

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

25 March 2012

10 o'clock in the morning



*The Prophet Jeremiah, by Michelangelo
Sistine Chapel 1508-1512*

WE welcome you to this Service of Worship during the season of Lent. Lent represents our remembrance of the journey to the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We celebrate that this part of your journey has brought you here today! As we journey toward the fullness of our call in Jesus Christ, may each of our hearts be filled with compassion and may we find companionship for the journey to come. Welcome.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Celebration

The Palmer Handbells

Fred Gramann

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

New Century (black) Hymnal 43

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God,
who pours out on all who desire it
the spirit of grace;
deliver us, when we draw near to You,
from coldness of heart
and wanderings of mind,
that with steadfast thoughts
and kindled affections,
we may worship You in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Holy One, we call to you and name you as eternal, ever-present, and boundless in love. Yet there are times, O God, when we fail to recognize you in the dailyness of our lives. Sometimes shame clenches tightly around our hearts, and we hide our true feelings. Sometimes fear makes us small, and we miss the chance to speak from our strength. Sometimes doubt invades our hopefulness, and we degrade our own wisdom.

Holy God, in the daily round from sunrise to sunset, remind us again of your holy presence hovering near us and in us. Free us from shame and self-doubt. Help us to see you in the moment-by-moment possibilities to live honestly, to act courageously, to speak from our wisdom and love from our hearts.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

‡CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Give Me a Clean Heart New Century (black) Hymnal 188

*Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.
God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you.
For I'm not worthy of all these blessings.
Give me a clean heart and I'll follow you.*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Jean Watkins

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

DUET

Hanna Golodinskii, soprano
Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano
Felix Mendelssohn

Lord, Bow Thine Ear to My Prayer

SECOND LESSON

John 12:20-26

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

***‡HYMN**

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

New Century (black) Hymnal 190

(As the hymn begins, the Church School children and teachers will leave for their classrooms. Children in second grade and older will leave independently. Children in kindergarten and first grade will meet their teachers at the back of the Meetinghouse (narthex) and will go to their classrooms as a group.)

SERMON: “The Agreement”

Rev. Sarah Verasco, Fairfield County Regional UCC Minister

RESPONDING TO GOD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in God:

Who has created and is creating,

Who has come in Jesus,

The word made flesh,

To reconcile and make new

Who works in us and others by the Spirit

We Trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

To celebrate God’s presence

To love and serve others,

To seek justice and resist evil

To proclaim Jesus,

Crucified and risen,

Our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

***Gloria**

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 513

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

For This One Day

The Chancel Choir

Dan Gawthrop

***Doxology**

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 515

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures
here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son,
and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

***CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

O Grant Us Light

New Century (black) Hymnal 469

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

New Century (black) Hymnal 81

God Be With You (no refrain)

God be with you till we meet again.

By good counsel guide, uphold you.

With a shepherd's care enfold you;

God be with you till we meet again.

POSTLUDE

Voluntary in D

William Boyce



Music Notes:

The composer of the Offertory Anthem, Daniel Gawthrop, was born in 1949 in Fort Wayne, IN. He has written works for a variety of instruments and voices, including choral anthems, orchestral works, and many others. *For This One Day*, composed with a text by Jane Griner, was commissioned by the Universalist National Memorial Church of Washington, D.C. The text offers a wonderful sense of hope and faith in times of need:

*Lord, give us this day our daily bread;
Manna, life, for this one day;
Life enough for work and wonder, laughter, joy, and time for play.
Love enough to lift the weary, feed the hungry, light the way,
And when we thirst, grant Living Water pure and clear,
Thy peace assure us.
And when we fear, O Lord, do not leave us.
When we fail, Lord, do not despair of us.
When we see our might, make us count the stars.
And when we tremble, Lord, Give us for this one day Thy grace,
Thy peace, our daily bread.*

Sarah Verasco is the Regional Minister for Fairfield County, serving the 40 churches that comprise the Fairfield East and Fairfield West Associations. The focus of Sarah's work includes local church transitions, resourcing congregational leaders, and providing pastoral support and care for clergy leaders. Sarah graduated from Union Theological Seminary in 2000 and served in three Connecticut congregations before accepting a call to join the Conference Staff. She came to ordained ministry after a meaningful career as a teacher and swimming coach, and a brief stint in the corporate world. These formative professional experiences have proven to be very useful in the varied roles and skills expected of clergy. Sarah was born and raised in New Jersey and currently lives in Fairfield.

