



SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2023
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING

**Making
all things New**
Isaiah 43:18-19



A Retrospective: "Making All Things New!"
General Synod 34 of the United Church of Christ,
June 29 - July 4, 2023 in Indianapolis, IN
General Synod 34 Worship Themes:
"Creation," "Christ/Resurrection," "Re-Creation/Revelation"

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

General Synod 34 Handbell Choir
General Synod 34 Community Worship: "Christ/Resurrection"

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 WORSHIP

One: People of God, welcome. Welcome to this open space,

All: Made holy by God's love and grace.

One: Welcome to this freeing space,

All: A space of hope and perseverance.

One: Welcome to this baptizing space,

All: Made ready for worship, made ready for rest, made ready for restoration.

One: Welcome to this loving space,

All: Where Spirit invites all of us to be a part of Beloved Community.

One: The words of the prophet Isaiah reach out from the past

All: To remind those gathered here that God is still speaking!

One: Not only is God still speaking,

All: But God is still creating places of joy,

One: And out of those places,

All: God's people emerge as a source of gladness in this world.

One: The one who calls us, the one who equips us, the one who loves us without end

All: Invites us to share in the Good News.

One: And what is that Good News? That you are welcome,

All: Just as you are.

One: That we are wanted,

All: Just as we are.

One: That we are loved,

All: Just as we are.

One: So with a spirit of Thanksgiving, come, my family:

All: Let us worship God!

From Rev. Traci Blackmon,
Associate General Minister of Justice and Local Church Ministries for the United Church of Christ
General Synod 34 Community Worship: "Christ/Resurrection"

CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

Let Us Build A House

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
C7 F C F B^b C Dm



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
F C F Dm7 Gm C



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
Gm C7 B^b F Am Dm



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
Gm C F B^b



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

Refrain

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)
F B^b A7 Dm Gm Dm



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
Am Gm F Gm C7 F B^b F



all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

†INVITATION TO TRANSFORMATION (in unison – remain standing)

God, we confess that we have often placed our hope in heavenly ponderings instead of in the power that works in us on earth. We have spent much of our journey looking above when you have come to dwell with us right here. We have focused so much on a future paradise that we have forgotten to care for the soil beneath our feet. Forgive us for the times we stood looking for rescue when we were called to be the rescuer. Forgive for the times we were seduced by myths of scarcity neglecting to share your abundance with our neighbors. When we have lost our way, remind us of yours. Holy Spirit, fall fresh on us again, so that we can bear witness to mighty works of God through Christ in the world.

General Synod 34 Closing Worship: "Re-creation/Revelation"

**Moment of silence for personal reflection **

†ASSURANCE OF GRACE

One: God forgives. Now, we must live.

All: Open up our hearts!

One: Grace abounds, and love surrounds us.

All: Help us do our part!

One: God'll wipe each tear from every eye, and hold us as we walk towards truth.

All: God is making all things new!

One: Open up our hearts. Help us do our part.

All: Let this be our start! God is making all things new!

†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

Isaiah 43: 1-3a, 5-7, 11-12, 19
Common English Bible
Pat Larrabee

But now, says the Lord—
the one who created you, Jacob,
the one who formed you, Israel:
Don't fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
when through the rivers, they won't sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire, you won't be scorched
and flame won't burn you.
I am the Lord your God,
the holy one of Israel, your savior.
I have given Egypt as your ransom,
Cush and Seba in your place.

Don't fear,
I am with you.
From the east I'll bring your children;
from the west I'll gather you.
I'll say to the north, "Give them back!"
and to the south, "Don't detain them."
Bring my sons from far away,
and my daughters from the end of the earth,
everyone who is called by my name
and whom I created for my glory,
whom I have formed and made.

I, I am the Lord,
and there is no savior besides me.
I announced, I saved, I proclaimed,
not some stranger among you.

You are my witnesses, says the Lord,
and I am God.

Look! I'm doing a new thing;
now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it?
I'm making a way in the desert,
paths in the wilderness.

