



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2023
FIFTEENTH 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

Menuet Gothique
Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, 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: All the wild world is beautiful,

All: and it matters but little where we go,

One: to highlands or lowlands, woods or plains, on the sea or land

All: or down among the crystals of waves or high in a balloon in the sky;

One: through all the climates, hot or cold, storms and calms,

All: everywhere and always we are in God's eternal beauty and love.

One: So universally true is this,

All: the spot where we chance to be always seems the best.

John Muir
John of the Mountains: The Unpublished Journals of John Muir, 1938

CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

Creator God, Creating Still
278 New Century Hymnal

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison – remain standing)

O God, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. You place us in your creation, and you call on us to care for it. Your works declare glory and splendor, and you call us to praise and reverence.

Where we have degraded or destroyed earth's bounty, forgive us. Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted, have mercy upon us. Where we have become estranged from the creatures with whom we share this planet, grant us your peace.

Renew us in the waters of baptism, refresh us with the winds of your spirit, and sustain us with the bread of life. In the name of Jesus Christ, and for the sake of the new creation, we pray.
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)

Come Into God's Presence



- 1 Come in - to God's pres-ence sing - ing "Al - le - lu - ia,
- 2 Come in - to God's pres-ence sing - ing "Je - sus is Lord,
- 3 Praise the Lord to - geth - er sing - ing "Wor - thy the Lamb,
- 4 Praise the Lord to - geth - er sing - ing "Glo - ry to God,



al - le - lu - ia,	al - le - lu - ia."
Je - sus is Lord,	Je - sus is Lord."
wor - thy the Lamb,	wor - thy the Lamb."
glo - ry to God,	glo - ry to God."

† Please rise in body or in spirit

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

(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

Genesis 2: 4b - 9

Common English Bible

Charlie Stuckey

On the day the Lord God made earth and sky— before any wild plants appeared on the earth, and before any field crops grew, because the Lord God hadn't yet sent rain on the earth and there was still no human being to farm the fertile land, though a stream rose from the earth and watered all of the fertile land— the Lord God formed the human from the topsoil of the fertile land and blew life's breath into his nostrils. The human came to life. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden in the east and put there the human he had formed. In the fertile land, the Lord God grew every beautiful tree with edible fruit, and also he grew the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

ANTHEM

For Love Shall Be Our Song

Douglas Wagner (b. 1952)

Celebration Singers, Genesis Choir, Chancel Choir

God is love, God is peace, God is joy and gladness. May we then live our lives in love, in peace, in joy with Christ our Lord. For love shall be our song, as we lift our hearts to the Lord; so as members of the family of God, rejoice, give thanks and praise. And when others do us wrong, patience we will show, to forgive as Christ did us; seeds of love we'll sow.

Colossians 3: 12-15 (adapted D.W.)

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 2: 15-25

Common English Bible

The Lord God took the human and settled him in the garden of Eden to farm it and to take care of it. The Lord God commanded the human, "Eat your fill from all of the garden's trees; but don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because on the day you eat from it, you will die!" Then the Lord God said, "It's not good that the human is alone. I will make him a helper that is perfect for him." So the Lord God formed from the fertile land all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky and brought them to the human to see what he would name them.

The human gave each living being its name. The human named all the livestock, all the birds in the sky, and all the wild animals. But a helper perfect for him was nowhere to be found. So the Lord God put the human into a deep and heavy sleep, and took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh over it. With the rib taken from the human, the Lord God fashioned a woman and brought her to the human being. The human said,
“This one finally is bone from my bones
and flesh from my flesh.
She will be called a woman
because from a man she was taken.”
This is the reason that a man leaves his father and mother and embraces his wife, and they become one flesh. The two of them were naked, the man and his wife, but they weren’t embarrassed.

MESSAGE

Formed For Relationship
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

I’ve Got Peace Like A River
478 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

Lynn Hawxhurst

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

I Sing The Mighty Power Of God

Michael Bedford (b. 1949)

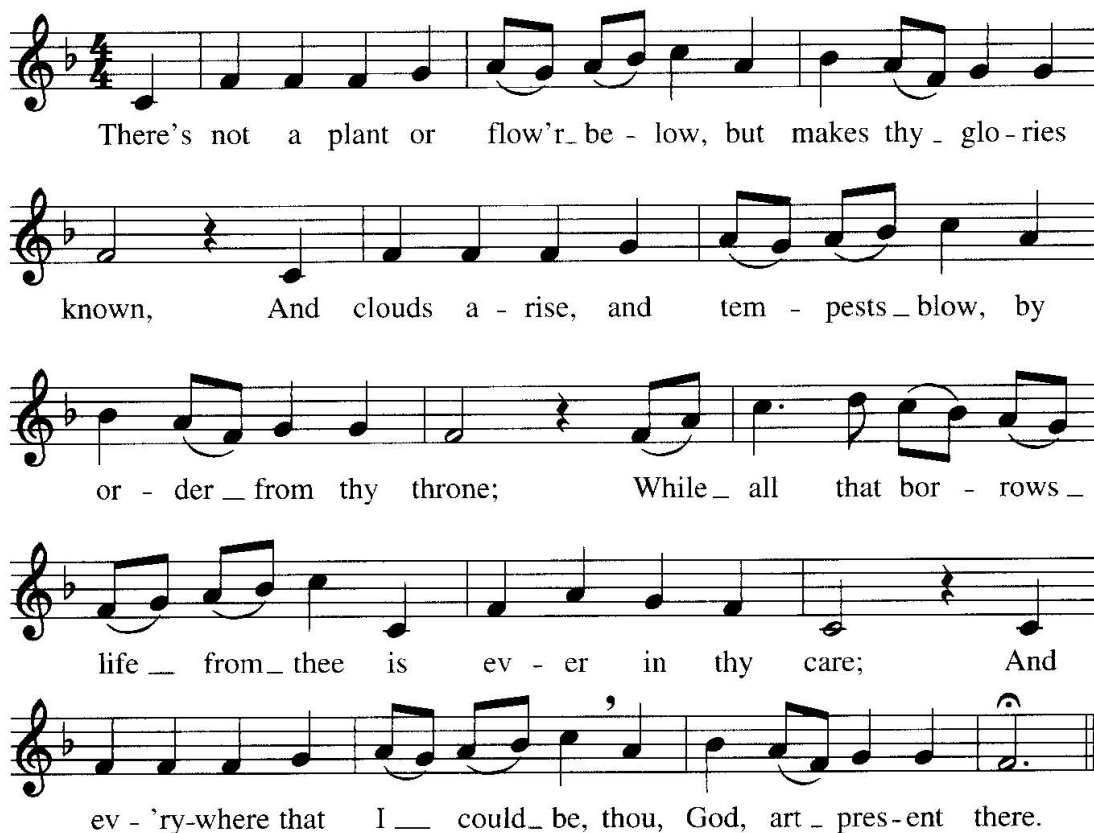
Celebration Singers, Genesis Choir, Chancel Choir

