

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2025

PALM SUNDAY

TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

declares itself to be Open and Affirming (ONA); 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.

Welcome to Worship!

We welcome you this day and are glad you are here! May worship be a blessing to you.

First Church Welcomes *You.*

With Worship. A casual tone, stirring music, moving prayers, & a faith-invoking message. **Prayer Book requests** (in Narthex) are uplifted during the Prayers of the People.

With Inclusion. Open & Affirming (ONA). We make a point of meeting all and name tags worn.

With Communion. The first Sunday of each month, all ages share in the sacred meal together. We use juice & gluten-free bread!

With Care. We pass the Peace of Christ to one another. We are a mask-friendly, come-as-you-are, leave-as-a-friend community.



First Church Welcomes *Children.*

The PrayGround. In the Chapel space, guiding kids in worship.

Cherub Choir, Celebration Singers, & Genesis Choir. Children of all ages are welcome to offer music in worship!

Children's Message. A moment for kids & the child in each of us.

Church School. Faith learnings for the day continue in the Undercroft classrooms after the Children's Message.

Children's Take Home Library. Located by the PrayGround. Check out what interests you & bring it back next week!



First Church Welcomes *All.*

Sensory Sanctuary & Rocking Chairs. Focusing resources located in the back of the Meetinghouse.

Visual Worship Aids & Live captioning. Found on the monitors.

Audio Hearing Aids. To use, ask Greeters or Ushers.

Spaces in Meetinghouse for Wheelchair Users

Exterior Ramp. In the back of the Meetinghouse, driveway side.

Liftavators. Located inside, from Narthex to Auditorium Level & Outside in the Memory Garden.



Enjoy a cup of coffee, food, & fellowship at *Community Hour* after the service!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

*Please know our worshipping community gathers in-person and online via livestream
with multiple camera angles of the Meetinghouse and congregation.*

The calla lilies on the altar are given in loving memory of our parents
Margaret and Carleton Gisborne by Claire Henry and Ruth Reed and our families.

PRELUDE

Procession

Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

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.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

I'll Fly Away/Standin' In The Need Of Prayer

The Cherub Choir

Carol Woodman, director – Lynn Hawxhurst, ukulele – Carolyn Paulus, piano

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Following the message, the children will go to the back of the church for the Palm Procession.)

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: On this day, Jesus marched

All: in between the city walls and the Temple, in between joyful Hosannas and doubtful whispers,
in between oppressive poverty and greedy power, in between rampant fear and hope unfurled.

One: On this day, Jesus marched in between what had been and what could be.

All: So may we meet Christ in that liminal space.

May we lay down our coats in that messy middle.

One: Hosanna in the highest!

All: Hosanna in between!

†PALM PROCESSION AND OPENING HYMN

All Glory Laud And Honor

196 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Great Creator, forgive me when I speak before listening, when I speak over my neighbor, when I speak with barbed words. Forgive me when I listen to society, when I listen to my friends, when I listen to the news, but I do not listen to you. Forgive me when I shout out, but do not shout your name, when I listen, but do not listen for your voice. Forgive me. Create in me a heart like yours. Amen.

Moment of silence for personal reflection

†Please rise in body or in spirit

†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: May the peace of Christ be with all of you.

All: And also with you.

†RESPONSE (remain standing)

Halle, Halle, Halle



FIRST LESSON

If You Really Listen...

Rev. Sarah Speed

Peggy Whitlock

In the city you'll hear horns, the clatter of the subway,
mothers calling to their children, saying, "Take my hand before we cross the street."
You'll hear church bells, Salvation Army bells,
people asking for spare change, while others ask for directions.
You'll hear the whistle from the traffic cop,
the exhaust from the bus,
that a train is arriving in two minutes.
You'll hear mothers selling fresh mango,
theater kids selling tickets,
and religious groups selling ideas.
But even with all that shouting,
even with all that noise,
the birds still sing.
Against all odds,
thanks be to God,
the birds still sing.

ANTHEM

Wave Your Branches

Thomas Pavlechko (b. 1962)

The Celebration Singers

Vance Briceland, piano

†Please rise in body or in spirit

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. Now as he was approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. Indeed, the days will come upon you when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you and hem you in on every side. They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God."

MESSAGE

Something's Missing
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

Ride On! Ride On In Majesty
198 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

Mary Fike

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.



†Please rise in body or in spirit

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna
Arr. Joel Raney (b. 1956)
The Celebration Singers
The Genesis Choir
The Chancel Choir
Matt Stolfi, piano

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

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

†Please rise in body or in spirit



O'er all the way green palms and blossoms gay
His word goes forth, and people by its might
Sing and rejoice, O blest Je - ru - sa - lem.