ANTHEM

Eden's Song
Mark Schweizer (1956-2019)
The Summer Choir

*A memory of Eden stirs, and walks within the warmth of spring;
It whispers ev'ry hope God has to Life Eternal, listening.*

*Stretch past the gloom of winter's grey, unfurl by faith and not by sight;
to touch the light of length'ning days that calls thee forth to green delight.*

*The season of new growth begins, embrace the promise we all share;
lift ev'ry voice and celebrate, the living God, who's always there.*

Beverly Easterling

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 16: 13-20
New International Version

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

MESSAGE

All Things “Making All Things New!”
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

HYMN

Come, We Who Love The Lord
379 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

Henry Hull

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O How Amiable Are Thy Dwellings
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1832-1090)
The Summer Choir

*O how amiable are thy dwellings, thou Lord of hosts!
My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
Yea, the sparrow hath found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young: even thy altars,
O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house.
They will be always praising thee. The glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us;
prosper thou the work of our hands upon us. O prosper thou our handiwork.
O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.*

From Psalm 84 & 90

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God from whom all_ bless - ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures here be - low.

Praise God a- bove ye_ hea - ven'ly host; Cre - a - tor, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Sing a new world into being. Sound a bold and hopeful theme.
Find a tune for silent yearnings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:
Dream a church where all who worship find their lives and loves belong.
Sing a new world into being. Sing as Christ inspires your song!

Sing a new world into being where each gender, class and race
Brings its rainbow gifts and colors to God's limitless embrace:
Where the lines that once divided form instead the ties that bind.
Sing a new world into being: risk transforming heart and mind.

Sing a new world into being where the homeless find a home,
Where no children ever hunger but are filled in God's Shalom:
Where all people work for justice, where all hate and vengeance cease.
Sing a new world into being: raise the harmonies of peace.

Sing a new world into being, join the ancient prophets' cry
For a time of health and plenty, when all tears have been wiped dry:
When compassion flows like waters, pouring balm for all who grieve,
Sing a new world into being: live the promise you believe!

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune In D
Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

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Sing a New World into Being: Mary Louise Bringle

Tune Hymn To Joy Ludwig Van Beethoven, © 2006, GIA Publications, Inc.; All rights reserved.

COMMUNITY HOURL

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 August are members of the Church Council.

DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS AT FIRST CHURCH - 2 WAYS TO GIVE

1) To give online: We've set up two (2) new categories for online giving through My First Church:

VT Flooding and Maui Strong. Scan this QR code and select either option from the drop-down menu.



- Funds raised for Vermont Flooding will be handled through the VT Conference of the UCC and will especially help UCC churches and communities located in Montpelier and Barre, which both suffered severe damages. More info can be found here: <http://vtucc.org/disaster/>

- Funds raised for Maui will be sent through the UCC's Disaster Ministries national appeal for the wildfires in Hawaii and will especially help UCC churches and communities located in Lahaina, including the historic Waiola Church that was destroyed. More info can be found here: <https://www.ucc.org/amid-wildfires-devastation-ucc-makes-appeal-for-hawaii/>

2) To give cash/check: place cash or check in the designated offering plate in the Narthex of the Meetinghouse with a provided envelope labeled either for VT or Maui, OR by sending a check to the Church Office with "Vermont flooding" or "Maui wildfires" in the memo line.

100% of monies donated through the UCC for disaster ministries goes directly to the relief efforts and the impacted communities, a great way to have our giving make the biggest contribution possible.



THE FIRST EVER FRIENDS & FAMILY FESTIVAL

FREE ENTRY AND OPEN TO ALL

**SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday,
September 9
4.00pm to
7.00pm
Front Lawn
of
First Church**



**Food Trucks, Face Painting,
Bouncy Castle, and the star
attraction Dunk the Pastors**



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH
108 SOUND BEACH AVE, OLD GREENWICH, CT**

FCCOG.ORG

203 637 1791



SEPTEMBER SOCIAL

Please join us for the start of a new church year.
All are welcome to join us after Sunday Worship
for a joyous brunch that we will provide. We look
forward to seeing all of our wonderful
congregation.

Date: Sunday, September 10, 2023

Time: 11am - 1pm

**Location: First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Rain or Shine!**



www.fccog.org