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 have **child care for babies and toddlers** every Sunday. Your children are always welcome for the entire service or for a respite time if needed. Please see an usher if you need directions.

The 10:00 am Service is broadcast live each week on WGCH 1490 AM Radio. In addition, the service is available through the church's website, www.fccog.org. A bulletin can be found there as well as a link to the live broadcast. Previous sermons may also be found there.

Calendar

TODAY

Church School

This is our last regular Church School class until April 15. Please remember our special events on: ***March 28*** - Wonderful Wednesday; ***April 5*** - Maundy Thursday; ***April 7*** - Egg Decorating Saturday; and, of course, Palm Sunday and Easter!

Blood Pressure Screenings

A member of the Wellness Committee will be available for blood pressure screenings in Room 203 following the Worship Service.

Youth and Cherub Choir Rehearsals

Youth Choir will rehearse today from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm in the Choir Room and Cherub Choir will rehearse from 11:15 to 11:45 am in Room 104.

linc

Join us today at 5:00 pm in the Auditorium for our linc worship service. The service is casual so come as you are and bring all your friends!

THIS WEEK

Last “Wonderful Wednesday” until the Fall – March 28

This Wednesday, *March 28*, we will share in a time of community at our last Wonderful Wednesday until the fall. In preparation for our CROP Hunger Walk, we will have guest speakers from Bread for the World (BFTW).

- Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation’s decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. By changing policies, programs and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist, Bread for the World churches and members provide help and opportunity far beyond the communities in which they live.
- John P. Driscoll will give a talk on Bread for the World’s effective advocacy on hunger issues. John is co-chair of the New York Advisory Board of Bread for the World. Also participating in the evening’s program will be Bread for the World staff members Sarah Rohrer and Ed Hoyt.
- Since 2006, John has been MEDCO’s President, New Markets, where he is responsible for Medco’s product and business development, and its international, consumer-driven, e-prescribing and information businesses. He also leads Medco’s investments, alliances and acquisitions. John lives in Stamford where he has served on the board of Domuskids. He is on the Executive Board of Truman National Security Project in Washington, DC.

There will also be hunger awareness programming for our children, an option for youth involvement, dinner, and a worship service to close out our evening together. Dinner begins at 6:00 pm and you will be on your way home by 8:00 pm. Don’t miss this unique opportunity!

“Hats Off” Book Study Group

Our "Hats Off" Book Study Group has started our spring reading with *Quiet Hero* by Rita Cosby. Senator John McCain says, "Rita's story is one that will touch every family... A loving, poignant tribute to her POW father and freedom." Rita Cosby grew up on Halsey Drive in Havemeyer Park, Old Greenwich! Come join us on

Thursday mornings from 10:00 am -11:30 am in the Lounge. Any questions, please call Debbie Berner, 203-629-1110.

CPR Training Opportunity - Consider Being a Blessing to Others
Saturday, March 31, 9:00-11:30 am. This is the last opportunity for CPR certified people to renew their certification conveniently at church. Those interested in becoming newly certified are also welcome to this training which includes the use of our automatic external defibrillator (AED). Thanks to the generosity of the Greenwich EMS, and to the church covering the reduced fees, we can offer the classes at no cost to the participants. Please contact your Parish Nurse at ext. 21 to register for a class.

NEWS AND NOTICES

CROP Hunger Walk

“CROP” stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. We invite you to join us four weeks from today on *Sunday, April 22* for the 5th annual Greenwich/Port Chester CROP Hunger Walk, this year being held at First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich, 1 West Putnam Avenue, Greenwich. Registration - 1:15 pm; Walk (under 2 miles) - 2:00 pm. For more information and to sign up to walk and/or volunteer, please contact Mark Montgomery or Rosemary Lamie.

It's Coming!

Well, yes, Jesus is coming, but if he is delayed, Bible Study will start *April 22* at 11:20 am in the Lounge.

“Swing into Spring” Alert!

