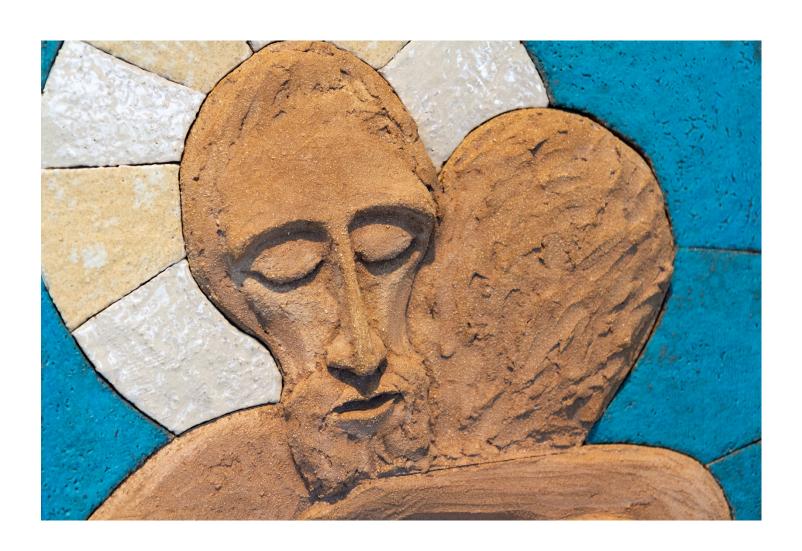


SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2023 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MOTHER'S DAY TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING



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 <u>HERE</u> to access the online giving webpage, or scan this QR code to donate.



Faith First-Love Always

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The flowers on the altar are given in loving memory of Dorothy Fisk by her family on the second anniversary of her death.

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.

KETTLE QUILTERS ANNOUNCEMENT

Hilary Lawrence

PRELUDE

Sursum Corda (Lift Up Your Hearts) John Ireland (1879-1962) Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, all that are weary, all that are carrying burdens so heavy

All: Jesus will give us rest

One: Come, take what Jesus has to offer: love, forgiveness, and grace

All: Christ will give us peace

One: Come, find rest, and learn from Jesus

All: For our Savior will give us rest in our souls

One: Come, let us worship our God

All: Let us follow our Savior, who leads us into life.

CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord 269 Pilgrim Hymnal

[†] Please rise in body or in spirit

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison – remain standing)

God, we confess that we don't always understand our own actions. We clearly know what is right, what you expect of us, but we don't always do it. We also clearly know what is wrong, the thoughts and actions that hurt others and offend you, but we do these things anyway. Forgive us God. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, set us free from the sin that controls us. Amen.

Moment of silence for personal reflection

†ASSURANCE OF GRACE

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

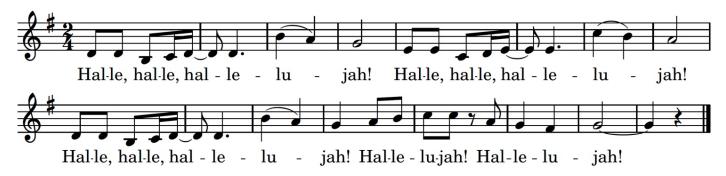
God makes peace within us. Let us claim it. God makes peace between us. Let us share it.

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 (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

Matthew 11: 25-30 New Revised Standard Version Lynn Robertson

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

ANTHEM

Hallelujah, Amen (from Judas Maccabeaus) Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) The Chancel Choir

Hallelujah, Amen, Amen, Hallelujah, Amen. O Judah, rejoice. Rejoice O Judah in songs divine With Cherubim and Seraphim harmonious join.

Thomas Morell (1746)

SECOND LESSON

Romans 3: 28-30 New Revised Standard Version

For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of gentiles also? Yes, of gentiles also, since God is one, and he will justify the circumcised on the ground of faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith.

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

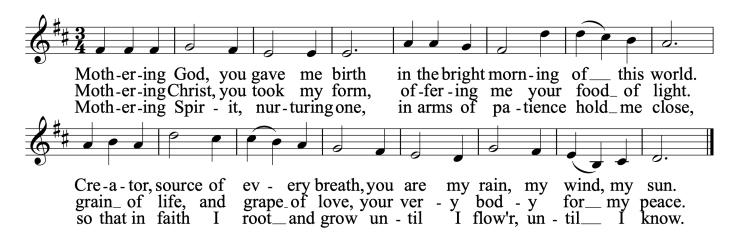
For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for

us. Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

MESSAGE

Love Poured Out Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN Mothering God



† Please rise in body or in spirit

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

True Light Keith Hampton (b. 1957) The Chancel Choir Carol Woodman, soprano

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. Almighty God is light. He lives in us as True Light. In the beginning out of the darkness God created True Light. He lives in us as True Light.

