



SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2023
SEVENTH 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.

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

Litany from Suite in G
Charles Callahan (b. 1951)
Jon Hunt, guest organist/director

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 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.

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, bless the Lord who guides us, whose wise teaching directs our days and focuses our minds at night; whose presence sustains us and surrounds us here.

All: We bless the Lord who is present among us. We will not be shaken or live in fear, but will sing God's praise and worship with joy!

†HYMN

Rejoice, You Pure In Heart
55 New Century Hymnal

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison – remain standing)

Dear God, how easy it is for me to distinguish myself from "them."

For the times I believe I am better than others — forgive me.

For the times I put my ways on a pedestal to the neglect of others — forgive me.

For the times I avert my gaze so I won't have to look at their condition — forgive me.

For the times I wished they would all go away and live somewhere else — forgive me.

For the times I feel no discomfort in judging others before I even know them — forgive me.

For the ease with which I label people "them" and "other" — forgive me.

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 singing of the response, children will return to their seats.)

RESPONSE

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 35 (selected verses)
New Revised Standard Version
Pat Mendelsohn

Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me;
fight against those who fight against me!
Take hold of shield and buckler,
and rise up to help me!
Draw the spear and javelin
against my pursuers;
say to my soul,
"I am your salvation."

Let them be put to shame and dishonor
who seek after my life.
Let them be turned back and confounded
who devise evil against me.
Let them be like chaff before the wind,
with the angel of the LORD driving them on.

Let their way be dark and slippery,
with the angel of the LORD pursuing them.

Then my soul shall rejoice in the LORD,
exulting in his deliverance.
All my bones shall say,
“O LORD, who is like you?
You deliver the weak
from those too strong for them,
the weak and needy from those who despoil them.”

But at my stumbling they gathered in glee;
they gathered together against me;
ruffians whom I did not know
tore at me without ceasing;
they impiously mocked more and more,
gnashing at me with their teeth.

How long, O LORD, will you look on?
Rescue me from their ravages,
my life from the lions!
Then I will thank you in the great congregation;
in the mighty throng I will praise you.

ANTHEM

Fill-A Me Up
Pepper Choplin (b. 1957)
The Summer Choir
Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 13: 24-30, 36 - 43
New Revised Standard Version

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

MESSAGE

What Does That Really Mean?
Reverend Patrick Collins

HYMN

There's A Wideness In God's Mercy
23 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.

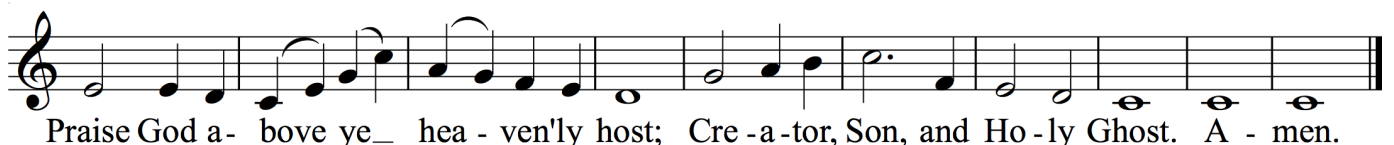
CALL TO OFFERING

ORGAN OFFERTORY

Improvisation

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

God, Who Stretched The Spangled Heavens
556 New Century Hymnal

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Postlude In D
Healey Willan (1880-1968)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

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COMMUNITY 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 July are members of the Women's Fellowship.



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:
Ladies Sweaters
Jewelry
Kids Coats

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).

COMING UP THIS SUMMER

BEACH SERVICES

Our 8 a.m. beach services have resumed 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 30, August 6, 13, 20



BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY

Bible Study is on vacation until September.



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

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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