Please think about items or services that you might want to donate to our silent and live auctions for the night of the gala celebration, *April 28*. Some of the donations we have received so far are: *Baby items, including a hand crocheted afghan; Luncheon cruise on a 36' motor launch; Decoupage glass placemats or trays; Professional teeth whitening; Summer Soirée; Guided kayak trip; Antique Japanese wedding coat; Week at a private house in Breckenridge, CO.*

Church Committee Minutes Available

In the interest of transparency, the Church Committee will be posting its agenda on its bulletin board ahead of each meeting. Any member is welcome to attend the meetings of the Church Committee. To request an agenda item be added, please contact the Senior Deacon Paul Olmsted at olmstedp@sbcglobal.net. In addition, the most recently approved minutes of the Church Committee meetings are available on the bulletin board and in the church office. If you would like an electronic copy of the minutes, please contact Barbara Wilkov at barbaraw@fccog.org or 203-637-1791, ext. 24.

Tai Chi Fitness with Luis Duarte

Improve your balance, health and well being. Come and experience the many wonderful benefits of Tai Chi and Qi Gong exercises. Classes are held on **Wednesdays** at 8:00 am and **Thursdays** at 9:00 am. Only \$7 per class if paid by the month, and \$8 per class for "drop ins." Join us! You'll love it! **All are welcome!**

News from The Rummage Room

- **March 26 to March 31** - Springtime only arrived March 20 but we have already been enjoying summertime weather! Need clothing for the family, bikes, and baby strollers? We have all those things and more for your Spring and Easter needs.
- **Manager Maria's Wish List** - Easter decorations; Spring and summer clothing; jewelry; handbags; strollers; bikes; small furniture; Mothers' Day gifts. Please sort your donations at home and bring only clean and usable donations to The Rummage Room. Thank you.
- **Gift Certificates for the favorite people in your life** - These are available from the volunteers at the cash register for any amount.
- **April 17** - The "Thank You Volunteers' Breakfast" to be held in the church auditorium at 9:00 am. Please mark your calendars.
- **May 16** - Women's Fellowship luncheon, quilt raffle, Allocations recommendations for the 2011 funds from The

Rummage Room, and the nomination of Women's Fellowship officers for 2012 - 2013.

- As the days grow longer, let us remember that life consists less in the length of the days than in what we can give to the quality of life, not only for ourselves but what we can give to others to make this a better world. Life is short and we should never lose sight of that fact.

Food Collection

The Food Collection barrel remains in the back of the Meetinghouse. When you're doing your grocery shopping, adding a few items will make a significant difference at Neighbor to Neighbor. They continue to need: Cereal, Oatmeal, Pasta sauce, Dried beans (kidney and black), 100% juice, Canned tomatoes, Peanut butter (no larger than 28 oz.), and Jelly.

Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Palm Sunday

5:00 pm linc worship service – Auditorium

Come as you are and bring all your friends!

Note: There will be no 5:00 pm linc service on Easter Sunday, but we invite you to attend one of our other Easter Services (see next page for schedule).

See next page for Holy Week Schedule and Easter Flower Donation sign-up

Holy Week Schedule

April 1: Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday Worship with choirs, instruments, children's procession and a dialogue sermon with Avery Manchester and Dan England

April 5: Maundy Thursday

A simple but delicious meal beginning at **6:00 pm**, followed by a special Service of Worship in the Auditorium and, finally, the week's Service of Communion at **7:00 pm**.

April 6: Good Friday

12:00 pm Youth Cross Walk to Tod's Point.

8:00 pm Good Friday Service -

Music: Theodore Dubois, *Seven Last Words of Christ*.

April 8: Easter Morning

6:15 am Sunrise Beach Service at Greenwich Point.

9:00 and **11:00 am** Festive Services in the Meetinghouse with choirs, brass and timpani; child care available.

Easter Memorial/Honor Flowers

The Chancel Committee invites contributions for flowers in the Meetinghouse this Easter. Any amount is welcome. Please deliver the completed form with your check to the Church Office (payable to the First Congregational Church Flower Fund) on or before *Sunday, April 1*. Thank you.

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

By:

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____

Please print names legibly to minimize spelling errors.

✂-----

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870

203-637-1791

www.fccog.org

Ministers: The Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry: Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

Associate Pastor for Communication/Adult Education: Rev. Daniel B. England

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Church School: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Director of Publications: Barbara Wilkov

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Stiers and Rev. Sally Colegrove

Director of Music Emeritus: Dr. John Stansell