Almighty God is light. He lives in us as True Light.

Don't let the light that You've given me die, And don't desert my mind.

But let the one who serves You Praise You again and again. He lives in us as True Light.

You are the one who judges right from wrong. Your glory excites no envy, but let the one who serves You praise you again and again. He lives in us as True Light.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I want the world to know, God gave the world True Light.

Keith Hampton (2002)

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

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!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN Lord O

Lord Of All Hopefulness 217 Pilgrim Hymnal

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Postlude In F

Eric H. Thiman (1900-1975)

† 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 one another, have a cup of coffee, and some light snacks. Our hosts for the month of May are members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

as they conclude another church year.



IN THE COMING MONTH

MAY 21	Music Sunday is a celebration of the dedication of all involved in the
	First Church Music Ministry. Invite a friend!
JUNE 4	Confirmation Sunday is a day we welcome the newest members into the
	First Church family.
JUNE 11	Celebration Sunday is when we celebrate the Church School ministry

JUNE 25 First 8 a.m. Beach Service at Greenwich Point.

Annual Meeting following 10 a.m. worship in the Meetinghouse.



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 or 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.

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

May 14 - All ages in the lounge - special Mother's Day craft

May 21 - All ages in Church - Music Sunday

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

June 4 – Communion class for 2nd graders (and those who missed in the past) following worship.

June 11 - Celebration Sunday





NEW MEMBER CLASS

Are you interested in becoming a member of First Church? Would you like more information about what it means to become a member? Please plan on joining us in the lounge following worship on **Sunday, May 21st at 11:00 am.** Any questions, please contact Pastor Patrick.



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

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:

- Barbie items
- Men's suits
- Children's clothing





50TH ANNIVERSARY WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP OUILT RAFFLE - LAST CHANCE!

The 50th Annual Quilt from the Kettle Quilters - who is the winner? We will know next Wednesday! Buy your \$5 ticket today with cash or check (made out to Women's Fellowship, please) at Community Hour.

Tickets available at Rummage Room during regular hours this week (M - Th 11 - 3); quilt on view near the front window until Thursday. Tickets on sale through Tuesday, May 16. Use order form from church email Wednesday, May 3 and place your form in the envelope in the gray box outside the main office

(not mailbox). Extra order forms are also in the gray box. Gray box orders will be acknowledged by email.

Last, last chance to purchase prior to the Women's Fellowship Annual Meeting and Luncheon on Wednesday, May 17. Drawing is at 1 pm. Proceeds are donated to local and national charities that support women, children, and families.



FIRST CHURCH 2023 UNDIES SUNDAYS AND DIAPER DRIVE MOTHER'S DAY (MAY 14) – FATHER'S DAY (JUNE 18)



DID YOU KNOW?

- Underwear is the most under donated, yet most needed, item of clothing.
- The Undies Project supports 45 agencies that assist families and individuals in the community who are homeless, living in shelters or are low income.
- Mothers for Others serves 600 kids per month with local agencies.
- Most needed items are men's boxers and briefs, women's bras and panties, children's underwear. All items should be new.

Please drop off donations of undies, diapers (we can accept open packages of diapers) or wipes at the entrance to the meetinghouse on Sundays. If you prefer, join our virtual drive and make an online donation by scanning the QR code, or click here MyFirstChurch and select undies and diaper drive.





Make your reservation for the Women's Fellowship Annual Luncheon this coming Wednesday, May 17, beginning at 11.30 am in the Auditorium. (All ladies 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, vote on allocations to charities for 2023, and hold the annual quilt raffle. The \$20 ticket includes a yummy lunch catered by *A Dash of Salt* 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 Sunday's Community Hour to accept payment and registration. Checks should be made out to *Women's Fellowship FCCOG*.



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 Reverend Patrick Collins **Associate Pastor** Reverend Cydney Van Dyke Dr. Craig Scott Symons Minister of Music Susan Asselin, RN Parish Nurse Church Office Coordinator Wendy Spezzano Greg Girolamo Financial Administrator Administrative and Communications Colleague Carolyn Samuel Daniel Lepoutre Livestream Director Audio Technician **Bob Small** Sue Wilder **Database Administrative Assistant Facility Manager** Julio Yika Curtis Gay, Qasim Hussaini Sextons Director of Preschool Jennifer DiCarlo Assistant Director of Preschool Kayla Vozzella Pastors Emeriti Reverend Dr. Thomas L. Stiers - Reverend Sally Colegrove

