



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
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.

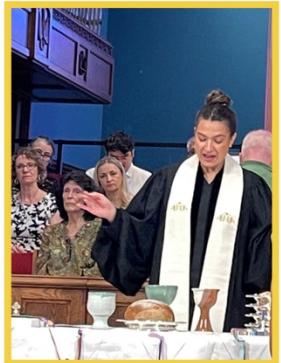
May it be a blessing to you.

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.

PRELUDE

Give Me Jesus

Marques L. A. Garrett (b. 1984)
Steven Russell, guest organist/director

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 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.*

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God's love is extravagant!

All: God pours out God's love as a cleansing lotion for our weary souls.

One: God's love is healing!

All: God's healing balm soothes and comforts us.

One: God's love is generous!

All: God continually reaches out for us and helps us throughout all our lives.

One: Thanks be to God for such extravagant, healing, generous love.

All: Thanks be to God throughout all our days!

†CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

Come, Worship God
386 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Gracious and Forgiving Lord, in these times when we feel pressured from all sides about how we feel about people who differ from us, we need your hand of love and patience. From every corner we are confronted with issues of terror and fear. We draw into ourselves, fearful that someone is out to get us, to hurt us, to make our lives miserable. You, too, Lord, were confronted by fear and alienation. You stood strong in the presence of prejudice and the fear of being alone, voicing support for those who lived lives of love and compassion. Forgive us when we are so easily offended, perceiving that we are being personally threatened. Help us to take the time to get to know others, to see you at work within their lives. Open our hearts to feel the healing power of your love. Strengthen us to truly be your disciples, proclaiming your transforming love through our words and our deeds. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. 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



Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal-le - lu-jah! Hal-le - lu - jah!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(During the response, the children will depart for Church School or 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

Psalm 103:1-8

Common English Bible

Bill DeHaven

Let my whole being bless the Lord!

Let everything inside me bless God's holy name!

Let my whole being bless the Lord

and never forget all the Lord's good deeds:

how God forgives all your sins,

heals all your sickness,

saves your life from the pit,

crowns you with faithful love and compassion,

and satisfies you with plenty of good things

so that your youth in God's presence is always made fresh.

The Lord works righteousness; does justice for all who are oppressed.

The ways of God were made known to Moses; God's deeds made known to the Israelites.

The Lord is compassionate and merciful, very patient, and full of faithful love.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

ANTHEM

How Great Is The Goodness
Robert J. Greene (b. 1957)
The Chancel Choir

SECOND LESSON

Luke 7:24-35
New Revised Standard Version

When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."

Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."
"Tell me, teacher," he said.

"Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven."
"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."

Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."
The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"
Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

MESSAGE

Who Loves A Lot?
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

HYMN

O For A World
372 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

† 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

Pat Mendelsohn

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.



ORGAN OFFERTORY

Prayer: An Offertory
George Walker (1922-2018)

†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 heavenly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

Blessed Assurance! Jesus Is Mine
839 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

I Am Thine, O Lord
Monte Thomas

† 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 February are members of the Budget Committee.



CHURCH SCHOOL
Regular Church School
February 23

Special 3 weeks of Church School!
2nd Gr. - Communion Class
3rd Gr. - Bible Class
One-Room for all other students
March 16, March 23, March 30

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!
March 2
April 13 - Palm Sunday



SOUP & CHILI SALE - LAST CHANCE!!

We have some quarts of soup (frozen) remaining from last week, so stop by the table in the Auditorium during Community Hour and pick up your Sunday dinner!
\$10 each - cash or check only.

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.



WIRED WORD BIBLE STUDY

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.

BYO lunch optional.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

If you are interested in learning more about First Church and joining as a full member, please save the date for our upcoming new member classes on Sunday, March 2 at 11:00 a.m. & Wednesday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m.



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.



COMMUNITY HOUR VOLUNTEERS STARTING IN MARCH



Please join us in making community hour a warm and welcoming gathering after the 10 a.m. service each Sunday supplementing food/help with a committee already assigned to that particular month.



You can drop off your food to the upstairs kitchen before the service and the sextons will take it from there. You may also drop off your food during the week - just label it for community hour. Scan the QR code to head to Signup Genius.

2025 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN



As of February 19, we have received 199 pledges (over 90% of potential giving units) and \$651,353 towards the Annual Giving Campaign 2025.

With joy and gratitude, we are thrilled to share some exciting news. We have reached \$650,000 in our annual giving campaign! This is a remarkable achievement, and it is a testament to your generosity, faith, and belief in the vibrant ministry of First Church. Thank you for the many ways you give and for the stories we are writing together.



But the story isn't finished yet. We still have an opportunity to reach our goal for the number of contributors who make this ministry possible. Each gift, no matter the size, is a powerful statement that we are in this together. Each person is a vital part of our community and our shared vision. Imagine what more we can do when everyone has a hand in shaping the next chapter. More voices. More ideas. More compassion reaching beyond our walls. When more of us participate, our dreams become bolder, our welcome grows wider, and our impact deepens.

If you haven't yet had the chance to make a pledge, there is still time to join this amazing story. Every gift matters. Every giver makes a difference.

If you set up, changed, or plan to continue your automatic monthly through MyFirstChurch.com or 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 Girolamo at the church office or Philip Wentworth at 203-992-9500.

FEBRUARY FRIENDSGIVING - FINAL GATHERINGS



Only one chance remains to gather with your First Church family, and there are only 3 spots left (as of Feb 20) to have tea and view artwork at Candace and Art Garthwaite's home on Thursday Feb 27, from 3- 5 p.m. Scan this QR code and sign up to attend!

ashes to Go

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

6:30 A.M. - 9:30 A.M.

First Church Parking Lot

All Are Welcome to drive
thru and receive ashes



ENTERING THE PASSION of JESUS

DIVE INTO THE HISTORY OF THE LAST DAYS OF JESUS

What if we look at the "ordinary" people who witnessed the Passion events... the women around Jesus? Or the "bad" guys... Judas, Pilate, and Caiaphas?

Join us for this discussion led by videos from Amy-Jill Levine as she looks closely at the people who were part of Jesus' life during his last days.



SUNDAYS
March 9 - April 13



TIME
11AM - 12PM





LUNCHEON TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL **WOMEN'S DAY**

SATURDAY
12:00 P.M.

8
MAR

VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED

**Calling all the men of the church!
We need you to help prep, host and serve a luncheon
for all the women of First Church
Please see Pastor Patrick to volunteer or sign up online.**

Scan this QR code and sign up to volunteer!





Σ SERVICE LEARNING TRIP (mini mission-trip-like weekend!) **MAY 30 - JUNE 1, 2025** **\$100** WITH MANY SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

WHERE ARE WE GOING & WHAT ARE WE DOING?
Youth are invited to 48 hours in New Haven, CT learning about our local unhoused neighbors & will put our faith in action by serving others!

6TH-12TH GR.

FRI 30 **LEAVE FOR NEW HAVEN & ARRIVAL**
Spring Glen United Church of Christ in Hamden

SAT 31 **SERVICE WORK & FUN IN THE COMMUNITY**
Working with the Incredible Days organization!

JUNE 1 **CLOSING CIRCLE & HEAD HOME**
Pick-up and Drop-off at FCC Greenwich

MORE INFO: KHALEIGHL@FCCOG.ORG

REGIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY

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

PrayGround Supervisor

Sexton

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

Daniel Lepoutre

Bob Small

Sue Wilder

Julio Yika

Amalia Samuel

Curtis Gay

Jose Jolon

Beth Genovese

Melanie Garnett

Reverend Sally Colegrove



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OF CHRIST

a just world for all