



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023  
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
HARVEST SUNDAY  
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.

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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.

First Church is a mask-friendly community of faith. Anyone who prefers to wear a mask at church should feel comfortable doing so.

# *Faith First-Love Always*

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Many thanks to Pam & Peter Grunow for decorating the Harvest Table Altar

### PRELUDE

*Flourish*

Gordon Young (1919-1998)  
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

### 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.*

### MOMENT FOR ANNUAL GIVING

Bob Mendelsohn

### ANTHEM

*My Jesus, I Love Thee*

Arr. Anna Laura Page (b. 1943)

The Palmer Handbell Quartet

Angela Stevens, Pat Geismar, Debbie Silverthorn, Colette Rogers

### †CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In deep gratitude we come to worship God.

All: We recognize God as the source of all goodness.

One: All good gifts come from the Spirit of God:

All: love, peace, joy, patience, kindness and gentleness are all of God.

One: We come with grateful hearts, not for things, but for who God is.

All: We gather to show our gratitude in song and prayer.

### CHORAL INTROIT

### †HYMN

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*  
461 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

## †PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

When our faith is rooted deeply in you, O God, our lives reflect your values of justice and righteousness, but sometimes our lives become so entangled with the values of the world, that your values take second place. Forgive us, O God, and reconnect us to the Holy Spirit, source of power and life. Merciful God, strip our hearts and minds of all that prevents our lives being firmly rooted in you. May our lives bear fruit worthy of our faith in you, as we watch and wait for your breaking into our world once more, in the person of 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)

*Come Into God's Presence*  
413 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)



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."

## ANTHEM

*Down In My Heart*  
The Cherub Choir  
Carol Woodman, director  
Lynn Hawxhurst, ukulele  
Carolyn Paulus, piano

## 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.

## ANTHEM

*Song For Beginnings*  
Kevin Riehle (b. 1956-2022)  
The Celebration Singers  
Vance Briceland, piano

## FIRST LESSON

*Isaiah 5: 1-7*  
New Revised Standard Version  
Pat Mendelsohn

I will sing for my beloved  
my love song concerning his vineyard:  
My beloved had a vineyard  
on a very fertile hill.  
He dug it and cleared it of stones  
and planted it with choice vines;  
he built a watchtower in the midst of it  
and hewed out a wine vat in it;  
he expected it to yield grapes,  
but it yielded rotten grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and people of Judah,  
judge between me  
and my vineyard.  
What more was there to do for my vineyard  
that I have not done in it?  
When I expected it to yield grapes,  
why did it yield rotten grapes?

And now I will tell you  
what I will do to my vineyard.  
I will remove its hedge,  
and it shall be devoured;



I will break down its wall,  
and it shall be trampled down.  
I will make it a wasteland;  
it shall not be pruned or hoed,  
and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns;  
I will also command the clouds  
that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts  
is the house of Israel,  
and the people of Judah  
are his cherished garden;  
he expected justice  
but saw bloodshed;  
righteousness  
but heard a cry!

## ANTHEM

*Antiphon (from Five Mystical Songs)*  
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)  
The Chancel Choir  
William Roslak, organ

*Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!  
The heavens are not too high, His praise may thither fly:  
The earth is not too low, His praises there may grow.*

*Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!  
The church with Psalms must shout. No door can keep them out:  
But above all, the heart Must bear the longest part.  
Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!*

George Herbert (1633)

## SECOND LESSON

*Isaiah 11:1-5*  
New Revised Standard Version

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see  
or decide by what his ears hear,

but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor  
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

## MESSAGE

*Transformative Gratitude*  
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

*At this time, you are invited to come forward with your offering and pledge cards, as well as your donations of food.*

## HYMNS

*We Gather Together*  
21 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

*O Beautiful, For Spacious Skies*  
410 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

*Now Thank We All Our God*  
643 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

*This Is My Song*  
340 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## BENEDICTION

## CHORAL RESPONSE

## POSTLUDE

*Alla Marcia*  
John Ireland (1879-1962)  
William Roslak, organ

# COMMUNITY HOUR

Join us for Community Hour in the **Lounge** following worship this morning where you can greet one another, have a cup of coffee, and a light snack and shop at the H.O.M.E. Craft Fair in the Auditorium

Hosts for the month of November are members of the Diaconate (Deacons).

## CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Nov 19: All-Ages Worship (Harvest Sunday)

Nov 26: One-Room-Schoolhouse

Pre-K & K: Blue Door    1 & 2: Purple Door

3 & 4: Silver Door        5 & 6: Rick's Room

(Subject to change depending on teacher availability and attendance)



## CHOIR REHEARSALS TODAY

Cherub Choir - Celebration Singers - Genesis Choir

## WIRED WORD BIBLE STUDY

Using the Wired Word's curriculum, each week we'll discuss a topic or headline from the week's news and ask ourselves how our faith applies through guided questions and discussion. Learn more at [thewiredword.com](http://thewiredword.com)  
Join Pastor Patrick for lunch on Thursdays at noon in the lounge. BYO lunch optional.



## 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:

- Christmas ornaments
- Children's clothes -ages 0-8
- Jewelry

## BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING TODAY

Your Parish Nurse, Sue Asselin, will be available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following today's worship service, during community hour (outdoors weather permitting - otherwise indoors in her office just to the right of the auditorium stage). During the week, Sue is available by appointment by calling 203-637-1791 ext. 821.





## ANNUAL GIVING UPDATES



### GIVING IN FAITH TOGETHER

G.I.F.T.

