



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING
COZY CAROL SING



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

Carol Rhapsody
Richard Purvis (1913-1994)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Patrick Collins

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.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

CHORAL INTROIT

While By My Sheep
Hugo Jungst (1853-1923)
The Chancel Choir

CAROL SING

Choose your favorite carol from either Pilgrim or Glory to God hymnals – shout it out loud!

READING

Making The House Ready For The Lord
Mary Oliver

Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but
still nothing is as shining as it should be
for you. Under the sink, for example, is an
uproar of mice – it is the season of their
many children. What shall I do? And under the eaves
and through the walls the squirrels
have gnawed their ragged entrances – but it is the season
when they need shelter, so what shall I do? And
the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard
while the dog snores, the cat hugs the pillow;
what shall I do? Beautiful is the new snow falling
in the yard and the fox who is staring boldly
up the path, to the door. And still I believe you will
come, Lord: you will, when I speak to the fox,
the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know
that really I am speaking to you whenever I say,
as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in.

CAROL SING

Choose your favorite carol from either Pilgrim or Glory to God hymnals – shout it out loud!

READING

Christmas Mail
Ted Kooser

Cards in each mailbox,
angel, manger, star and lamb,
as the rural carrier,
driving the snowy roads,
hears from her bundles
the plaintive bleating of sheep,
the shuffle of sandals,
the clopping of camels.
At stop after stop,
she opens the little tin door
and places deep in the shadows
the shepherds and wise men,
the donkeys lank and weary,
the cow who chews and muses.
And from her Styrofoam cup,
white as a star and perched
on the dashboard, leading her
ever into the distance,
there is a hint of hazelnut,
and then a touch of myrrh.

CAROL SING

Choose your favorite carol from either Pilgrim or Glory to God hymnals – shout it out loud!

READING

On The Mystery Of The Incarnation
Denise Levertov

It's when we face for a moment
the worst our kind can do, and shudder to know
the taint in our own selves, that awe
cracks the mind's shell and enters the heart:
not to a flower, not to a dolphin,
to no innocent form
but to this creature vainly sure
it and no other is god-like, God
(out of compassion for our ugly
failure to evolve) entrusts,
as guest, as brother,
the Word.

ANTHEM

Behold That Star
Jonathan Birner (b. 1961)
The Chancel Choir

READING

Christmas Poem
E.E. Cummings

from spiralling ecstatically this

proud nowhere of earth's most prodigious night
blossoms a newborn babe:around him,eyes
— gifted with ever keener appetite
than mere unmiracle can quite appease —
humbly in their imagined bodies kneel
(over time space doom dream while floats the whole

perhapsless mystery of paradise)

mind without soul may blast some universe
to might have been,and stop ten thousand stars
but not one heartbeat of this child;nor shall
even prevail a million questionings
against the silence of his mother's smile

— whose only secret all creation sings

CAROL SING

Choose your favorite carol from either Pilgrim or Glory to God hymnals – shout it out loud!

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

Kate Collins & Family

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

In The Bleak Midwinter
Harold Darke (1888-1976)
The Chancel Choir

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CAROL SING

Choose your favorite carol from either Pilgrim or Glory to God hymnals – shout it out loud!

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

Postlude on “On Christmas Night”
Noel Rawsthorne (1929-2019)

† 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.

COMMUNITY HOUR



CHURCH SCHOOL

Dec 29– Cozy Carol Sing Jan 5 – All Ages Worship Jan 12 – Regular Church School

THE RUMMAGE ROOM

The Rummage Room is closed until January 2, 2025. 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 18, 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 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.



YEAR-END PLEDGE REMINDER

As the year-end quickly approaches, please consider your 2024 pledge fulfillment during this busy season. You can complete it online by clicking on the “My First Church” secure link on the upper right corner of the church website. Thank you for supporting the important work at First Congregational Church of Greenwich.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO
SCHEDULE
PICK UP



FCCOG CHRISTMAS TREE

Collection

ONLY

\$40



BOOK
NOW

SIGN UP
LINK ON
WEBSITE

STAY AT HOME!

JUST LEAVE THE TREE OUTSIDE- WE RECYCLE FOR YOU!

SATURDAYS: JAN 4 & JAN 11, CURB BY 10 AM

SUNDAYS: JAN 5 & JAN 12, CURB BY 10 AM

A REGIONAL YOUTH
MINISTRY FUNDRAISER!

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

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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
Administrative and Communications Colleague
Livestream Director
Audio Technician
Database Administrative Assistant
Facility Manager
Sexton
Junior Sexton
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
Daniel Lepoutre
Bob Small
Sue Wilder
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Melanie Garnett
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