Mary Fike, flute

Choir: I sing the mighty power of God, that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord, who filled the earth with food,
Who formed the creatures through the Word, and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed where'er I turn my eye,
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky.

Congregation and Choir:



There's not a plant or flow'r be - low, but makes thy glo - ries

known, And clouds a - rise, and tem - pests blow, by

or - der from thy throne; While all that bor - rows

life from thee is ev - er in thy care; And

ev - 'ry-where that I could be, thou, God, art pres - ent there.

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise God, all crea-tures
high and low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise
God, in Je - sus ful - ly known: Cre - a - tor, Word, and Spir - it
one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

You Are Salt For The Earth, O People
181 New Century Hymnal

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Allegro Maestoso e vivace
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

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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.



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!

GET INVOLVED WITH OUR MUSIC MINISTRY THIS YEAR!

Choir Opportunities For Young People!

The Cherub Choir is for children in kindergarten through second grade.

Carol Woodman, director

Meets on Sundays 11:15-11:45



The Celebration Singers is for youth in grades 3 to 6.

Craig Symons, director

Meets on Sundays 11:15-12:00

The Genesis Choir is for youth in grades 7 through 12 and early college ages.
Danny Young, director
Meets on Sundays 11:15-12:15



**ALL REHEARSALS
BEGIN
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17!**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS



The Chancel Choir meets on Thursdays from 7:30-9:00 p.m. for ages 18 and up. The sing each Sunday morning for the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

The Palmer Handbell and Silverthorn Handchime Choirs, for ages 18 and up, generally meets on Thursdays from 6:30-7:20 p.m. or as scheduled. Music is chosen for a larger group or for a quartet of ringers.



CHURCH SCHOOL'S BACK IN ACTION!

- Sept 10-** Registration Day! Register before or after worship - or online!
- Sept 17-** First Day of Church School! And Khaleigh Laicher's first Sunday as our new Director of Church School! Special service project to plant flowers at our Peace Pole in honor of Just Peace Sunday.
- Sept 24-** Church School- baking bread for World Communion Sunday
- Oct 1-** World Communion Sunday and All Ages Worship!



WE'VE GOT THE KIDS, NOW WE NEED THE TEACHERS!

Church School needs both students and teachers! Teaching is as easy as helping out one Sunday a month. The curriculum and materials are supplied. No experience necessary!

Whether being a regular teacher, a "1-Sunday-a-month"-er, a substitute, or an occasional Helping Hand-*if you want our children to know the love of God and the love of neighbor, you're the right person.* Prayerfully consider giving 45 minutes of your time on Sundays to our children whenever you can. Plus, you'll be amazed at how much you'll get out of it yourself!

READING THE BIBLE THROUGH JEWISH EYES



Every Wednesday from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

September 13 through November 15

Join Pastors Patrick and Cydney as we put the stories from the Bible into their original context and read them from a Jewish perspective. This engaging study is sure to provide new insights on the ancient stories throughout the Bible.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Saturday, September 30 12:00 – 3:00 P.M.

Join us for a heartwarming and joyful celebration of our furry, feathered, and scaly friends at the Blessing of the Animals event!

Bring your beloved pets to receive a special blessing from the Pastors. This year's event will feature some farm animals for everyone to meet as well as an opportunity to have a professional photo taken with your favorite pet.

Come share in this cherished tradition of compassion, connect with fellow animal lovers, and create lasting memories with your cherished companions.



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

108 Sound Beach Avenue Old Greenwich CT 06870
203-637-1791 • www.fccog.org

Ministers - All Members Of The First Congregational Church Of Greenwich

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Minister of Music

Director of Church School/Regional Youth Ministry Coordinator

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

Pastor Emeritus

Reverend Patrick Collins

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Khaleigh Laicher

Susan Asselin, RN

Wendy Spezzano

Greg Girolamo

Carolyn Samuel

Daniel Lepoutre

Bob Small

Sue Wilder

Julio Yika

Curtis Gay

Kayla Vozzella

Reverend Sally Colegrove



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all