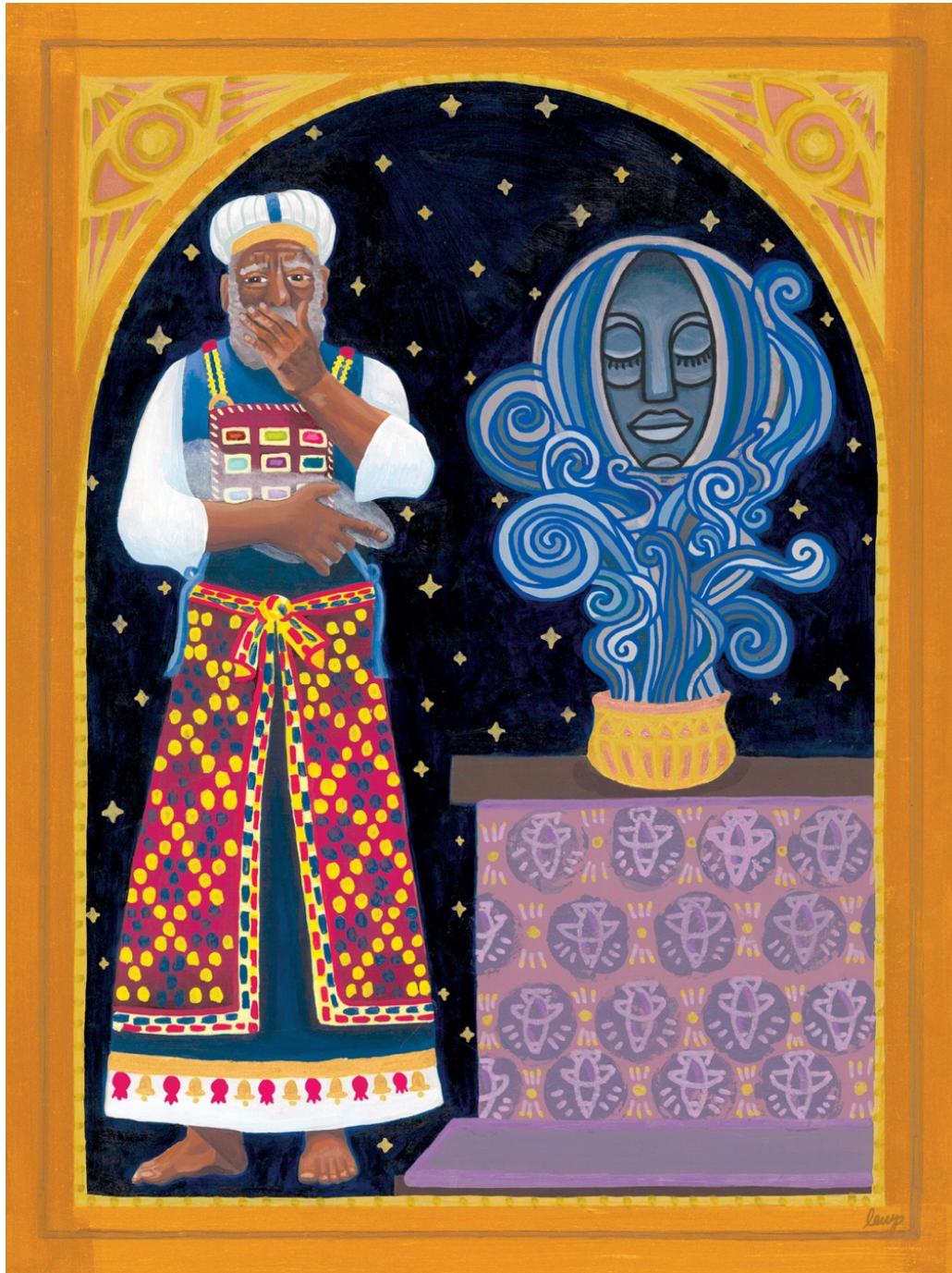




How DOES A WEARY WORLD REJOICE?

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024  
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
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

*Rorate Coeli*

Pietro Yon (1886-1943)

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

## CHIMING OF THE HOUR

## CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

*Please take the Fellowship Pad found at the end of your row near the center aisle, sign it, and then pass it back to the center aisle, noting the names of those worshiping 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

*Let There Be Peace On Earth*

The Cherub Choir

Carol Woodman, director - Lynn Hawhurst, ukulele - Carolyn Paulus, piano

## THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Preston & Chloe Culver, confirmands - Marc Culver

One: How does a weary world hope?

All: By telling stories of hope, by lighting candles in the night, and planting seeds in the winter that will bloom in the spring.

One: By praying for children as they grow, and picking up trash on the sidewalk.

