



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY
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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Bring A Torch, Jeanette Isabella
Keith Chapman (1945–1989)
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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We are here because we have heard a promise of peace,

All: **And we have faith its day will come.**

One: We have heard a rumor of justice,

All: **And we have faith its day will come.**

One: We have heard a whisper of hope,

All: **And we have faith its day will come.**

One: We have heard a hint of love,

All: **And we have faith its day will come.**

All: **We have heard of the birth of the Christ-child,**

One: And we have faith his day is here.

All: **Let us worship together now with faith and hope for the dawning of a new age.**

CHORAL INTROIT

O Hearken Ye!
Alfred Burt (1920-1954)
The Chancel Choir

CAROL SING

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

O God, you are slow to anger and swift to have mercy. Forgive us when we treat time as a commodity or an enemy, when we abuse your gift of time. In our fastness and our slowness, help us to keep pace with you. Free us to live in your time, a new time, in which there is a time for everything under heaven, and slow is not too slow, and fast is not too fast. Transform us into people who see time as a gift and a friend, who live as if we have time, because we know that your time will never cease. Through Jesus 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)

He Came Down

He came down that we may have love; he
came down that we may have love; he came down that we may
have love; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system has two staves (Soprano and Bass). The second system has two staves (Alto and Bass). The third system has two staves (Tenor and Bass). The lyrics are written below the staves. There are triplets indicated by a '3' over a bracketed group of notes in several places.

Additional stanzas:

... that we may have light
... that we may have peace
... that we may have joy

SOLO

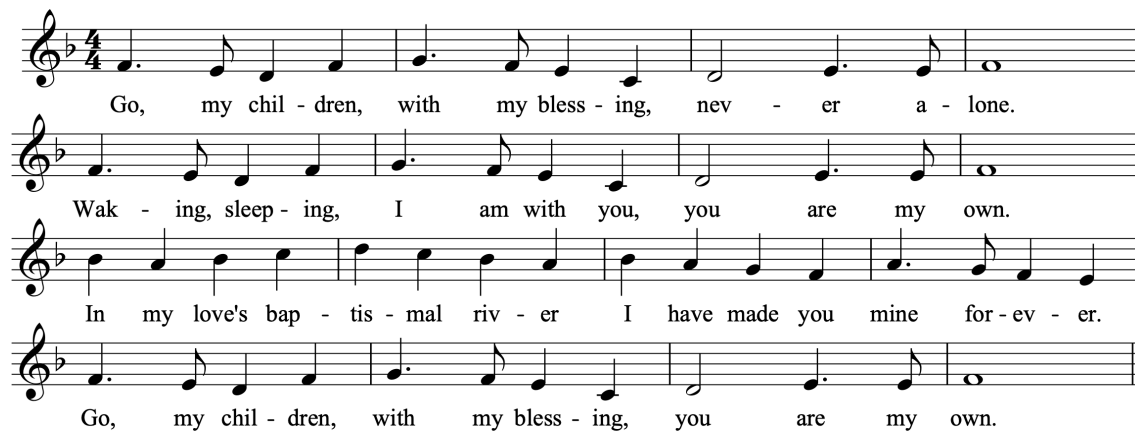
The Truth From Above
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
Thomas Woodman, baritone

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(During the singing of the response, children will depart for Church School or return to their seats.)

RESPONSE

Go, My Children



ANTHEM

Song Of Mary

Harold Friedell (1905-1958)

Hanna Golodinskii, Linnea Conley, Daniel Young, Thomas Woodman

FIRST LESSON

Roots And Wings

Author Unknown

Juliet Primo

If I could give you many things,
I'd give you gold and silver rings
Of knowledge that I've gained with years
The gift of smiling through the tears
Confidence, courage, determination,
Laughter and spirit and love of creation,
Wrapped up in a box with a bow, I'd give
To you these gifts to keep for as long as you live.

"If I could give you just two things,
One would be Roots, the other, Wings."
Roots, not to tie you to the ground,
But to guide you to where your fulfillment is found
The nourishing start, the firm foundation,
The source of your inner determination.
Wings to soar over obstacles, wings to fly free,
Wings to glide to the heights of the best you can be.

And when obstacles loom, from your Roots grows a hand
Providing a strong, sturdy, safe place to land.
I'd choose these two things for the gifts that are best,
For with Roots and with Wings, you'll find all the rest.

ANTHEM

Caroling, Caroling
Alfred Burt
The Chancel Choir

SECOND LESSON

Revelation 21: 1-7
New Revised Standard Version

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them and be their God;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said,

“Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.

