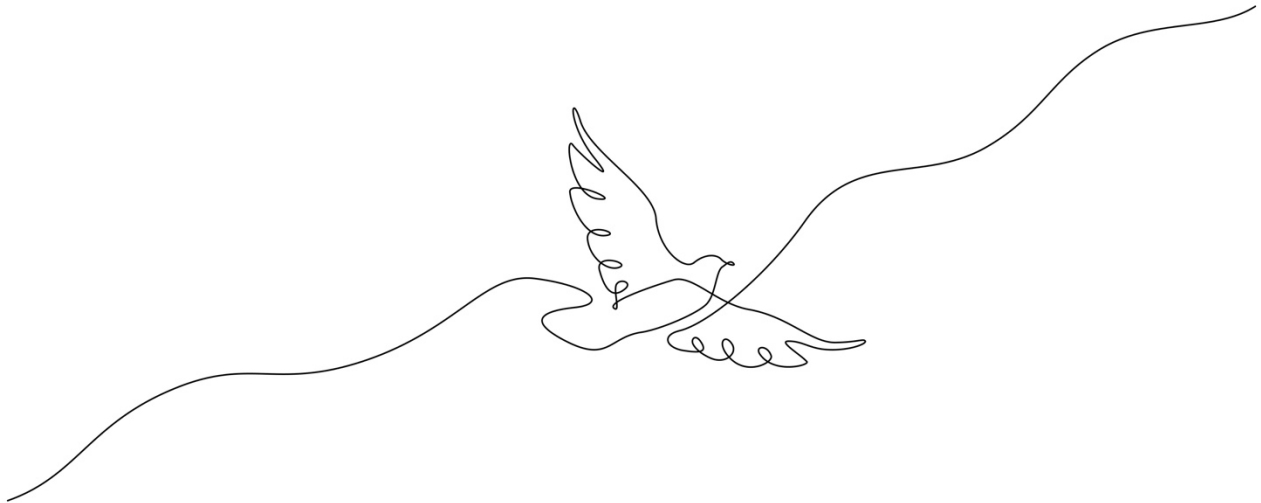


Greenwich Point Beach Service

Sunday, June 25, 2023

8:00 a.m.



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.



Faith First. Love Always.

REETING AND GATHERING PRAYER

Reverend Patrick Collins

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

I Love You, Lord

I love you, Lord and I lift my voice to wor - ship you, oh my
I praise you, Lord and I lift my voice to hon - or you, oh my
I love you, Lord and I lift my voice to wor - ship you, oh my

soul, re - jice! Take joy, my King in what you hear;
soul, re - jice! Take joy, my King in what you hear;
soul, re - jice! Take joy, my King in what you hear;

— may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.
— may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.
— may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 21: 8-21

New Revised Standard Version

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.

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?

COMMUNION

We practice open Communion – all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to participate in the community of God's people are welcome to receive Communion, including children of all ages, and regardless of church membership or denominational affiliation. All are welcome to the table of God.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

HYMN

Morning Has Broken

Morning has broken like the first morning, blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning, God's recreation of the new day!

BENEDICTION