



SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2023  
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
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

### PRELUDE

*Prélude Au Kyrie*  
Jean Langlais (1907-1991)  
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

### 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.*

### CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

Pat Larrabee, Church Clerk

### CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

*This Little Light Of Mine*  
The Cherub Choir  
Carol Woodman, director  
Andrea Woodman, Lynn Hawxhurst, ukuleles

### †CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The people of God were made for worship: To sing and to praise, to laugh and to dance.

All: **The people of God were made for God's presence: for pleasure and praise, for joy and for song.**

One: Come, holy people, God's chosen disciples: Gather for worship, come from all places.

All: **We have come to God's temple, gathered together, we have come to praise God and enjoy him forever.**

### †HYMN

*Holy, Holy, Holy*  
251 Pilgrim Hymnal

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

Lord Jesus Christ, we call you Lord, yet it is too easy for us to worship other things. Other activities, other relationships, other gods. You tell us we cannot serve two masters, yet we spend more time focusing our energies elsewhere, Diverting our time, our energy, our money, our attention away from you.

Forgive us, gracious Savior, when our hearts are led astray. When we serve other gods and worship them. We turn away from our distractions and sin. Strengthen us to set our faces toward Jerusalem, to take up our cross and follow you. We pray this, counting on your grace. Amen.

*\*Moment of silence for personal reflection\**

## †ASSURANCE OF GRACE

## †PASSING OF THE PEACE

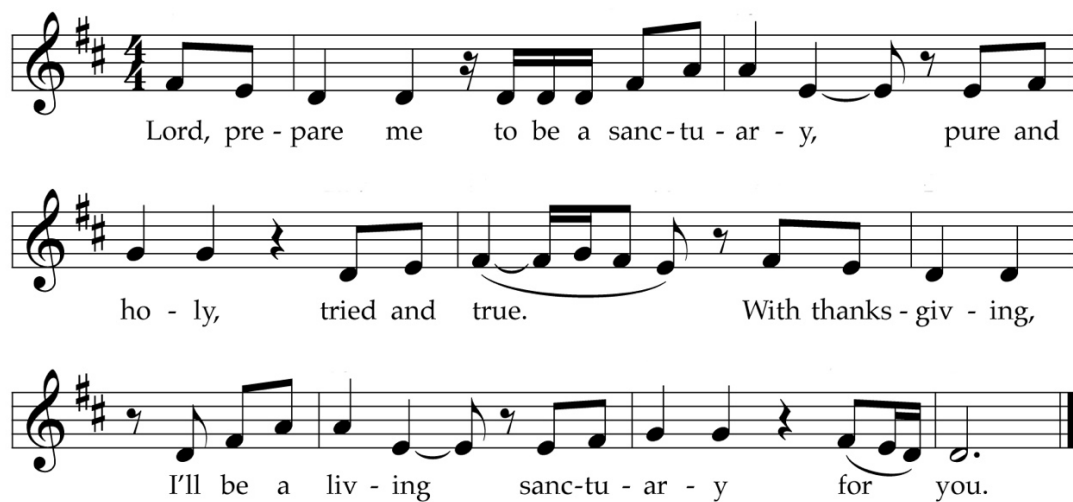
*God makes peace within us. Let us claim it. God makes peace between us. Let us share it.*

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)



## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

### ROLE CALL OF CANDIDATES

Meg Dempsey

### COMMITMENT OF CANDIDATES

**Clergy:** We are called of God to be disciples through Jesus Christ. Today. We welcome each of you to join us in the joy of God's service through the work of First Congregational Church of Greenwich.

**Church Council Chair:** Friends in Christ, we bid you welcome. We greet you as fellows in Christ. Our purpose is to promote the increase of the love of God and neighbor. Will you now unite yourself with the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, accepting our shared responsibilities of faith, praying and working for our mutual use, sustaining worship, supporting wider mission and living with us in the joys of friendship and fellowship?

**Candidates:** We will!

**Clergy:** We believe in the freedom of responsibility of the individual soul and the right of private judgment. We join in fellowship with other congregations of the United Church of Christ in declaring our steadfast dedication to the faith which our forbearers confessed, which from age to age has found its expression in the historic tenets of the Church Universal and of our Communion and in affirming our loyalty to the basic principles of our representative democracy. This we believe.

### **THE COVENANT** (in unison)

**We believe in God, infinite in wisdom and love, in Jesus Christ and in the Holy Spirit who renews, comforts and inspires us. We are united in seeking to know the will of God as taught in Scripture and to walk in the ways of Christ. As Jesus accepted, welcomed and embraced all people without exception, so do we accept all who join with us in our journey to be people of faith. We accept the mission of this church to proclaim the gospel, to worship God and to work for a more compassionate world. Trusting in the Spirit, we promise to support each other in love, that through our faith the world will be made new.**

### **HYMN OF WELCOME**

*Blest Be The Tie That Binds*

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

### **FIRST LESSON**

*Genesis 21: 8-21*  
New Revised Standard Version  
Pat Larrabee

The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the

boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.” Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

## ANTHEM

*O Worship The King*

Arr. Jason Krug (b. 1978)

Silverthorn Handchime Quartet

Debbie Silverthorn, Colette Rogers, Kim Rogers, Lynn Hawxhurst

## SECOND LESSON

*Matthew 10: 24-39*

New Revised Standard Version

“A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

“Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father,  
and a daughter against her mother,  
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,  
and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

## MESSAGE

*What Troubles You?*  
Reverend Patrick Collins

## †HYMN

*How Gentle God's Commands*  
76 Pilgrim 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

Lynn Robertson

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*The Lord Is My Light*  
George Alexander MacFarren (1813-1887)  
The Summer Choir

## †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, alleluia!

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## †HYMN

*Jesus Shall Reign Where'er The Sun*  
202 Pilgrim Hymnal

## BENEDICTION

## CHORAL RESPONSE

## POSTLUDE

*Procession*  
Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

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## ANNUAL MEETING TODAY!

