



SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2025
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING



Artwork by Hannah Garrity

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

O Man, Bewail Thy Grievous Fall
J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Emma & Aleah S.

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: Worship is a place to rest.

All: **We breathe deeply here.**

One: We still our aching bones.

All: **We sit in the quiet.**

One: We surround ourselves with music.

All: **We listen for God's word.**

One: We invite it to challenge us.

All: **We lean in with curiosity.**

One: We ask questions.

All: **Worship is a place to grow.**

One: So come into this space. Come rest and grow here.

All: **For where two or more are gathered, God is always there. Let us worship our gracious God.**

†CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

Praise Ye The Lord, The Almighty
35 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Holy God, there are days when we fail to rest. We stretch ourselves too thin. We say "yes" to every invitation. We run a million miles a minute. We ignore your command to rest. There are also days when we fail to act. We wait for someone else. We take the easy road. We find excuses and justify our inaction. God, forgive our imbalance. Remind us that birds rest, and they also fly. Show us how to do the same. 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



ANTHEM

Make A Joyful Noise
Lyle Heck (1927-2017)
The Genesis Choir
Daniel Young, director
Matt Stolfi, piano

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

Slow Growth
Rev. Sarah Speed
Karen Yancey

There's a vine in the South that covers everything.
It chokes out the light. Grows up to twelve inches per day.
In a matter of years, it will blanket a forest.
If you saw it from space, you'd marvel at its reach.
If you saw it from the passenger seat, you'd weep at what it covers. Those looking for fast shade plant this invasive vine.
Who can blame them? We're all impatient.

But if it's fruit you want—
the tart cherry,
the sticky sweet kumquat,
the soft side of a peach,
the crisp bite of an apple—
then bless the rain.
Thank the sun.
Put your hands in the dirt,
and wait.

SOLO

Prayer Of St. Francis
Jan Nieland (1903-1963)
Carolyn Paulus, soprano

SECOND LESSON

Luke 13:1-9
New Revised Standard Version

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the man working the vineyard, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.' "

MESSAGE

Never Too Late
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

Come Down, O Love Divine
282 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.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

CALL TO OFFERING

Steve Weigner

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

In Heavenly Love Abiding
Horatio Parker (1863-1919)
The Chancel Choir
Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures
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

Fight The Good Fight
846 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

Introduction & Fugue
Adela Douglas-Pennant (1858-1955)

† 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 March are members of the Personnel Committee.



CHURCH SCHOOL

Special 3 weeks of
Church School!

March 16, March 23,
March 30

2nd Gr. - Communion Class

3rd Gr. - Bible Class (taught by Cydney/Patrick)

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!

April 13 – Palm Sunday

May 18 – Music Sunday

Kids and Youth can
sign up to read. Scan QR code to
the right to volunteer



All Ages Worship



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.



ACOLYTES



Would you like to be a person who helps signal the start of worship? We are looking to pull a group of young people together to light the candles on the altar each Sunday. It can be a single kid or youth, or it can be a pair. (they need to be old enough and strong enough to carry five pounds down the aisle, step on to the altar, light one or both candles, and exit by the PrayGround).

A walk-through is available at any time! See Craig Symons for more information or scan the QR code to sign up now.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

If you are interested in learning more about First Church and joining as a full member, please save Wednesday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m. where you will get a chance to meet with the leadership of First Church in a fun and enlightening way.



NEW BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

We all experience grief in this life. But our faith makes sure we do not do it alone. In response to church members asking for a grief group, FCCOG is offering a Bereavement Support Group co-facilitated by church members Carolyn Paulus and Linnea Stenberg.



The group will provide confidential sharing and support for those who have lost a loved one. If possible, we encourage participants to attend all six (6) sessions. The group will meet Monday evenings 7:00-8:30 in the Senior Pastor's office on the following dates: March 24, April 7 & 21, and May 5 & 19. If you are interested in participating in the group, please contact Carolyn at carolynkpaulus@gmail.com and Linnea at lstenberg08@gmail.com.