All: By insisting that small acts can make a difference.

One: There are a million ways to practice hope. So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.

All: With God's help, may we bring hope into a weary world. Amen.

## MUSIC DURING THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*Lo, How A Rose E're Blooming*

Arr. James Kimball

The Palmer Handbell Choir

## HYMN

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

103 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

## PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Gracious God, we are weary. For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray that you forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard. Remind us that we deserve Sabbath rest.

For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated, we pray that you forgive us for creating so many distractions. Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.

For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray that you forgive us for being impatient with ourselves. Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist. 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)

*Lead Me, Guide Me*

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, for if you

(A) B♭ (D) E♭ (A7) B♭7 (D) E♭

lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each

(A7) B♭7 (B7) C7 (Em) Fm (D) E♭ (A7) B♭7 (D) E♭

day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Fine

The musical notation consists of three staves of music. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 3/4 time signature. It includes lyrics: "Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, for if you". The second staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 3/4 time signature. It includes lyrics: "lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each". The third staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 3/4 time signature. It includes lyrics: "day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me." and ends with a "Fine" symbol. Chords are indicated above the staff: E♭, B♭7, (A7), E♭, (D), B♭7, (A7), E♭, (D), B♭7, (B7), C7, (Em), Fm, (D), E♭, (A7), B♭7, (D), E♭.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

## RESPONSE

*For Everyone Born (refrain)*

Refrain

B All E E/G♯ A2 Bsus B

and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and

E E/G♯ A2 Bsus B

joy, com-pas - sion and peace: yes,

C♯m C♯m/B A2

God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,

Bsus B (E) Fine A2 E Bsus B

jus - tice and joy!

The musical notation consists of five staves of music. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps, and a 3/4 time signature. It includes lyrics: "and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and". The second staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps, and a 3/4 time signature. It includes lyrics: "joy, com-pas - sion and peace: yes,". The third staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps, and a 3/4 time signature. It includes lyrics: "God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,". The fourth staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps, and a 3/4 time signature. It includes lyrics: "jus - tice and joy!". The fifth staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps, and a 3/4 time signature. It includes a "Fine" symbol. Chords are indicated above the staff: B, All, E, E/G♯, A2, Bsus, B, C♯m, C♯m/B, A2, E, Bsus, B.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

## FIRST LESSON

*Luke 1:1-7*

New Revised Standard Version

Bill DeHaven

Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative about the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I, too, decided, as one having a grasp of everything from the start, to write a well-ordered account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may have a firm grasp of the words in which you have been instructed.

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

## ANTHEM

*Come, Peace Of God*

Eugene Butler (1935-2024)

The Chancel Choir

## SECOND LESSON

*Luke 1:8-23*

New Revised Standard Version

Once when Zechariah was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know that this will happen? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he returned to his home.

## MESSAGE

*From Weariness To Hope*

Reverend Patrick Collins

## †HYMN

Light Dawns On A Weary World  
79 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

Lynn Hawhurst

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.



## ANTHEM

*Springs In The Desert*  
Arthur Jennings (1887-1972)  
The Chancel Choir  
Daniel Young, tenor

## †DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*  
515 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

## †PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### 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.*

## †HYMN

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*  
114 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

## †BENEDICTION

## †CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Light Dawns On A Weary World (refrain only)*  
79 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

*The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;  
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!*

*We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,  
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.*

† Please rise in body or in spirit

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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 December are members of the Church Council.

## YOU CAN STILL PARTICIPATE IN HARVEST SUNDAY!



Thank you for the wonderful donations for Harvest Sunday! We collected 160 bags of much needed food for H.O.M.E. and Neighbor to Neighbor. In addition, 904 lbs of fresh food was donated to Neighbor to Neighbor through #GiveHealthy!

There is still time to donate!

[Click HERE](#) to shop at GiveHealthy.org for fresh food donations requested by Neighbor to Neighbor through December 7. Thank you for making the shelves of both food pantries a little bit fuller for the holidays!

## PLEASE JOIN US THIS WEEKEND!



The 2024 Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale opens this weekend and runs through December 8. Shop early for the best selection. We have more trees and many taller trees this year. We also have beautiful balsam and mixed greens wreaths. Decorated wreaths and handmade artisan bows will also be available along with stands and roping.  
Please help us help others and enjoy the shopping fun on the front lawn!  
We do still need some volunteers – if you can help, please sign up below

## 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 2025 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

As of Nov. 26, we have received 103 pledges (45% of potential giving units) for over \$461,901 (71%) toward our goal of \$650,000 for 2025. Click on the QR code on the right for instructions on how to pledge online.



