 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).
- 2) If praying for others, please only use their name if they have given you permission to do so.

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

## CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

**April 23** - Regular Church School

**April 29** - Planting at Pilgrim Towers - all ages welcome

**May 7**

- All ages in Church (Communion)
- Bible Trivia Breakfast (9 a.m.)
- Communion Class (after worship) for 2nd Graders  
(and any 3rd graders who didn’t do it last year)

**May 14** - Regular Church School - Special Mother’s Day Craft

**May 21** - All ages in Church - Music Sunday

**May 28** - One Room Schoolhouse - Lounge (Memorial Day)



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Annual planting of herbs, vegetables, & flowers at Pilgrim Towers 25 Washington Court in Stamford on **Saturday, April 29th - drop in 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

All ages welcome! Lite lunch served; bring your own gloves and hand tools!



**TODAY at 3 P.M. - FINAL CONCERT OF THE SEASON**  
**Windward Blow! Orchestra Lumos Chamber Winds**  
**(formerly Stamford Symphony)**

**Tickets: \$35 available at the door or online**

Groove along to this rhythmic and spirited program that explores how the Orchestra's wind players pay homage to theatre, jazz, and living in the South. For more information and purchase tickets, visit <https://orchestralumos.org/windward-blow/>

Music by Ibert, Coleman, Hindemith, Ravel, and D'Rivera.

Elizabeth Mann, flute - Melanie Feld, oboe - Pavel Vinnitsky, clarinet  
Cynde Iverson, bassoon - Lawrence DiBello, horn

## **CHERUB & 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



## **50TH ANNIVERSARY WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP QUILT RAFFLE**

Raffle tickets for \$5 each will be on sale at community hour after church with cash or check. The handmade queen-size quilt looks like pinwheels and is inspired by a peachy batik fabric and shade of gray. Tickets can be purchased at the Rummage Room (M - Th 11 - 3) and the quilt can be seen in the window.

We will be selling tickets next Sunday after Rise Against Hunger service project. Proceeds go to charities that support women, children, and families both locally and nationally.

## 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:

- Barbies, dolls, action figures, doll clothes and accessories
- Doll houses and accessories
- Ladies Summer Handbags



## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL MEETING

Join the women of First Church for our annual meeting luncheon on **Wednesday, May 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Auditorium.** (Note - All women of First Church are automatically members of the Women's Fellowship.) We will give an overview of our year, elect officers for the coming year, and vote on allocations to charities for 2023.

The \$20 ticket includes a catered lunch and speakers from two of the agencies that will receive grants from us this year. Advance registration and payment are **REQUIRED**. Car Westbrook will be at Community Hour each of the next three Sundays to accept checks and registrations. Checks should be made out to: Women's Fellowship FCCOG. The deadline for registration and payment is Sunday, May 14th. Questions? Email [carwestbrook@optimum.net](mailto:carwestbrook@optimum.net)

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

What are the things in your life keeping you from considering changes and new ideas?

How can you be more open to the messages put before you about ways you need to change?

Did your thoughts on the apostle Peter change after hearing this story about him today?

# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

108 Sound Beach Avenue Old Greenwich CT 06870  
203-637-1791 • [www.fccog.org](http://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