

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2023
TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
REIGN OF CHRIST 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.

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

The Altar flowers are given by Don and Phyllis Freeman in loving memory of their parents.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Thus Saith The Lord
G. F. Handel (1685-1759)
Thomas Woodman, baritone
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

*Thus saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts; Yet once a little while and I will shake the heav'ns and the earth,
the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all nations; and the desire of all nations shall come.
The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple; ev'n the messenger of the Covenant, whom you delight in:
behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts.*

Haggai 2:6-7
Malachi 3:1

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

Philip Wentworth

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God calls us to his house.

All: Let the repair work begin!

One: We are called to turn around so that we might rejoice in God.

All: Come let us hear the word of the Lord.

CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

Come, Worship God
386 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Dear God, too often we are like the kings and the people. We forget your covenant. We don't keep your commandments within our hearts and within our souls. We fall out of step. Help us to follow you we pray. Help us to turn our lives around and find redemption through your grace. Help us to recognize the ways we do not always magnify you, not worked with you to lift up the downtrodden, to feed the hungry good things, and forgotten your mercy. Help us to fully embrace who you are so we might not live as a people living on scraps of your grace, but instead by a people woven together by your blessings. 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)

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

2 Kings 22: 1-10 - 23: 1-3

Common English Bible

Lynn Hawxhurst

Josiah was 8 years old when he became king, and he ruled for thirty-one years in Jerusalem. He did what was right in the Lord's eyes, and walked in the ways of his ancestor David—not deviating from it even a bit to the right or left.

In the eighteenth year of King Josiah's rule, he sent the secretary to the Lord's temple with the following orders: "Go to the high priest Hilkiah. Have him carefully count the money that has been brought to the Lord's temple and that has been collected from the people by the doorkeepers. It should be given to the supervisors in charge of the Lord's temple, who in turn should pay it to those who are in the Lord's temple, repairing the temple—the carpenters, the builders, and the masons. It should be used to pay for lumber and quarried stone to repair the temple. But there's no need to check on them regarding the money they receive, because they are honest workers."

The high priest told the secretary: "I have found the Instruction scroll in the Lord's temple."

The secretary then went to the king and reported this to him: "Your officials have released the money that was found in the temple and have handed it over to those who supervise the work in the Lord's temple." Then the secretary told the king, "The priest has given me a scroll," and he read it out loud before the king.

ANTHEM

King Of All Ages, Throned On High

Paul Isom (b.1959)

The Chancel Choir

*King of all ages, throned on high, yet saviour too of those with faith,
Death at your onslaught died in fear and grace triumphant rules supreme.*

*Risen from death, the heav'nly Christ receives from God the Father's hand
power over all created things: a gift he could not know on earth.*

*Then at your coming on the clouds with shining strength to be our judge,
Cancel the debt we owe you still, give back the glory we have lost.*

*Glory to you, O Christ our Lord, exalted far beyond our sight,
Reigning for evermore, with Father and with Paraclete. Amen.*

10th Century Latin

SECOND LESSON

2 Kings 22: 14-20
Common English Bible

So Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to the prophetess Huldah. She lived in Jerusalem in the second district. When they spoke to her, she replied, “This is what the Lord, Israel’s God, says: Tell this to the man who sent you to me: This is what the Lord says: I am about to bring disaster on this place and its citizens—all the words in the scroll that Judah’s king has read! My anger burns against this place, never to be quenched, because they’ve deserted me and have burned incense to other gods, angering me by everything they have done. But also say this to the king of Judah, who sent you to question the Lord: This is what the Lord, Israel’s God, says about the message you’ve just heard: Because your heart was broken and you submitted before the Lord when you heard what I said about this place and its citizens—that they will become a horror and a curse—and because you ripped your clothes and cried before me, I have listened to you, declares the Lord. That’s why I will gather you to your ancestors, and you will go to your grave in peace. You won’t experience the disaster I am about to bring on this place.”

When they reported Huldah’s words to the king, the king sent a message, and all of Judah’s and Jerusalem’s elders gathered before him. Then the king went up to the Lord’s temple, together with all the people of Judah and all the citizens of Jerusalem, the priests and the prophets, and all the people, young and old alike. There the king read out loud all the words of the covenant scroll that had been found in the Lord’s temple. The king stood beside the pillar and made a covenant with the Lord that he would follow the Lord by keeping his commandments, his laws, and his regulations with all his heart and all his being in order to fulfill the words of this covenant that were written in this scroll. All of the people accepted the covenant.

MESSAGE

To Whom Do We Turn?
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples
757 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

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

Mario Lotufo

ORGAN OFFERTORY

Allegro

Gustav Merkel (1827-1885)

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow
609 Glory to God Hymnal (purple)

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

Light Dawns On A Weary World
79 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Ferland's March
William P. Rowan (b.1951)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

COMMUNITY HOUR

Join us for Community Hour in the Auditorium following worship this morning where you can greet one another, have a cup of coffee, and a light snack. Hosts for the month of November are members of the Diaconate (Deacons).

CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Nov 26: One-Room-Schoolhouse Dec 3: All-Ages Worship

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

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. 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, Christmas lights, Wallets and handbags

THANK YOU FOR HARVEST SUNDAY DONATIONS

Thank you for the wonderful donations for Harvest Sunday delivered to the Meetinghouse and to the drive-by drop off! We collected 190 bags of much needed food for H.O.M.E. and Neighbor to Neighbor.

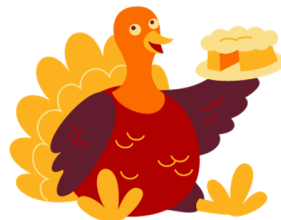
In addition, 374 lbs of fresh food was donated to Neighbor to Neighbor through #GiveHealthy! Thank you for making the shelves of both food pantries a little bit fuller for the holidays!



Regional Youth Ministry
6TH THROUGH 12TH GRADE

THIS SUNDAY | NOV 26 | 5 PM

108 SOUND BEACH AVE • KHALEIGHL@FCCOG.ORG



**FRIENDS
GIVING**
POTLUCK-ISH MEAL

From your
pantry or the
store, bring
something easy,
a main dish will
be provided!
**Service
Opportunity:
Making Care
Packages**



PLEASE JOIN US TODAY!

The 2023 Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale is open!

Shop early for the best selection. We have more trees and many taller trees this year. We also have beautiful balsam and mixed greens wreaths. Decorated wreaths and handmade artisan bows will also be available along with stands and roping. Please help us help others at this time of critical need!

57th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE AND WREATH SALE

Tree Sale Volunteers - Sign Ups Now Open

The 2023 Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale 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!



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





FIRST CHURCH'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 3RD
5:00 PM TO 7:30 PM
In the Meetinghouse**

DRESS FESTIVE
ADULT MEMBERS AND GUESTS
FREE OF CHARGE
HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES
OPEN BAR





FIRST CHURCH MESSIAH CONCERT

The 57th 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, for more information.

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
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



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all