



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

Aria  
Flor Peeters (1903-1986)  
Jon Hunt, guest director/organist

## 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 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: What mysteries there are in God's world!

All: **We, so sophisticated, stand in awe at the wonders of the natural world.**

One: We look at the tiniest of seeds and wonder what will happen

All: **From that small seed will grow a large shrub.**

One: Although we consider our gifts to be small and insignificant,

All: **God will use our gifts in miraculous ways.**

**Praise the God of small seeds and mighty power. Amen.**

## CHORAL INTROIT

## †HYMN

*All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name*  
195 Pilgrim Hymnal

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

Diligent Lord, who watches over us at all times, be with us all these days. We confess that we have allowed a host of worries and frustrations to crowd out your word for us. As you give us peace and your transforming love, also forgive all those times when we have been less than faithful disciples. Gently visit us again with your healing powers. Restore our hope and courage and joy for all the times ahead. We ask this in the name of the master healer, Jesus Christ. 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)



Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal-le - lu-jah! Hal-le - lu - jah!

## 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

*Ezekiel 17: 22-24*  
New Revised Standard Version  
Lynn Robertson

Thus says the Lord God:  
I myself will take a sprig  
from the lofty top of the cedar;  
I will set it out.  
I will break off a tender shoot  
from the topmost of its young twigs;  
I myself will transplant it  
on a high and lofty mountain.  
On the mountain height of Israel  
I will transplant it,  
and it will produce boughs and bear fruit  
and become a noble cedar.  
Under it every kind of bird will live;  
in the shade of its branches will nest  
winged creatures of every kind.  
All the trees of the field shall know  
that I am the Lord.  
I bring low the high tree;  
I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree  
and make the dry tree flourish.  
I the Lord have spoken;  
I will accomplish it.

## ANTHEM

*O Lord of Heaven and Earth and Sea*  
Rachel Aarons (b. 1984)  
The Summer Choir

## SECOND LESSON

*Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52*  
New Revised Standard Version

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

## HYMN

*God Is My Strong Salvation*  
373 Pilgrim Hymnal

## MESSAGE

*Finding Faith*  
Reverend Patrick Collins

## 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

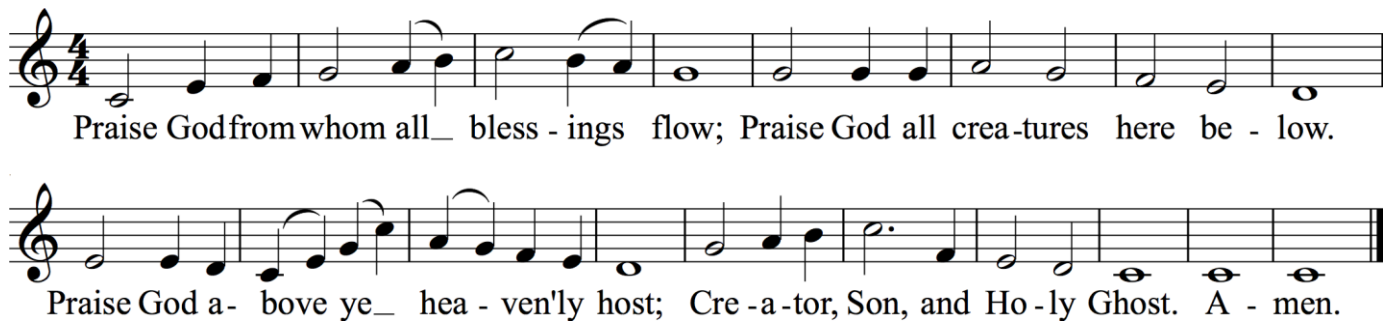
Lynn Hawxhurst

## ORGAN OFFERTORY

Improvisation

## †DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*



## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## †HYMN

*Lord, Speak To Me, That I May Speak*  
397 Pilgrim Hymnal

## BENEDICTION

## CHORAL RESPONSE

## POSTLUDE

*Berliner Luft*  
Paul Lincke (1866-1946)

† 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.  
July 31 and August 1 – everything 50% off  
August 2 - \$20 Bag Sale  
August 3 - \$1 Bag Sale  
Closed from August 4 to September 5

## 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. Remaining dates for summer are: August 6, 13, 20



# 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