If you wish to schedule your giving for 2025 in weekly, monthly, or other ways, 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 have any questions, please contact Greg Giralamo at the church office or Philip Wentworth at 203-992-9500.



## 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.





FREE CHURCH WIDE EVENT:



# Advent Craft Fair



Hosted by FCCOG Church School in Auditorium

## December 8th, 11 am

Cocoa and crafts for ALL, kids and adults alike!

### Photos with Santa!



REGISTER TO ENSURE SUPPLIES

[fccog.org/events](http://fccog.org/events)



*The First Congregational Church of Greenwich  
presents the 59th annual*

# *Messiah*

**Saturday, December 14 - 4 p.m.**

**Ellen Sisson, soprano**

**Eliana Barwinski, mezzo soprano**

**Luke Rosenberg, tenor**

**Thomas Woodman, bass**

**First Church Festival Chorus and Orchestra**

**Dr. Craig Scott Symons, conductor**

108 Sound Beach Avenue Old Greenwich, CT  
[www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org)



## *Christmas Eve at First Church*

**10 a.m. Children's Service**

especially designed for younger children and families

Music by The Cherub Choir.

**3 p.m. Family Service**

“Once in Royal David’s City” pageant

Music by The Celebration Singers and

Helena Brown, soprano from The Metropolitan Opera

**5 p.m. Community Candlelight Carol Sing**

on the front lawn of the church.

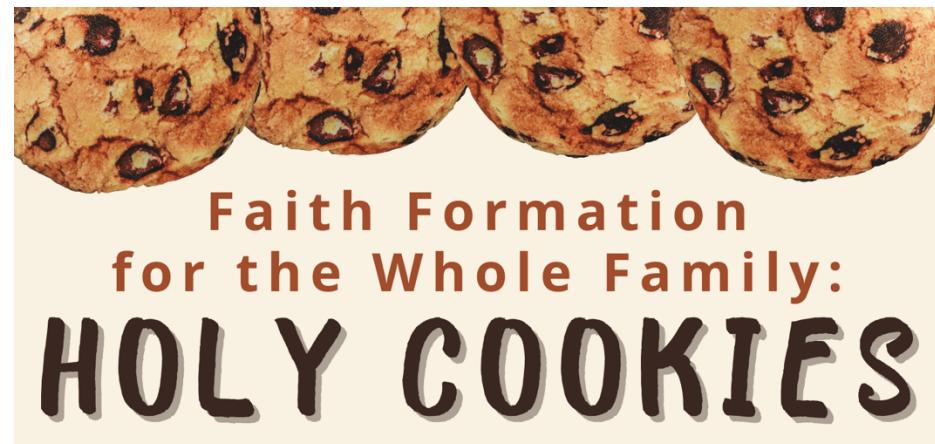
**6 p.m. Festival Candlelight Carol Service**

Music by a brass quintet, timpani,

and The Chancel Choir.

**9 p.m. Candlelight Service with Communion**

Music by The Genesis/Alumni Choir, and harp.



## Faith Formation for the Whole Family:

# HOLY COOKIES

Explore how we  
can use food to  
check-in with  
those we love!

DEC 19TH  
Dinner - 5:30  
Event - 6 pm



108 SOUND BEACH AVE | [KHALEIGHL@FCCOG.ORG](mailto:KHALEIGHL@FCCOG.ORG)

### Christmas Meetinghouse Decorations & Brass

The Deacons invite contributions for decorations and brass music for the Meetinghouse this Christmas.

Any amount is welcome. Please deliver the completed form with your check to the church office  
on or before Monday, December 16, 2024. Thank you!

Please check one of these choices:

Flowers

Brass

In Memory of

In Honor of

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ made out to **First Congregational Church of Greenwich**  
("Flowers" in the memo) Please print legibly to minimize spelling errors.

# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

108 Sound Beach Avenue Old Greenwich CT 06870  
203-637-1791 • [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org)

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

Senior Pastor	Reverend Patrick Collins
Associate Pastor	Reverend Cydney Van Dyke
Minister of Music	Dr. Craig Scott Symons
Director of FCCOG Church School/Regional Youth Ministry	Khaleigh Laicher
Parish Nurse	Susan Asselin, RN
Church Office Coordinator	Wendy Spezzano
Financial Administrator	Greg Girolamo
Livestream Director	Daniel Lepoutre
Audio Technician	Bob Small
Database Administrative Assistant	Sue Wilder
PrayGround Supervisor	Amalia Samuel
Facility Manager	Julio Yika
Senior Sexton	Curtis Gay
Junior Sexton	Joseph Cicchelli
First Church Preschool Director	Beth Genovese
First Church Preschool Administrative Assistant	Melanie Garnett
Pastor Emerita	Reverend Sally Colegrove