CAROL SING

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

Carolyn Paulus

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

While By My Sheep
Hugo Jungst (1853-1923)
The Chancel Choir

While by my sheep I watched at night, glad tidings brought an angel bright:

*How great my joy, great my joy,
Joy, joy joy, Joy, joy joy,
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high.
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high.*

There shall be born, so He did say, in Bethlehem a Child today:
There shall He lie in manger mean, who shall redeem the world from sin:
This gift of God we'll cherish well, that ever joy my heart shall fill.
Lord, evermore to me be nigh, then shall my heart be filled with joy!

Theodore Baker

†DOXOLOGY

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

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CAROL SING

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Joy To The World
Arr. Gordon Young (1919-1998)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

All hymns reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-726454. All rights reserved.



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 December are members of the Church Council.

CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Dec 31: One-Room Schoolhouse

Jan 7: 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)



YEAR-END PLEDGE REMINDER

On this final day of the year, please consider your 2023 pledge fulfillment today. If you wish, place your pledge in the offering plate, or you can complete it online by clicking on the "My First Church" secure link on the upper right corner of the church website.

Thank you for supporting the important work at First Congregational Church of Greenwich.



THE RUMMAGE ROOM

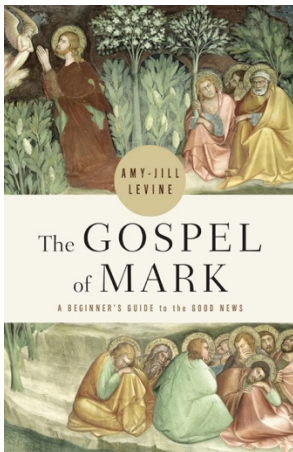
Shopping hours are Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., with the same hours for donation drop off. The Rummage Room is closed for the holiday season and will reopen on Tuesday January 2, 2024.

A TREE OF REMEMBRANCE

This year, First Church is introducing a new Christmas tradition. At the back of the Meetinghouse is a Christmas tree, and this will be, through Epiphany (January 7), our Tree of Remembrance. Please take a label and write the name of your loved one, with or without the dates of birth and death, before hanging it on the tree. Write as many as you'd like. This will be a beautiful way to remember those we have lost and miss, particularly over this holiday period.



For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. Romans 14:8



FAITH FORMATION: BEGINNERS GUIDE TO THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Wednesday, January 10 – Wednesday, February 14

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Church Lounge

All are welcome to join Pastors Patrick and Cydney for this group discussion about the Gospel of Mark. We will explore the historical context of this first account of Jesus' life and ministry and how it is still relevant to us today.



THE YALE ALLEY CATS
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024 4 P.M.

Since 1943, as Yale's classiest a cappella group, the Cats have created over 400 original arrangements from jazz standards to Motown, timeless oldies to contemporary chart-toppers. Free admission - great concert for all ages!

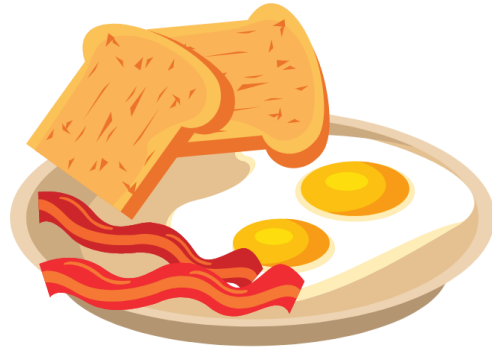


Happy Advent & Merry Christmas



WISHING MANY BLESSINGS TO YOU AND YOURS,
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH STAFF

Brunch & Party Games



6TH - 12TH GRADE REGIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY

SUNDAY DEC 31ST AT 12 PM

139 East Putnam Avenue

FOOD PROVIDED | PJ'S ENCOURAGED | HOLIDAY GAMES

For questions email: KhaleighL@fccog.org

FCCOG CHRISTMAS TREE
Collection

ONLY
\$35

BOOK NOW

SIGN UP LINK IN EBLAST

STAY AT HOME!
JUST LEAVE THE TREE OUTSIDE- WE RECYCLE FOR YOU!

SATURDAYS: DEC 30 & JAN 6, 10AM-3PM
SUNDAYS: DEC 31 & JAN 7, 12-4PM

A REGIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY FUNDRAISER!

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

Preschool Administrative Assistant

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

Karina Germosen

Reverend Sally Colegrove



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all