



SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MUSIC SUNDAY
TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING

I Shall
Wear A Crown



The First Congregational Church of Greenwich declares itself to be open and affirming; 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.



CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

God puts the wiggle in children and calls it good... and so do we!

At First Church, we believe the way we welcome children in worship directly affects the way they respond to God, to the church, and to one another.

To welcome children as they are in worship, we have our **PrayGround**, located in the Chapel (right side of the Meetinghouse), where children and others of all ages can engage in worship

through movement, sensory materials, and prayerful play.

The presence of all God's children is a gift to the church, which offers hope for all.

Scan the QR code for FAQ and tips about our PrayGround.



GET THE FAMILY MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

Using your smartphone camera, scan the QR code here to sign up for our weekly Family Ministry newsletter. You can read about Church School, Regional Youth Ministry, and more!

SUPPORTING FIRST CHURCH

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.



First Church is a mask-friendly community of faith.

Anyone who prefers to wear a mask at church should feel comfortable doing so.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Modal March

Jason Krug (b. 1978)

The Palmer Handbell Choir, Dr. Craig Scott Symons, director

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Alida Elliott-Bocassi, acolyte

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

Sing

Joe Raposo

The Cherub Choir

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

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Reverend Patrick Collins

One: We come to worship with joy, trusting God's holy word will inspire us.

All: We lean into God for understanding, anticipating the Spirit's blessing.

One: May God hear our praise! May we be counted among the great congregation.

All: May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to God.

†HYMN

Gather Us In

401 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

Tod Hedrick, bass, Sean Charles, drums

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

God of life and grace, we ask for your blessings as we gather today. Bless each of us who have arrived here with a joy in our steps, and for those who feel defeated and shut down. Watch over us as we navigate the journey of faith and life with our loved ones. May we come to know the many ways to share your peace with those around us. We ask this, in your most glorious name. Amen.

Moment of silence for personal reflection

†ASSURANCE OF GRACE

† Please rise in body or in spirit

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

God makes peace within us. Let us claim it. God makes peace between us. Let us share it.

One: God has received us, pardoned us, and loved us; let us forgive each other in love and share the peace of Christ with a hand to hand, eye to eye, and heart to heart greeting.

May the peace of Christ be with all of you.

All: And also with you.

†RESPONSE (remain standing)

Halle, Hallelujah



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!

ANTHEM

Psalm 98

Jane Marshall (1924-2019)
The Celebration Singers
Vance Briceland, piano

FIRST READING

The Summer Day
Mary Oliver
Carolyn Paulus

Who made the world?

Who made the swan, and the black bear?

Who made the grasshopper?

This grasshopper, I mean—

the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,

who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.

Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.

Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.

I don't know exactly what a prayer is.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?

ANTHEM

Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Arr. Jack Schrader (b. 1942)
The Genesis Choir
Daniel Young, director, Matt Stolfi, piano

SECOND READING

Roads Go Ever Ever On
J. R. R. Tolkien
Ian Marten

Roads go ever ever on,
Over rock and under tree,
By caves where never sun has shone,
By streams that never find the sea;
Over snow by winter sown,
And through the merry flowers of June,
Over grass and over stone,
And under mountains in the moon.
Roads go ever ever on
Under cloud and under star,
Yet feet that wandering have gone
Turn at last to home afar.
Eyes that fire and sword have seen
And horror in the halls of stone
Look at last on meadows green
And trees and hills they long have known.
Roads go ever on and on
Out from the door where it began.
Now far ahead the Road has gone,
Let others follow it who can!
Let them a journey new begin,
But I at last with weary feet
Will turn towards the lighted inn,
My evening-rest and sleep to meet.

ANTHEM

I've Been In De Storm So Long
Arr. Harry T. Burleigh (1886-1949)
The Chancel Choir
Sebastian Ojeda, soloist

SCRIPTURE

James 1:2-6;12
New Revised Standard Version

My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.

If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind;

Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

MESSAGE

How I Made It Over
Dr. Craig Scott Symons

SOLO

Steal Away
Arr. Dave Ragland
Helena Brown, soprano

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

Glen Canner

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Old Time Religion Medley
Mark Hayes (b. 1953)
The Chancel Choir

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise God, in Je - sus ful - ly known: Cre - a - tor, Word, and Spir - it one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ANTHEM

I Shall Wear A Crown

Thomas Whitfield (1954-1992) - Transcribed Brandon Waddles (b. 1988)

The Chancel Choir
Helena Brown, soprano

†HYMN

I'll Fly Away



Some bright morn - ing when my life is o'er, I'll fly a - way.
When the sha - dows of this life is o'er, Just a few more wea - ry days and then,
To that home on God's ce - les - tial shore, I'll fly a - way.
Like a bird from pri - son bars has flown, To a land where joy shall ne - ver end,
I'll fly a - way, O glo - ry, I'll fly a - way.
I'll fly a - way, O glo - ry, I'll fly a - way.
When I die, Ha - le - lu - jah by and by, I'll fly a - way.

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

Festival Fanfare

Jason Krug

The Palmer Handbell Choir

† Please rise in body or in spirit

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Join us for Community Hour in the Auditorium following worship this morning where you can greet one another, have a cup of coffee, and our traditional strawberries, blueberries, croissants, and whipped cream. Hosts for Music Sunday are participants in the Music Ministry.



CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

- May 5: All-Ages Worship – Music Sunday (No Communion)
- May 12: Regular Church School (Communion)
- May 19: Confirmation Sunday (All Ages Worship)



FINAL PERFORMANCE OF THE SEASON

Pavlo Gintov, piano

TODAY at 4 p.m.