The 352nd Annual Meeting of the members of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Old Greenwich, CT is hereby called for **Sunday June 25th, 2023** in the Meetinghouse immediately following the 10 am worship service for the following purposes:



- To hear and act upon the report of the Nominating Committee and to elect officers and Committee members and to fill other positions for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023
- To adopt the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023
- To hear certain reports of the pastors, officers and committees
- To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting

We encourage you to attend in the Meetinghouse if possible and comfortable. However, if you join remotely via Zoom.us, the instructions are available in the Friday email blast.

## WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

### **Marc and Kim Culver**

Marc and Kim come to First Congregational Church through reaffirmation of faith. Marc and Kim have two children, Preston and Chloe. You can usually find Marc and Kim cheering and coaching Preston and Chloe in the various sports in which they participate. Marc and Kim are looking forward to deepening their faith and becoming more involved in the life of First Church.

### **Matthew and Meaghan Gruppo**

Matthew and Meaghan come to First Congregational Church through reaffirmation of faith. Matthew and Meaghan have two children, Henry and Grace. They are looking forward to being more involved in the church and growing with us in their faith.

### **Marla Nedder**

Marla comes to First Congregational Church through reaffirmation of faith. Marla has grown up in a church and in a family of faith, and she is excited to join the First Church family. Marla loves music, tennis, gardening, and boating. Marla looks forward to continuing to grow her faith in this community.

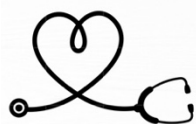
### **Erin and Joseph O'Brien**

Erin and Joseph come to First Congregational Church through reaffirmation of faith. Erin grew up in Cos Cob Connecticut. She graduated from UCONN in 2009 & has been working in Talent Acquisition for 15 years. She currently works at NBCUniversal in NYC. Erin and Joseph have two children (Adam, 7 & Grace, 6). Erin enjoys spending time with family & friends, baking, gardening, going to the beach & playing tennis. In the winter months, we enjoy skiing & traveling.

# COMMUNITY 000000 HOUR

Join us for Community Hour in the Memory Garden following worship this morning where you can greet one another, have a cup of coffee, and a light snack. Hosts for the month of June are members of the Outreach Committee.

## BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING TODAY



High blood pressure is one of the major risk factors of stroke, which can be a disabling event and affects nearly 800,000 people in the U.S. each year. Other common risk factors are smoking and uncontrolled diabetes.

Your Parish Nurse, Sue Asselin, will be available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following today's worship service, during community hour (outdoors weather permitting - otherwise indoors in her office just to the right of the auditorium stage). During the week, Sue is available by appointment by calling 203-637-1791 ext. 821.



## 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:  
Infant clothing  
Table linens  
Summer hats

## SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

From now until September 5, office hours are  
9 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Mon - Fri. Please make an appointment  
to meet with anyone in the offices.





## JOIN THE SUMMER CHOIR!

All are welcome to join the Summer Choir on Sunday mornings throughout the summer at 9:00 a.m. in the Meetinghouse for a warm-up and rehearsal of the music being sung that day. Head to the 3rd floor, outside the choir room, to pick up the anthem, bulletin, and a folder, then meet downstairs in the choir loft. Come any Sunday that you are available to help lead the congregation in worship. It also gives you a chance to experience worship from the choir loft. Everyone is welcome – no robes will be worn! If you have any questions, please contact Craig Symons (ext. 822).

## MOTHERS FOR OTHERS AND THE UNDIES PROJECT

Thank you First Church for a very successful Undies/Diaper Drive. During the last month you kindly donated 2500 diapers, 2 dozen packages of wipes and 200 underwear items!!

Mothers for Others and The Undies Project are so very grateful! So many children and adults will be clean and stay healthy due to your generosity! These simple items make a huge daily difference to families in our community.



## COMING UP THIS SUMMER

### BEACH SERVICES

Our 8 a.m. beach services resumed today at Greenwich Point. All are welcome to attend these worship experiences by the waters of Long Island Sound. No park pass is required – simply state that you're here for the First Church service and the gate attendant will let you in. Bring your beach chair or blanket for seating.



The remaining dates for the summer are:  
July 9, 16, 23, 30 - August 6, 13, 20

*PLEASE NOTE: there is no beach service on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, as that is a blackout date from the town of Greenwich.*

## BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY

Why not make some extra “you” time and join a study class? 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](http://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. BYO lunch optional.

# 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

Sexton

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

Kayla Vozzella

Reverend Dr. Thomas L. Stiers (deceased) - Reverend Sally Colegrove



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OF CHRIST  
a just world for all