



SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025  
EPIPHANY 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.*

## PRELUDE

*Prelude On Greensleeves*  
Richard Purvis (1913-1994)  
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 gather wondering, 'Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?

All: **We will find the Babe in the laughter of children, in the wisdom of grandparents**

One: We gather asking, 'where will we find the Child of Christmas?'

All: **We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope, where the oppressed are set free.**

One: We gather wanting to know, 'where will we find the Christ who has come for us?

All: **We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy.**

## †CHORAL INTROIT

## †HYMN

*What Child Is This?*  
145 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

## †PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

God of light, shining in darkness, through a little child, born in Bethlehem, you open to us the treasure of your grace. Help us to search diligently for him, so that we may offer our lives to you with thanksgiving, joy, and praise; through Jesus Christ, the rising star. 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: May the peace of Christ be with all of you.

All: **And also with you.**

† Please rise in body or in spirit

†RESPONSE (remain standing)

*Halle, Halle, Halle*



## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

## 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.

## FIRST LESSON

*Isaiah 60:1-6*  
Common English Bible  
Joe McBride

Arise! Shine! Your light has come;  
the Lord's glory has shone upon you.  
Though darkness covers the earth  
and gloom the nations,  
the Lord will shine upon you;  
God's glory will appear over you.  
Nations will come to your light and kings to your dawning radiance.

Lift up your eyes and look all around:  
they are all gathered; they have come to you.  
Your sons will come from far away,  
and your daughters on caregivers' hips.  
Then you will see and be radiant;  
your heart will tremble and open wide,  
because the sea's abundance will be turned over to you;  
the nations' wealth will come to you.  
Countless camels will cover your land,  
young camels from Midian and Ephah.  
They will all come from Sheba,  
carrying gold and incense,  
proclaiming the Lord's praises.

† Please rise in body or in spirit



## ANTHEM

*Cold The Winter*  
Mark Schweizer (1956-2019)  
The Chancel Choir

## SECOND LESSON

*Matthew 2:1-12*  
Common English Bible

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him."

When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

You, Bethlehem, land of Judah,  
by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah,  
because from you will come one who governs,  
who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

## MESSAGE

*The Gift Of Presence*  
Reverend Patrick Collins

## †HYMN

*We Three Kings*  
151 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

## 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.*

† Please rise in body or in spirit

## 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

Lynn Hawxhurst

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.



### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*A New Year Carol*  
Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)  
The Chancel Choir

### †DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures  
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

*As With Gladness Men Of Old*  
150 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

### †BENEDICTION

### †CHORAL RESPONSE

### †POSTLUDE

*Bouree*  
Alec Rowley (1892-1958)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

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## 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. Hosts for January are members of the Caring Ministries Committee.

### CHURCH SCHOOL

Jan 5 – All Ages Worship

Jan 12 – Regular Church School



### 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.



### WIRED WORD BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES!

Join Pastor Patrick for lunch on Thursdays at noon in the lounge. Using the Wired Word curriculum, each week we'll discuss a topic or headline from the week's news and ask

ourselves how our faith applies through guided questions and discussion. Learn more at [thewiredword.com](http://thewiredword.com). BYO lunch optional.

### 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 2025 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

As of Dec 26, we have received 146 pledges (66% of potential giving units) for over \$552,433 (85%) toward our goal of \$650,000 for 2025. Click on the QR code on the right for instructions on how to pledge online.



You can schedule your giving for 2025 in weekly, monthly, or other ways, because First Church has the capability of auto-payments from your bank account or credit card! Please use the QR code on the right to access the church's ACS system and enter the necessary information. If you set up, changed, or plan to continue your automatic monthly online through MyFirstChurch.com for 2025, please know that **you still need to submit a pledge form.**



Pledges can be submitted through the digital pledge form at [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org) or by returning a paper pledge card to the office. If you have any questions, please contact Greg Giralamo at the church office or Philip Wentworth at 203-992-9500.

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



Can you knit a basic stitch? If so, please consider knitting a prayer shawl for our ministry. It will bless you and the recipient. The few stolen moments of knitting a few rows while saying a prayer to the future recipient is peaceful and uplifting, I promise.

Join us in creating these prayer shawls, knitting into them our prayers, love and support. These shawls are then distributed to those experiencing a crisis or loss – and truly are beloved. No expertise needed as we use very forgiving yarn, larger needles and one basic stitch.

We meet again on **Wednesday January 22 at 7pm in Rick's Room of First Church**. We can supply the needles and yarn. Contact Angela Stevens for more information. [angelamessinastevens@gmail.com](mailto:angelamessinastevens@gmail.com)  
Hope to see you soon!

## THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

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

### Ministers - All Members Of The First Congregational Church Of Greenwich

Senior Pastor  
Associate Pastor  
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Director of FCCOG Church School/Regional Youth Ministry  
Parish Nurse  
Church Office Coordinator  
Financial Administrator  
Administrative and Communications Colleague  
Livestream Director  
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Junior Sexton  
First Church Preschool Director  
First Church 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  
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Joseph Cicchelli  
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Melanie Garnett  
Reverend Sally Colegrove



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OF CHRIST  
a just world for all