

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JUST PEACE SUNDAY
TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING



Just Peace is not a destination, but a path requiring awareness and constant vigilance to resolve existing and developing conflict in ourselves, our families, our communities, our institutions, and our world. This path requires non-violence when possible and even when impossible to engage in love and restraint. Just Peace envisions a renewed, vibrant, diverse, and sustainable world free of violence.

*Just Peace is grounded in God's activity in creation; God's covenant patience and provision; in the reconciling activity of Jesus Christ; in the presence of the Holy Spirit; and in the community of reconciliation. As Christians, we offer this conviction to the world: **Peace is possible!***

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

Only You, Lord Jesus Christ
Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)
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: We gather together

All: in the name of the One who bids us come.

One: We gather together

All: to hear the words of the One who is Love.

One: We gather together

All: to sing praises of the One who teaches peace.

One: Come, just as you are,

All: Let us worship our God.

Adapted from Rev. Denise Andersen

CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

Praise With Joy The World's Creator
273 New Century Hymnal

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison – remain standing)

Source of All Grace, we confess that we sometimes hold power over others, keeping unnecessary scores and debts in our minds. Help us to release our lists to you, the true Source of power and peace. Amen.

Moment of silence for personal reflection

†ASSURANCE OF GRACE

† Please rise in body or in spirit

†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."

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

Genesis 18:1-15
Common English Bible
Nancy Tar

The Lord appeared to Abraham at the oak trees of Mamre while he sat at the entrance of his tent in the day's heat. He looked up and suddenly saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them, he ran from his tent entrance to greet them and bowed deeply. He said, "Sirs, if you would be so kind, don't just pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought so you may wash your feet and refresh yourselves under the tree. Let me offer you a little bread so you will feel

stronger, and after that you may leave your servant and go on your way—since you have visited your servant.”

They responded, “Fine. Do just as you have said.”

So Abraham hurried to Sarah at his tent and said, “Hurry! Knead three seahs of the finest flour and make some baked goods!” Abraham ran to the cattle, took a healthy young calf, and gave it to a young servant, who prepared it quickly. Then Abraham took butter, milk, and the calf that had been prepared, put the food in front of them, and stood under the tree near them as they ate.

They said to him, “Where’s your wife Sarah?”

And he said, “Right here in the tent.”

Then one of the men said, “I will definitely return to you about this time next year. Then your wife Sarah will have a son!”

Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were both very old. Sarah was no longer menstruating. So Sarah laughed to herself, thinking, I’m no longer able to have children and my husband’s old.

The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Me give birth? At my age?’ Is anything too difficult for the Lord? When I return to you about this time next year, Sarah will have a son.”

Sarah lied and said, “I didn’t laugh,” because she was frightened.

But he said, “No, you laughed.”

ANTHEM

Fear Not, O Land
William Harris (1883-1973)
The Chancel Choir

Fear not, O land, be glad and rejoice, for the Lord will do great things. Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength. Be glad then, ye children of Sion, and rejoice in the Lord your God. The floors shall be full of wheat, and ye shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God that hath dealt so wondrously with you.

Joel 2:21-26

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 21:1-7
Common English Bible

The Lord was gracious to Sarah just as he had said, and the Lord carried out just what he had promised her. She became pregnant and gave birth to a son for Abraham when he was old, at the very time God had told him. Abraham named his son—the one Sarah bore him—Isaac. Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old just as God had commanded him. Abraham was 100 years old when his son Isaac was born. Sarah said, “God has given me laughter. Everyone who hears about it will laugh with me.” She said, “Who could have told Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? But now I have borne him a son in his old age!”

MESSAGE

When The Answer's Always Been Here
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

†HYMN

God, Who Stretched The Spangled Heavens
556 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

Steve Weigner

OFFERTORY DUET

Lord, I Want To Be A Christian
Arr. Lloyd Larson (b. 1954)
Carol Woodman, soprano
Thomas Woodman, baritone

†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

Let There Be Peace On Earth

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we. Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, may this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Grandioso
Betty Roe (b. 1930)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

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.

COMMUNITY HOUR

Hosts for the month of September are members of the Asset Management Committee.

CHURCH SCHOOL'S BACK IN ACTION!

Church School Registration continues online and in person. Click [HERE](#) to register online.



TODAY - 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!



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:

- Women's dresses
- Ladies fall shoes

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. First rehearsal will be announced in October!



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.

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR FOOD COLLECTION

Did you know that there is a basket in the Meetinghouse entryway where you can drop off food for Neighbor to Neighbor? Members of our Outreach Committee regularly take whatever is collected over to N2N to help those in need from the local area. Tuna, chili, beans, canned fruit, rice, jelly, and other non-perishable items are needed to help stock their pantry.

N2N offers three types of food assistance:

- **Supplemental Food Program:** Greenwich residents who meet income guidelines may receive three days' worth of food for each member of the family each week at no cost. The amount of food each family receives is based on the size of the family.
- **Summer Supplement Program:** School-aged students whose families qualify for the Supplemental Food Program may receive additional breakfast and lunch foods during the summer months.
- **Emergency Food Program:** One-time emergency food is available to anyone in immediate need.



UPCOMING EVENTS



NEW THIS YEAR! PETTING ZOO

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Bring your pet to our Front Lawn for a Blessing with Pastor Patrick and Pastor Cydney, visit our Petting Zoo, and get your photo taken! Pets of all kinds are welcome!

Open to the Whole Community

12 pm to 3 pm
Saturday, September 30, 2023

First Congregational Church of Greenwich
108 Sound Beach Ave, Old Greenwich



INTEMPO
PRESENTS:
SOUNDS FROM LATINO AMERICA

Hispanic Heritage Month Concert Series
GREENWICH CONCERT

Join us for a **unique, cultural and fun soundscape**, as INTEMPO presents a variety of musical traditions from Latino America.

Presented in Partnership with:

First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Sunday, October 15 at 4PM
108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Concerts are being provided **free of cost**.
Donations are welcome and will be recognized as tax-deductible.

All are welcome; registration is encouraged.
For more information contact info@intempo.org



INTEMPO is a Stamford, CT-based youth-development organization that provides high-quality classical and intercultural music education to children predominantly from immigrant backgrounds and from communities underrepresented in the arts. The concert will feature high level artistry, including INTEMPO professional musicians and our advanced students.

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 FCCOG Church School/Regional Youth Ministry

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

