



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023  
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
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*

*The flowers on the altar are in loving memory of John Pearson McCue*

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### PRELUDE

*O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings To Zion*  
G. F. Handel (1685-1759)  
Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano  
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

*O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain; O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, behold your God!*  
*O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.*  
Isaiah 40:9 & Isaiah 60:1

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

### 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.*

### HYMN

*Creator Of The Stars Of Night* (verse 1 only)  
84 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

One: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, and set lights in the sky –  
sun and moon and stars.

All: **By these stars, our ancestors charted their journeys. By these stars, they knew God was with them.**

One: Today we light one candle to bring the fire of the stars down from heaven to earth, to  
nestle among the greens.

All: **We name this candle Hope.**

One: We too are on a journey, and we do not always know the way. But we chart our path by the  
star of hope.

All: **Even when better days seem very far away and the weight of the world seems to crush  
your promises, we set our face steadily towards the light.**

One: Let us pray:

All: **Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of hope this week, help us to become the signs of hope  
that others are searching for. As these candles are but a glimpse of the light of the  
heavens, help us to be a glimpse of heaven's hope. Amen.**

*Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett*

## ANTHEM DURING ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

*Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming*  
Arr. James D. Kimball  
The Palmer Handbell Choir

### †HYMN

*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*  
104 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

### †PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

God of promise, we come before you in need of grace. Too often our thoughts are judgmental and condemning of others. Too often our words are sarcastic or harsh, as harmful as weapons. Too often our actions are motivated by selfishness, and we do not recognize the hurt or need in others. Forgive us, O God, and draw us back into right relationship with you, our neighbors, and your creation.

*\*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)

*He Came Down*

He came down that we might have light; he came down that we might have light; Hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.  
He came down that we might have hope; he came down that we might have hope;

## ANTHEM

*Feliz Navidad*  
The Cherub Choir  
Carol Woodman, director  
Lynn Hawxhurst, ukulele

†Please rise in body or in spirit

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*(During the singing of the response, children will return to their seats.)*

### RESPONSE

Go, My Children

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.  
Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.  
Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.

### FIRST LESSON

*Psalm 62:5-8*

The Message

Lynn Robertson

God, the one and only—

I'll wait as long as God says.

Everything I hope for comes from God,  
so why not?

God is solid rock under my feet,  
breathing room for my soul,

An impregnable castle:  
I'm set for life.

My help and glory are in God

—granite-strength and safe-harbor-God—

So trust God absolutely, people;  
pour out your hearts before God!  
God is a safe place to be.

### SECOND LESSON

*Jeremiah 33:10-11, 14-18*

New International Version

“This is what the Lord says: ‘You say about this place, “It is a desolate waste, without people or animals.” Yet in the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are deserted, inhabited by neither people nor animals, there will be heard once more the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, and the voices of those who bring thank offerings to the house of the Lord, saying,



“Give thanks to the Lord Almighty,  
for the Lord is good; his love endures forever.”

For I will restore the fortunes of the land as they were before,’ says the Lord.

“‘The days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.

“‘In those days and at that time  
I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line;  
he will do what is just and right in the land.

In those days Judah will be saved  
and Jerusalem will live in safety.

This is the name by which it will be called:  
The Lord Our Righteous Savior.’

For this is what the Lord says: ‘David will never fail to have a man to sit on the throne of Israel, nor will the Levitical priests ever fail to have a man to stand before me continually to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings and to present sacrifices.’”

## MESSAGE

Worth The Wait  
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

## †HYMN

Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming  
131 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

## THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Receiving the Bread and Cup

*In the tradition of our church, let us partake of the bread (gluten-free) and the cup together, remembering our individual uniqueness in the eyes of God and our diversity and unity within the Body of Christ.*

*Those receiving communion are asked to come forward by the center aisle,  
receive the bread and cup, then return to their seats by the side aisle.*

## 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.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

## CALL TO OFFERING

Marilyn Derr

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Keep Yo' Lamps*  
Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)  
The Chancel Choir  
Cydney Van Dyke, percussion

## †DOXOLOGY

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

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures

here be-low; praise him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise

Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

## †PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## †HYMN

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*  
93 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

## BENEDICTION

## CHORAL RESPONSE

## POSTLUDE

*Nun Komm Der Heiden Heiland*  
J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

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# 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. Hosts for December are members of the Church Council.

## CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Dec 3: All-Ages Worship Dec 10: Classes as normal

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.

## THANK YOU TO LAST WEEKEND'S DREAM TEAM OF TREE SALE VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to all your hard work, we had a record-breaking weekend of tree and wreath sales! Not only did we sell over 400 trees and 200 wreaths, but we also provided a festive community atmosphere where friends could visit and those new to us could get a taste of First Church's hospitality and welcoming nature. We could not have done it without you!

## ANNUAL GIVING UPDATE

What a great turnout we have had over the past few weeks! We continue to close in on our goal of \$660,000 and we are currently just under \$500,000. A number of pledges still remain, and it is never too late to pledge for 2024.

As a reminder, the pledges we are making now can be paid before the end of this calendar year or, they can be made throughout calendar 2024.

We are counting on everyone to help First Church provide the services to the members, to our community, and beyond. If any of you have questions about how to pledge or what you have pledged in prior years, please reach out to Greg Girolamo for assistance. [gregg@fccog.org](mailto:gregg@fccog.org)



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)



## BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING TODAY

Your Parish Nurse, Sue Asselin, will be available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following today's worship service.



## 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:

Cashmere sweaters

Christmas ornaments

Small kitchen appliances



## 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 Mon., Dec. 11 at 7:30
- Dress rehearsal with orchestra Wed., Dec. 13 at 7:30

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.





*First Congregational Church of Greenwich*

# CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT

**3 PM | 108 SOUND BEACH AVE**  
**ALL ARE WELCOME | CHILDREN**  
**ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE**

*Dress Rehearsal on December 22nd at 3 pm in Auditorium*

## CHRISTMAS EVE AT FIRST CHURCH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24



### 10 a.m. Children's Service

especially designed for younger children and families  
Music by The Cherub Choir.

### 3 p.m. Family Service

"Once in Royal David's City" pageant  
Music by The Celebration Singers and  
Helena Brown, soprano from The Metropolitan Opera

5 p.m. Community Candlelight Carol Sing  
on the front lawn of the church.

6 p.m. Festival Candlelight Carol Service  
Music by a brass quintet, timpani,  
and The Chancel Choir.

9 p.m. Candlelight Service with Communion  
Music by The Genesis/Alumni Choir, and harp.



CUT HERE

### Christmas Meetinghouse Decorations & Brass

The Deacons invite contributions for decorations and brass music for the Meetinghouse this Christmas.  
Any amount is welcome. Please deliver the completed form with your check to the church office  
on or before Monday, December 18, 2023. Thank you!

Please check one of these choices:

☐ Flowers

☐ Brass

☐ In Memory of

☐ In Honor of

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ made out to **First Congregational Church of Greenwich**  
("Flowers" in the memo) Please print legibly to minimize spelling errors.



# 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





# 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 Emerita

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