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.

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.



COMMUNITY HOUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH



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.

BULLETIN COVER INSPIRATION - WORDS FROM THE ARTIST

Fig Leafing by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Luke 13:6-9

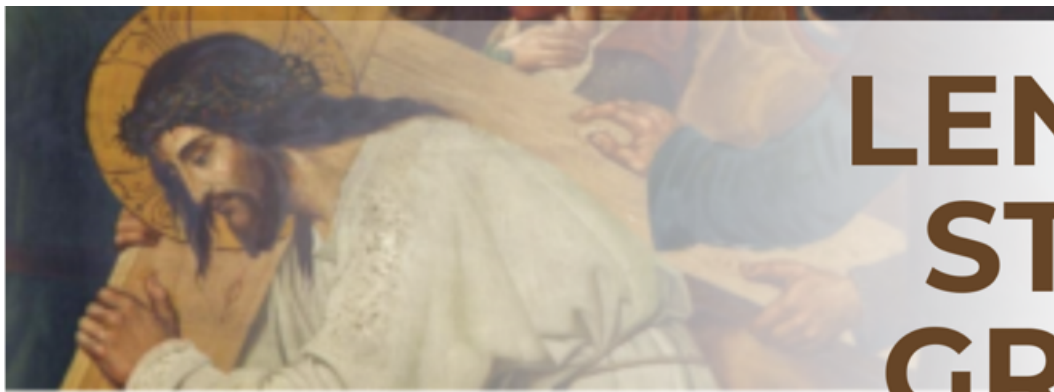
Paper lace and watercolor

At our church retreat a few months ago, we offered a session on eco-spirituality. Our instructor led an exercise that focused our attention on a single, natural object. I selected a wilted flower. We were to draw it, then tell its narrative. We were to refer to it as a "one." This one. We were to affirm the one and be affirmed by the one.

That exercise resonates with me here as I revisit the parable of the fig tree. In this circular image, two figures lean in over the tree; their heads are full of ideas for fruiting, their bodies are full of dead fig leaf patterns. Their ideas and dreams have not born fruit. They converse about how to cultivate growth. Then one pushes back against the other and creates tension, discord. From that tension comes an opening, letting the fig tree have its time and space to thrive.

In this paper lace piece, the fig tree is full of life, representing its potential when given the time and space to grow. As I wonder about God's presence here in the parable, I see that the God figure could be the fig tree. "Let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it," the vineyard keeper replies. As I breathe into the gift of another day, where do I see potential in need of my honor, my care, and the space and time to grow?

Or perhaps the God figure here is in the space between them all, between the three. The fig tree, this one, begins its leafing in the in-between.



LENTEN STUDY GROUP

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



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY



LENTEN ORGAN RECITAL SERIES

FIRST CHURCH OF FAIRFIELD

MARCH 5
BABBITT

MARCH 19
MARTIGNETTI

MARCH 26
SYMONS

MARCH 12
HAMAN

WEDNESDAYS
12:15-12:45

APRIL 2
SZABO



148 BEACH RD., FAIRFIELD, CONN.
LIGHT LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW
FREE WILL OFFERING

FIRSTCHURCHFAIRFIELD.ORG/MUSIC

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

10:00 AM

April 13 | Palm Sunday

6:30 PM

April 17 | Maundy Thursday
6:30 PM Dinner - 7:30 PM Worship

7:30 PM

April 18 | Good Friday

10:00 AM

April 19 | Egg Dyeing & Hunt

6:00 AM

April 20 | Easter Sunday
Greenwich Point

9:00 AM

April 20 | Easter Sunday
Meetinghouse

11:00 AM

March 20 | Easter Sunday
Meetinghouse

www.fccog.org

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

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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
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
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Julio Yika
Curtis Gay
Jose Jolon
Beth Genovese
Melanie Garnett
Reverend Sally Colegrove



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OF CHRIST
a just world for all