



SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2025  
EASTER SUNDAY  
9 AM & 11 AM



#### 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.



# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

*Overture (from Water Music)*  
G. F. Handel (1685-1759)  
Organ, Brass, Percussion, Dr. Craig Scott Symons, director

## CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Patrick Collins

### †CALL TO WORSHIP

One: My dear friends, we have known grief.  
We have known loss.  
We have known the long road, tired and winding.  
We have whispered prayers on bended knees.  
We have stared at the sky, empty of stars. But today—

**All: today we know hope.**

One: Today we know life.

**All: Today we know the sound of Alleluias.**

One: Today we know that death does not have the last word.

**All: Today we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God.**

One: It is Easter.

May hope find you.  
And may you know, deep in your bones,  
that today is a new day.

**All: Alleluia! Amen.**

### †PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Christ The Lord Is Risen Today  
Arr. William Bradley Roberts (b. 1947)

Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia! Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Once He died our souls to save, Alleluia! Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia! Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ hath led, Alleluia! Foll'wing our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

† Please rise when directed

## †PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Forgive us, God, when good news lands in our lap and we refuse to believe it.

Forgive us, God, when grief and fear crowd out any room in our hearts for hope.

Forgive us, God, when we dismiss the stories of others and minimize the voices of our neighbors.

In a world that teeters between grief and hope, show us how to be like Peter.

Show us how to hold onto hope.

Show us how to run toward you. Amen.

*\*Moment of silence for personal reflection\**

## †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, Hallelujah*



Halle, halle, hal - le - lu - jah! Halle, halle, hal - le - lu - jah!

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

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*(During the response, the children will 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.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

## FIRST LESSON

*In The Direction Of Hope*  
Reverend Sarah Speed  
Juliet Primo Lee (9 a.m.)  
Betsy Kreuter (11 a.m.)

I am on my way.  
Wait for me in the garden;  
I will be there soon.  
I'm not the fastest runner,  
Lord knows that,  
but these legs are moving.  
I suppose I could blame my weary spirit for the slow speed.  
I could blame the grief I've shoved into my pockets and  
laid around my neck.  
I could blame my own hesitation to hope,  
a hesitation that clings like mud.  
But I don't know that Jesus cares about my speed.  
So tell God when you see them—  
I am on my way.  
Wait for me in the garden.  
I will be there soon.

## ANTHEM

*Achieved Is The Glorious Work (from The Creation)*  
Franz Joseph Haydn (1732 - 1809)  
The Chancel Choir

## GOSPEL LESSON

*Luke 24:1-12*  
New Revised Standard Version

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again.” Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

## MESSAGE

*Amazed But Not Convinced*  
Reverend Patrick Collins

## †HYMN

Crown Him With Many Crowns  
Arr. Mark Schweizer

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;  
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!

Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:

no angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways  
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise.

His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet  
fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time;  
creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.

All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;  
thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

### 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

Clem Lepoutre

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

A Song To The Lamb  
Allen Orton Gibbs (1910-1996)

## †DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below: Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise him above, ye heav'ly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

† Please rise in body or in spirit

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### †HYMN

*Thine Is The Glory*  
Arr. Mark Schweizer

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

#### Refrain:

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.

Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting. (Refrain)

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!

Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.

Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;  
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. (Refrain)

### †BENEDICTION

### †EASTER RESPONSE

*Hallelujah Chorus*  
G. F. Handel (1685-1759)  
Congregation, Choir

*Music can be found under the seat in front of you - sing with your whole being!*

*Please return music to the rack after use.*

### POSTLUDE

*Easter Fanfare*  
Kevin Hildebrand (b. 1973)

#### ORGAN, BRASS, PERCUSSION

Organ: William Roslak

Trumpets: Anthony Gorusso, Jim Cifelli

French Horn: Will DeVos

Trombones: Steve Shulman, Cliff Haynes

Percussion: Barbara Freedman

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† Please rise in body or in spirit

## BULLETIN COVER INSPIRATION – FROM THE ARTIST

*Fill My Cup* by Steve Prince  
Inspired by Luke 24:1-12  
Pen and ink on paper

For me, to not know Christ is to live a life thirsty for truth, meaning, understanding, and purpose. We search and search and it feels like we cannot find the thing that we were hoping for. It is not until we surrender and trust in faith that we are able to find peace. We must open the door of our hearts to allow the Holy Spirit to enter and to do the work. Many will see us and not believe that the peace we exude is real, looking at us with skeptical eyes. Many will come thirsty, wondering from whence cometh our help, and some will know, and they shall rejoice for

## CHURCH SCHOOL



Church School Resumes April 27



## 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!

**May 18 – Music Sunday**

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

## RISE AGAINST HUNGER MEAL PACKING EVENT – SUNDAY MAY 4 AT 10 A.M.



During our morning worship time, we will pack 20,000 meals to support Rise Against Hunger's vision of a world without hunger, which distributes meals in 38 countries to schools, health clinics and communities hit by disaster. The meals help keep children in school and aid communities in the short term as they develop long term food security.



The cost of underwriting The Rise Against Hunger meal packing and the meal packing event will be our 2025 Lenten Offering and Lenten Project. Scan the QR code to donate and support this project. Please join us for a fun, energized, music-filled morning when we will experience the joy of working together to help the least among us! Bring friends to show them First Church in action!



Our Lenten Offering this year will underwrite one of First Church's most important events... meal packing for Rise Against Hunger on Sunday, April 28 at 10 a.m. Please consider a Lenten Gift toward underwriting the cost of meals - every donation makes a difference to those that are hungry!

## FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

### WIRED WORD BIBLE STUDY

Using the Wired Word's 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) Join Pastor Patrick for lunch on Thursdays at noon in the lounge. BYO lunch optional.



### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP QUILT RAFFLE & ANNUAL MEETING/LUNCHEON

It's April and that means the annual quilt raffle to benefit The Women's Fellowship is just around the corner. Tickets will be sold at community hour, the church front office, and The Rummage Room.

Tickets are \$5 and the drawing will be held on Saturday, May 3 at The Women's Fellowship luncheon. Get your tickets soon!



**Women of First Church – join us on Saturday, May 3 at 11:00 a.m.** for our Women's Fellowship Annual Meeting and Luncheon. We are looking for women who would like to get involved in planning our next year and serving on the Women's Fellowship Board. Please see us at the next Community Hour on April 27 - we'll be next to the Quilt Raffle table. Reservations for the luncheon can also be made at Community Hour. The fee for the luncheon is \$25 (cash or checks made out to Women's Fellowship FCCOG).

Some of our other upcoming events include our Summer Socials planned for the fourth Monday of June, July, and August - June 23, July 28, and August 25-begining at 5:30 pm at the Sue Baker Pavilion at Greenwich Point with rain dates the following Tuesday evening.

### EASTER FLOWER & BRASS DONATIONS

*List reflects donations received through 12 p.m., Wednesday, April 16, 2025*

#### GIVEN BY

Cyndy & Ty Anderson  
Shawn & Susan Asselin

Sue Hout Baker, Sara, Charlie, Liz  
Lois Berlin & Family

Vance Briceland & Craig Symons

Their Family  
Her Family  
Dave & Laura Erickson

#### IN HONOR/MEMORY OF

Our parents & grandparents  
Our parents: Audrey, Bill, Madelyn, Esther, Harold, & Dawley  
Marian & Fred Hout  
My husband, Marty  
My parents, Sam & Alice Yee  
Alan & Penelope Briceland  
Robert & Thelma Symons  
Anne, Bill & Sue Denne  
Joan Denne

John Fryback	Mr. & Mrs. William A. Fryback - parents
Candace & Ernest Garthwaite	
Paul & Lauren Ghaffari	Craig Symons, the choir, and all involved in First Church's Music Ministry
Judy & Al Gordon	
Erlinda & Larry Haviland	Our parents - Purisima & Feliciano Teria Louise & Richard Haviland
Woodman/Hawthurst Family	Betty Woodman, for her 96 <sup>th</sup> Easter celebration
Lynn & Ed Hawthurst	Harry Woodman & Rick Woodman & Bobby Osker
Bobbie Hopkins	Richmond B. Hopkins
R. B. Hopkins, J. A. Hopkins, & J. L. Wilson Families	Richmond B. Hopkins
The Hudson & Finch Families	
Betsy Kreuter	Our parents: Paul & Corolyn Hudson & George Finch
Betsy Kreuter & Eric Kreuter Family	Patrick & Kate Collins, Craig Symons, Cydney Van Dyke, Wendy Spezzano Sue Asselin, Khaleigh Laicher, Greg Girolamo, Julio Yika, Curtis Gay
Eric, Pam, Chase, & Nina Kreuter	
The Lepoutre Family	Joan & Jim Kreuter
Jane McConnell	Charlie Robertson
The Meyer Clan	Betty & John Briggs
Kit Mill	Roger A. Lepoutre & Richard A. Lepoutre
The Moore Family	
Erna Olson, Christina Olson, Beth Hasler	Jan Meyer - we miss you so much!
Karen & Paul Pacent & Nicole Pacent-Lindquist	
Karen & Nicole Pacent-Lindquist	Earl S. Moore Jr.
Robin DuCharme Pastore	Ken Olson
Carolyn Paulus, Stephanie Woodman & Gillian Woodman	Kimberly Dawn Pacent, Our cherished daughter & sister
His Family	Phyllis & John Kimball, loving parents & grandparents
Ruth & Gifford Reed & Family	Jo & Waldo DuCharme
William C. Rutherford	Joanna & Richard Pastore
	Rick Woodman, Harry Woodman, & Bob Osker
	Tom Rush Ragland III
	Our parents - Louise & Harrison Reed -
	Margaret & Carleton Gisborne
	Maureen C. Rutherford
	Stacey R. Rutherford

**GIVEN BY**

Their Family

Linnea Stenberg  
Stephen & Ronald Weigner, sons  
The W. Philip Wentworths  
Abby Smith Wentworth

Caralliene Westbrook  
Thomas White & Amy Morgan  
Carol Woodman

**IN HONOR/MEMORY OF**

Melita & John Magness  
Diane, Erling, & Dana Andersen  
Jeannette & Lars Stenberg  
Catherine G. & Arthur C. Weigner  
Rev. W. Robert Wentworth  
Dr. Sheldon V. Smith  
Sheldon V. Smith, Jr.  
Suzanne A. Smith  
My parents and brother  
Marian, F. Warren, Peter & Lori White  
David & Patsy Patterson  
Harry & Rick Woodman  
Marshall & Jo Pulsford

## 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
Facility Manager	Julio Yika
Sexton	Curtis Gay
Sexton	Jose Jolon
First Church Preschool Director	Beth Genovese
First Church Preschool Assistant Director	Melanie Garnett
Pastor Emerita	Reverend Sally Colegrove



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
a just world for all