



SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025  
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
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.



# 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 flowers in the Meetinghouse today are given by the family of Lea and Ben Menegon,  
in loving memory of Lea and Ben, who passed away on August 22nd in 2023 and 2024, respectively.**

*For the last two Sundays in August, the worship services – sermon, liturgies, and hymns – are based on suggestions and questions from the congregation. Welcome to Choose Your Own Adventure Sundays! Today, the topic suggested by a church member is “Who Was Mary Magdalene, Really?” using the well-known resurrection text of John 20.*

## PRELUDE

*Come Unto Me, Says God's Son  
Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)  
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ*

## CHIMING OF THE HOUR

## CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Patrick Collins

## †CALL TO WORSHIP

- One: Come, beloved of God, to this hour that is not static and scripted but open—open to possibility, open to the Spirit, open to you.
- All: **We come ready to listen, to wonder, to choose the path that draws us closer to God.**
- One: In this place, every step is holy, every journey is welcomed, every heart is needed.
- All: **We come with our questions, our stories, our longings, and our joy.**
- One: Here we will connect with God, deepen our faith, and be strengthened in community.
- All: **Here our faith is not static, but swirling. Our praise is not passive nor demure. We choose the way that deepens, connects, and stretches the soul.**
- One: So let us begin this adventure together — trusting the Spirit to guide us.
- All: **With open hearts and willing spirits, we worship our God together!**

## †CHORAL INTROIT

## †HYMN SING

*Please say (loud and with gusto!) the hymnal first, then the page number – make sure you use the index to find your favorite hymn so we have more time to sing and not have to search*

† Please rise in body or in spirit



### †PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Living God, who came to this world and entered human pain, come and be in every painful place in our lives, be in every painful place in our world.

Living God, who in the secret darkness rose from the grave, come and be in the secret, dark places in our lives, be in every secret, dark place in our world.

Living God, who sent the women to proclaim the resurrection to the frightened, imprisoned apostles, come and empower us in every frightened, imprisoned place in our lives, empower all in every frightened, imprisoned place in our world.

Living God, come and make us your living Church, in every place in our world.

(adapted from *Education for Justice*)

*\*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: May the peace of Christ be with all of you.

All: And also with you.

### †RESPONSE (remain standing)

*Halle, Hallelujah*



### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### 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.

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

## FIRST LESSON

Romans 16: 1-7  
New International Version  
Karen Yancey

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of his people and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been the benefactor of many people, including me.

Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus. They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. Greet also the church that meets at their house.

Greet my dear friend Epenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in the province of Asia.

Greet Mary, who worked very hard for you.

Greet Andronicus and Junia, my fellow Jews who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was.

## †HYMN SING

*Please say (loud and with gusto!) the hymnal first, then the page number – make sure you use the index to find your favorite hymn so we have more time to sing and not have to search*

## SECOND LESSON

John 20: 1-2; 11-18  
New International Version

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

## MESSAGE

Who Do You Say She Is?  
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

## †HYMN SING

*Please say (loud and with gusto!) the hymnal first, then the page number – make sure you use the index to find your favorite hymn so we have more time to sing and not have to search*

## 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

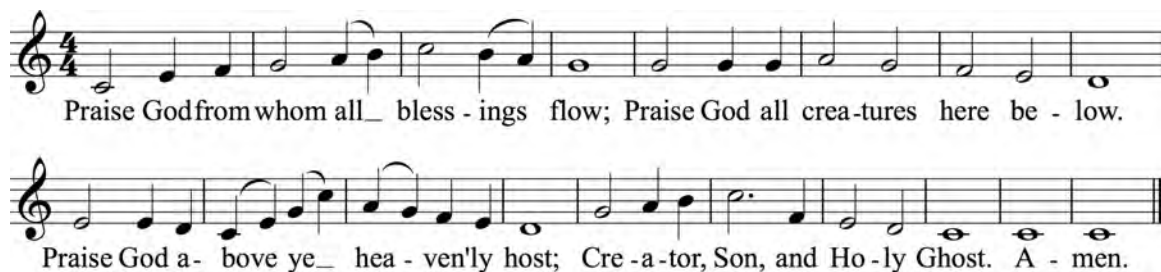
Chris Cantwell

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

From All The Earth Send Up The Song  
Robert Weaver (b. 1941)  
The Summer Choir

## †DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



## †PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## †HYMN SING

*Please say (loud and with gusto!) the hymnal first, then the page number – make sure you use the index to find your favorite hymn so we have more time to sing and not have to search*

†Please rise in body or in spirit

## †BENEDICTION

## †CHORAL RESPONSE

## †POSTLUDE

Psalm 19

Benedetto Marcello (1866-1739)

†Please rise in body or in spirit

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Join us for Community Hour in the Memory Garden (or Auditorium in case of rain) where you can greet one another, have a cup of coffee, and a light snack. Hosts for August are members of the Church Council.



## BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING



Parish Nurse Sue Asselin, RN will be available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following Sunday's worship service. If Community Hour is held outside, Sue will be in the Memory Garden. If held inside, Sue will be in her office, to the right of the Auditorium stage.

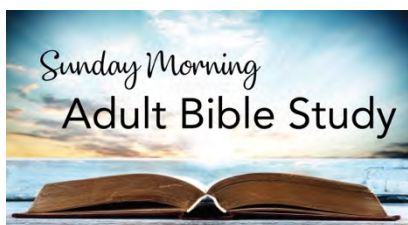
During the week, she is available by appointment, which can be made by calling extension 821 or emailing [susana@fccog.org](mailto:susana@fccog.org).

## FINAL WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP SUMMER SOCIAL

Our final Women's Fellowship Summer Social is Monday, August 25 (rain date following evening) from 5:30 pm on at the Sue Baker Pavilion at Greenwich Point. The rain date is the following evening. We bring our own food/drinks and meet for an informal gathering. Feel free to bring a friend/neighbor.

If you don't have a current Greenwich beach pass, we can arrange a ride from the church parking lot if you let Car Westbrook know.

Questions? Contact Car Westbrook at [carwestbrook@optimum.net](mailto:carwestbrook@optimum.net).



## NEW SUNDAY MORNING DROP-IN BIBLE STUDY!

Just Drop-In: A First Look at Sunday's Scripture  
9:00-9:45 AM in The Lounge

Starting September 14th, join Pastor Cydney on Sunday mornings for a drop-in time of conversation around the day's scripture. Together we'll explore the passage, gain context, and notice fresh insights before entering worship. No need to prepare—just bring yourself. Come for the whole time, or even 15 minutes, and trust that God will give you something good to carry into worship and beyond.





## THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

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203-637-1791 • [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org)

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