Are strewn this day in festal preparation.
Once more regain freedom from degradation.
Of all thy sons sing the emancipation.



Where Jesus comes to wipe our tears away
Humanity doth give to each his right
Through boundless love the Christ of Bethlehem



E'en now the throng to welcome him prepare, Join all and sing, His
While those in darkness are restored to light.
Brings faith and hope to thee forevermore.



name declare, Let every voice resound with acclamation, Ho



san - na! Praise to the Lord! Bless him who cometh to bring us sal -



va - - - tion!

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune In C
David Lasky (b. 1957)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

COMMUNITY HOUR

Join us for Community Hour in the Auditorium where you can greet one another, have a cup of coffee, and a light snack, including Hot Cross Buns, provided by Cobs Bread on Putnam Ave in Riverside. Hosts for April are members of the Faith Formation Committee.

NEW WEBSITE!

Check your Friday email blast for full information on our new website! The address is still the same - www.fccog.org - but it looks completely new and refreshed.

CHURCH SCHOOL



ALL AGES WORSHIP this Sunday.

ALL AGES WORSHIP (AAW)

AAW is a Sunday morning experience for the whole family of faith to sing, pray, hear stories and partake in communion together!

April 13 – Palm Sunday

May 18 – Music Sunday

Kids and Youth can sign up to read. Scan QR code to the right



BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS



Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse, is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following today's worship service. She will be in her office, just to the right of the Auditorium stage. During the week she is available by appointment by calling 203-637-1791 ext. 821.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP QUILT RAFFLE & ANNUAL MEETING/LUNCHEON

It's April and that means the annual quilt raffle to benefit The Women's Fellowship is just around the corner. Tickets will be sold at community hour, the church front office, and The Rummage Room.

Tickets are \$5 and the drawing will be held on Saturday, May 3 at The Women's Fellowship luncheon. Get your tickets soon!

Women of First Church – join us on Saturday, May 3 at 11:00 a.m. for our Women's Fellowship Annual Meeting and Luncheon. We are looking for women who would like to get involved in planning our next year and serving on the Women's Fellowship Board. Please see us at Community Hour - we'll be next to the Quilt Raffle table. Reservations for the luncheon can be made beginning today. The fee for the luncheon is \$25 (cash or checks made out to Women's Fellowship FCCOG).



Some of our other upcoming events include our Summer Socials planned for the fourth Monday of June, July, and August - June 23, July 28, and August 25-beginning at 5:30 pm at the Sue Baker Pavilion at Greenwich Point with rain dates the following Tuesday evening.

BULLETIN COVER INSPIRATION – FROM THE ARTIST

I Believe by Steve Prince

Inspired by Luke 19:29-40

Pen and ink on paper

It is said that the true confession that flows from one's heart and lips and professes that they are a sinner and desire to be healed, is essentially the key to unlocking one's salvation. Amid a sometimes turbulent and chaotic world, if we enter with faith and Christ in our hearts we shall be delivered. The figure's hands are lifted in praise as he navigates the flood of life, which can be overbearing. He recognizes that the flood of life is symbolic of sin and separation from God. He closes his eyes, humbles himself before God, and he is delivered into a new chapter of his life, triumphant.

Prompts for contemplation

- Look closely at the waves. What does the flood of life represent for you?
- Notice the contrast between the house on one side and the man on the other. What emotions or thoughts do these images evoke?
- How does the image of Jesus on a donkey influence your understanding of this scene?

What do you make of its placement in this work?

- Notice the abstract shaded area at the top. Does it feel like a cloud, storm, or something else? Does this texture remind you of God's presence?

WELCOMING COMMITTEE EVENTS

The Friendsgiving gatherings were such a hit that members of the Welcoming Committee have been asked to continue the fun year-round! It's such a great way to get to know each other and build community. The idea is to have gatherings that are easy to execute; co-hosting and pot-luck parties are encouraged. Hosts choose what they want to do, the date & the number of guests they can handle.

A couple of FCCOG members have already offered to host spring events: a "s'mores-round-a-firepit-party" and an outing to Storm King Art Center. Details to follow in the upcoming weeks.

Here are some additional ideas but feel free to suggest others:

- Build your own ice-cream sundae party
- Build your own taco (on a Tuesday of course!) party
- Potluck BBQ
- Movie and pizza (maybe even use FCCOG auditorium)
- Outing to a ball game
- Potluck dinner at the Susie Baker pavilion at Tod's Point
- Wine tasting
- A red party (everyone wears red)

Call/text Betsy (203) 832-8113 or Cynthia (203) 918-1523 if you have any questions or would like to host.