2024

ANNUAL GIVING

VISIT

[HTTP://WWW.IAMFIRST  
CHURCH.COM/](http://www.iamfirstchurch.com/)



Today is our **Annual Giving Day, Sunday November 19.** Everyone is encouraged to bring their pledge forward when we bring the bags of food for Neighbor to Neighbor and H.O.M.E. The campaign is about 51% of the way to our goal!

Thanks to the wonderful messages over the past month from Philip Wentworth, Paul Ghaffari, Carolyn Paulus, Art Jenkins, and Donna Hascher who explained why we give, the gifts the church provides to so many, our membership and friends are already stepping up with their pledges to First Church to support next year's activities.

This past year we've served food to the homeless, raised money for local charities, held events and festivals to benefit members and our community as just a few examples. Your Annual Pledge will really make a difference. Here are some ways it will be used:

- **Community Outreach:** Your donation will support our ongoing efforts to serve and uplift those in need within our local community.
- **Spiritual Growth Programs:** Your support will help us expand and enhance the programs that nurture the spiritual growth and well-being of our congregation members.
- **Facility Improvements:** Your contribution can assist in maintaining and improving our church facilities, ensuring a welcoming and safe space for all.



Thank you in advance to everyone who joins in our **Annual Giving Campaign 2024.**

## 57TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE AND WREATH SALE

### Tree Sale Volunteers - Sign Ups Now Open

The 2023 Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale begins on

Saturday, November 25th and runs through Sunday, December 3.

Volunteers are the KEY to the success of the sale, which raised over \$40,000 for local charities last year. It is also a wonderful introduction to First Church for new residents in the community. There are jobs for ALL volunteers! Help us help those in need and make First Church shine!



## CELEBRATE HARVEST SUNDAY!

### THE GIVING TREE

All gifts should be returned to the stage in the auditorium before the 10 a.m. service today, or to the Harvest Sunday drive-by drop this afternoon from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Thank you in advance for making a holiday wish come true for a client of H.O.M.E. or a resident of Pilgrim Towers.

### DONATE FRESH FOOD FOR NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

Use the online option to shop for fresh food donations from the comfort of your home. The fresh selections will be delivered for free to Neighbor to Neighbor. Use the QR code to shop at GiveHealthy.org for fresh food donations requested by Neighbor to Neighbor.



### H.O.M.E. CRAFT FAIR TODAY AFTER WORSHIP

Handmade quilts, Christmas decorations and gifts, pottery, wooden toys, weavings, homemade jams, maple syrup, and many more crafts from Maine will be for sale in the Auditorium. All proceeds will benefit the H.O.M.E. community in Orland, Maine.

#### **Question** – *I've heard so much about H.O.M.E.*

*I'm fairly new to this community. What is H.O.M.E.?*

H.O.M.E., Inc. was founded in 1970 by Sr. Lucy Poulin (pictured with a group of young volunteers) and other community members. In the beginning, handcraft studios were created as a means for low-income families in rural Hancock County to earn extra income through hard Maine winters. Community members produced items from their homes to sell at the Craft Store which is located on H.O.M.E.'s 23-acre site in Orland and that program continues today. Now, more than 50 years later, needs of local citizens have led to programs of service tailored to respond in positive and effective outcomes, i.e., shelters for those experiencing homelessness, affordable daycare, organic gardens, a food pantry and soup kitchen, plus programs to support a house construction and repair effort that has built 53 homes for low-income families. First Church has enjoyed a decades-long connection with H.O.M.E., traveling to Maine for mission projects, to drop off the gifts received on Harvest Sunday, and hosting their Craft Fair on Harvest Sunday weekend.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

FREE CHURCH WIDE EVENT:

# Advent Craft Fair

Hosted by FCCOG Church School in Auditorium

**December 3rd, 11 am**

Cocoa and crafts for ALL, kids and adults alike!

**Photos with Santa!**

REGISTER TO ENSURE SUPPLIES  
[fccog.org/events](http://fccog.org/events)



### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 5 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

Celebrate the holidays with your First Church family and friends! Join us for fun, generous hors d'oeuvres, and a full bar. Adults only, please. No RSVP necessary – just come!



### FIRST CHURCH MESSIAH CONCERT

The 57<sup>th</sup> annual Messiah performance will be presented on Saturday, December 16 at 4 p.m. The performance is free with a suggested \$20 per person donation. Since 1966, First Church has presented Part I of Handel's Messiah, the Christmas portion, concluding with the Hallelujah chorus. The First Church Festival Chorus, 75 singers strong, is accompanied by the First Church Chamber Orchestra.

Soloists this year are:

Hanna Golodinskii, soprano  
Blake Friedman, tenor

Elizabeth Russo, mezzo soprano  
Kevin Douglas Jasaitis, bass

### JOIN THE FIRST CHURCH FESTIVAL CHORUS FOR MESSIAH!

- Choir rehearsal - Monday, December 11 7:30 – 9:00 pm
- Dress rehearsal with orchestra Wednesday, December 13 from 7:30 – 9:00 pm.

There is a refundable score deposit of \$20.

There are no auditions; everyone is welcome.

The singers always have a great time - just ask one!

Contact Dr. Craig Scott Symons, [craigs@fccog.org](mailto:craigs@fccog.org), for more information.

# 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

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

Director of First Church Preschool

Assistant Director of First Church 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

Beth Genovese

Kayla Vozzella

Reverend Sally Colegrove



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OF CHRIST  
a just world for all