Ukrainian-born pianist Pavlo Gintov brings his fiery energy to the Steinway piano in the First Church Auditorium.

Free-will offering received.



PILGRIM TOWER VISIT

Saturday, May 11th, 10:30 am to 12:30pm

Our annual visit to Pilgrim Towers in Stamford to plant flowers, herbs, and vegetables! Come and join in this fun activity, meet some residents and enjoy a light lunch. Everyone is welcome, fun for all ages!

RSVP with Khaleigh, Pastor Cydney, or through the link in the Friday eblast.

THANK YOU, FIRST CHURCH AND FRIENDS!!



Thank you to all volunteers who welcomed, set up, made the meals, ran, and cleaned up for the Rise Against Hunger event last Sunday! You created a joyful hands-on worship service by providing 20,088 meals for those facing food insecurity.

Thank you also to everyone who contributed a Lenten Gift to underwrite the ingredients for the meal packing event. We could not have held the event without you!

Sending appreciation and admiration!

The Outreach Committee

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. Needs this week are: Summer handbags, Ladies summer tops King, queen sheets and pillowcases



CELEBRATING MOTHER'S DAY 2024



Do you have a mothering figure in your life? Would you like to honor her during our Sunday Worship on May 12? Simply submit a picture of one of the following:

- You with a mothering figure
- You holding a sign wishing someone a Happy Mother's Day
- You holding a picture of a mothering figure whom you would like to honor

These pictures will then be crafted into a beautiful montage that will be broadcast during our May 12 worship livestream for you to share with your family.

Send your picture to carolyns@fccog.org by 5:00 pm on Thursday May 9 (or drop off to the church office) to ensure your picture is included in the montage.

VISIONING TASK FORCE SURVEY ANNOUNCEMENT

We have exciting news. We are crafting a shared vision for the future of First Church and **we need your input**. The first opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas will come in the form of a short **Congregational Survey**, which has been developed and researched by Convergence, a professional church consulting firm. Scan the QR code with your smart phone to take the survey as soon as possible. **We want to know what you think, and to better understand our starting point!**

- What should we continue doing?
- What should we do differently?
- What new activities and approaches would you like to see?



We want to hear from **YOU!** Every member of your family is invited to complete the survey. We would love to achieve 100% participation – we want to hear from **EVERYONE**. **Deadline to submit surveys is May 15!**



Using your
smart phone
camera, scan
the QR code to
Sign Up for our
RYM Newsletter!

**REGIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY
IN LOWER FAIRFIELD COUNTY**
A SHARED NETWORK FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

**ALL FREE
EVENTS!**

**INCLUSIVE
FAITH-FILLED
& FUN!**

6TH TO 8TH GRADE
APRIL 7: GAME NIGHT
MAY 12: OUTDOOR ART
JUNE 16: WATER GAMES

9TH TO 12TH GRADE
APRIL 21: BOWLING
MAY 19: MAY MADNESS
JUNE 23: BEACH BASH

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL MISSION WEEKEND: JUNE 7-9

FOR MORE INFO: FCCOG.ORG/REGIONAL-YOUTH-MINISTRY

**THIS SUMMER:
A WEEK LONG
REGIONAL
YOUTH
EVENT
!!**



Current 6th-12 Graders

Four day camp with
other area churches
and youth groups!

July 28th - 31st

AT SILVER LAKE
CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

register: silverlakect.org

Regional Youth Ministry in Lower Fairfield County, CT

For ?'s: KhaleighL@fccog.org

2024 FCCOG QUILT RAFFLE
- Raising Money for Charity -
 Tickets Are On Sale Now!



Join us for a chance to win a beautiful blue handmade quilt. Our Women's Fellowship Kettle Quilters have been hard at work this past year. The colors are tones of blue and white, and it measures 80" wide and 92" long.

Raffle Tickets are \$5 each, and will be on sale every Sunday after Worship, during Community Hour. You can also purchase them [ONLINE](#)

They are also available to purchase at The Rummage Room during opening hours Monday through Thursday (11 am to 3 pm).

Tickets are available for purchase up until 12 pm May 23.

Our raffle drawing will take place on Thursday, May 23 at 1 pm, during the Women's Fellowship Annual Meeting. (Need not be present to win.) All proceeds go to charities benefitting women, children, and families.



Women's Fellowship Annual Meeting Luncheon

Thursday May 23 at 11:30 AM



Join the women of First Church for our Annual Meeting Luncheon on Thursday, May 23rd at 11:30 AM in the auditorium. (Note - All women of First Church are automatically members of the Women's Fellowship.)

We will elect officers for the coming year, vote on By-Law revisions, and approve allocations to charities for 2024. The \$20 ticket includes a catered lunch and speakers from two of the agencies that will receive grants from us this year. Advance registration and payment are REQUIRED. We will be at Community Hour the first three Sundays in May to accept cash/checks and registrations. (Checks should be made out to: Women's Fellowship FCCOG.)

The deadline for registration and payment is Sunday, May 19th.
Questions? Email carwestbrook@optimum.net

We look forward to seeing you there!

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

Administrative and Communications Colleague

Livestream Director

Audio Technician

Database Administrative Assistant

Facility Manager

Senior Sexton

Junior Sexton

Director of First Church Preschool

Assistant Director of First Church Preschool

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

Julio Yika

Curtis Gay

Brandon Speight Gay

Beth Genovese

Kayla Vozzella

Karina Germosen

Reverend Sally Colegrove



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all