RISE AGAINST HUNGER MEAL PACKING EVENT – SUNDAY MAY 4 AT 10 A.M.



During our morning worship time, we will pack 20,000 meals to support Rise Against Hunger's vision of a world without hunger, which distributes meals in 38 countries to schools, health clinics and communities hit by disaster. The meals help keep children in school and aid communities in the short term as they



develop long term food security.

The cost of underwriting The Rise Against Hunger meal packing and the meal packing event will be our 2025 Lenten Offering and Lenten Project. Scan the QR code to donate and support this project. Please join us for a fun, energized, music-filled morning when we will experience the joy of working together to help the least among us! Bring friends to show them First Church in action!

MAUNDY THURSDAY DINNER AND WORSHIP

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 17
WE WILL GATHER FOR
DINNER AND COMMUNION
IN THE AUDITORIUM AT 6 PM.

SOUP, MAC & CHEESE,
AND BREAD WILL BE PROVIDED.
PLEASE BRING A SIDE DISH TO SHARE

AT 7 PM WE MOVE TO THE
MEETINGHOUSE FOR THE SERVICE OF
TENEBRAE AND WASHING OF THE FEET

JOIN US FOR THIS MEANINGFUL
COMMEMORATION OF THE LAST SUPPER




EASTER EGG DYEING & HUNT



SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH
10-12 PM DYEING & 11:30 AM HUNT

DONATE
CANDY TO
OFFICE BY
4/13

(AGES 0 TO 6TH GR)
REGISTER AT EVENT

- 
- HUNT IN AGE GROUPS
 - BYO HARD BOILED EGGS
& A BASKET

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

10:00 AM

April 13 | Palm Sunday

6:00 PM

April 17 | Maundy Thursday
6 PM Dinner - 7 PM Worship

7:30 PM

April 18 | Good Friday

10:00 AM

April 19 | Egg Dyeing & Hunt

6:00 AM

April 20 | Easter Sunday
Greenwich Point

9:00 AM

April 20 | Easter Sunday
Meetinghouse

11:00 AM

April 20 | Easter Sunday
Meetinghouse

www.fccog.org

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

EASTER FLOWERS AND BRASS

The Deacons invite contributions for flowers & brass in the Meetinghouse this Easter.
You may give to either one or both. Any amount is welcome.

Please deliver this completed form with your check to the Church Office
(payable to *The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*)
on or before Monday, April 14 at 12 noon in order to be included in the bulletin listing.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Please accept my contribution to the (check one or both):

_____ Easter Flower Fund

_____ Easter Brass

In MEMORY of:

In HONOR of:

By:

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____

(Please print names legibly to minimize spelling errors.)



Upcoming Events

Rise Against Hunger - Sunday May 4

During our morning worship time, we will pack 20,000 meals to support Rise Against Hunger which feeds communities around the world in need.

Music Sunday - May 18

This special day in the life of First Church celebrates our amazing music ministry with all of our ensembles, featuring Robert Ray's Gospel Mass sung by the Chancel Choir with piano, bass, and drums.

Confirmation Sunday - June 8

We celebrate and honor the year-long dedication of our confirmands as they publically declare their faith with the First Church community.

Celebration Sunday - June 15

This day features our youngest in the church as they conclude another exciting year of Church School activities.

Annual Meeting - Sunday June 22

Attend this important gathering following worship as we hear reports and watch a special video highlighting the activities of the past year.

Open And Affirming Sunday - June 29

Each year we celebrate our church's Open & Affirming designation achieved in 2003 and re-affirm and re-commit to the inclusion of all people as beloved children of God, regardless of matters like age, race, gender, and sexual orientation.

See the full Church Calendar for all upcoming events
www.fccog.org



Finding Faith In Ted Lasso

Join us for this fun and engaging conversation as we explore the elements of faith found in the hit show Ted Lasso

Every Wednesday

6:00 - 7:00 P.M.

May 7 - 28

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
Livestream Director
Audio Technician
Database Administrative Assistant
Facility Manager
Sexton
Sexton
First Church Preschool Director
First Church Preschool Assistant Director
Pastor Emerita

Reverend Patrick Collins
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke
Dr. Craig Scott Symons
Khaleigh Laicher
Susan Asselin, RN
Wendy Spezzano
Greg Girolamo
Daniel Lepoutre
Bob Small
Sue Wilder
Julio Yika
Curtis Gay
Jose Jolon
Beth Genovese
Melanie Garnett
Reverend Sally Colegrove

