



SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2025  
EIGHTH 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.

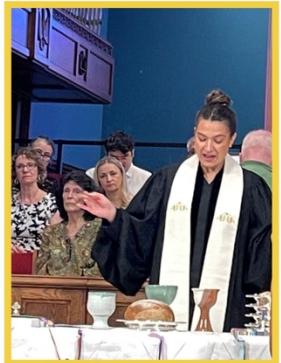
May it be a blessing to you.

# 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.

The flowers on the altar this morning are in loving memory of  
Donald W. Tufts and James Anderson III from their families

## PRELUDE

*Praeludium*

Johann Kreiger (1651-1735)  
Steven Russell, guest organist/director

## 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 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

*This Little Light Of Mine/Down In My Heart*

The Cherub Choir

Carol Woodman, director  
Lynn Hawkhurst, ukulele  
Carolyn Paulus, piano

## †CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come to the mountaintop to be covered in your presence.

All: **We are comforted by your holiness and your glow;**

One: we are comforted by the hope of the mountain top, where you are so close, so accessible,  
where there is no doubt of your glory

All: **The mountain top reminds us why we worship you. We witness your bright power,  
and your plan for the nations of the earth.**

One: As we prepare for worship, God bring us to the mountain top;

All: **bring us to the mountain top so that we may be inspired to do your work in the valley below.**

## †HYMN

*Come, Thou Almighty King*

2 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

## †PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Forgive us, God, when we linger too long by the waters, and on the mountain tops, enthralled with  
the glory that flows from you. When we fail to listen to your voice leading and guiding us, shake us  
from our contentment and send us forward endowed with your power. 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

*Luke 9:28-36*

New Revised Standard Version

Pat Mendelsohn

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking about his exodus, which he was about to fulfill in Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep, but as they awoke they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah," not realizing what he was saying. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

## ANTHEM

The Legacy Of Christ  
Robert Powell (1932-2025)  
The Chancel Choir

## SECOND LESSON

*Luke 9:37-45*  
New Revised Standard Version

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here.” While he was being brought forward, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

While everyone was amazed at all that he was doing, he said to his disciples, “Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands.” But they did not understand this saying; its meaning remained concealed from them, so that they could not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

## MESSAGE

*Stunned Silence*  
Reverend Patrick Collins

## HYMN

*A Grateful Heart*  
652 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.*

## 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

Using your smartphone messaging app, text FCCCOG Donate to 73256 or click [HERE](#) to access the online giving webpage or scan this QR code to donate.



## ORGAN OFFERTORY

*Prelude*

C. P. E. Bach (1714-1788)

## †DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

## †PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## †HYMN

*Christ, Whose Glory Fills The Skies*  
662 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

## †BENEDICTION

## †CHORAL RESPONSE

## †POSTLUDE

*Intonation, Versets, and Finale*  
Giacomo Carissimi (1605-1674)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

# 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

Regular Church School  
March 9

## 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



All Ages Worship

## NEW MEMBER CLASS STARTS TODAY

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 following worship at 11:00 a.m. & 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.



## 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](http://thewiredword.com).

BYO lunch optional.

## 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.



## 2025 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN



As of February 27, we have received 201 pledges (91% of potential giving units) for over \$653,177 (101%) of our goal of \$650,000 for 2025.



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.

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 Girolamo at the church office or Philip Wentworth at 203-992-9500.



# 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



# 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





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

SATURDAY  
12:00 P.M.

**8  
MAR**

ALL ARE  
WELCOME

All the women of First Church and your friends  
are invited to join this luncheon  
prepared by the men of the church.

# 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@FCCCOG.ORG**

REGIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY

# 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

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

Sue Wilder

Julio Yika

Curtis Gay

Jose Jolon

Beth Genovese

Melanie Garnett

Reverend Sally Colegrove



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
a just world for all