



SUNDAY, JULY 6, 2025
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
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.

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

I Want Jesus To Walk With Me

Lynn L. Petersen

Steven Russell, guest organist/director

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God is Alpha and Omega, beginning and end.
All: The all-encompassing Life surrounding our every story.
One: God was, and is, and is to come,
All: the consistent Truth holding us fast.
One: God the Almighty calls us even now,
All: revealing the Way to kingdom life.

†CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

O What Their Glory
310 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Your voice thunders like rolling waters, sounds out like the herald's trumpet, whispers at our fearful ears, endures on the page ... so we come to hear you, God. Get our attention today that we might be re-created, ready for your appearance, strengthened by your faithfulness, empowered to live with you, by you, for 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.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

†RESPONSE (remain standing)

Halle, Hallelujah



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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.

(During the response, the children will return to their seats.)

FIRST LESSON

Revelation 1: 1-7
 New Revised Standard Version
 Charlie Stuckey

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place, and he made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is the one who reads the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds;
 every eye will see him,
 even those who pierced him,
 and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him.

So it is to be. Amen.

ANTHEM

Simple Gifts
 Aaron Copland (1900-1990)
 The Summer Choir

SECOND LESSON

Revelation 1: 8-20
New Revised Standard Version

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

I, John, your brother who share with you the persecution and the kingdom and the endurance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I was in the spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, “Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.”

Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands I saw one like the Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across his chest. His head and his hair were white as white wool, white as snow; his eyes were like a flame of fire; his feet were like burnished bronze, refined as in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and from his mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining with full force.

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last and the Living One. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever, and I have the keys of Death and of Hades. Now write what you have seen, what is, and what is to take place after this. As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

MESSAGE

Revelation And Resistance: Lifting The Veil
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

My Country 'Tis Of Thee
437 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

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.

CALL TO OFFERING

Lynn Hawxhurst

ORGAN OFFERTORY

Son of God, Eternal Savior

Raymond H. Haan

†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'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

O Beautiful For Spacious Skies
440 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

Lift High The Cross
John Leavitt

†Please rise in body or in spirit

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Join us for Community Hour in the Memory Garden (or Auditorium in case of rain) where you can greet one another, have a cup of coffee, and a light snack. Hosts for July are members of the Women's Fellowship.



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 Join Pastor Patrick for lunch on Thursdays at noon in the lounge. BYO lunch optional.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING



Parish Nurse Sue Asselin, RN will be available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following Sunday's worship service. If Community Hour is held outside, Sue will be in the Memory Garden. If held inside, Sue will be in her office, to the right of the Auditorium stage.

During the week, she is available by appointment, which can be made by calling extension 821 or emailing susana@fccog.org.





**Join us at Greenwich Point on
Sunday, August 3 at 8 a.m.
for an All-Church Beach Service
No passes required - bring your chairs/blankets**

(in case of bad weather, worship will be at 10 a.m. in the Meetinghouse)



Join us for a special all-church worship service by the water on Sunday, August 3 at 8am! We'll gather at the beach to lift our voices in praise, reflect on God's creation, and share in communion. After the service, stay for a relaxed community hour—bring a chair, your coffee, and your beach spirit!



**Join us for a two week summer theater program
with a big final show!**

**July 7-18th at
The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
\$750 for one week - \$1450 for two weeks**

**To sign up please email:
Bonnie Kelley-Young - bdryoung61@gmail.com
Denise Casazzone - dcasazzone@gmail.com**

Questions for Reflection:

"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day..."

What practices or places help you feel most connected to God's presence, even in chaotic times?

John's vision of Christ is powerful and overwhelming, eyes like fire, voice like rushing waters. How does this image of Jesus challenge or deepen your understanding of who Christ is?

Revelation was written to a persecuted community longing for hope. Where do you see people today yearning for justice or freedom?

How might the church respond?

As we mark Independence Day this week, we celebrate freedom. What does true spiritual freedom look like?

In what ways might Christ be calling us to use our freedom in service of others?

John falls at Jesus' feet "as though dead," but Jesus says, "Do not be afraid." What fears might you need to lay down in order to live more fully into faith and freedom?



Upcoming Events

Beach Services

Our Summer Beach Services continue at 8 a.m. at Greenwich Point Park. No passes are necessary - simply tell the gatekeeper you're attending First Congregational service. Remaining dates are July 13, 20, 27, August 3, 10, 17.

Founders Day & Heritage Sunday - July 20

Join us as we celebrate the founding of First Church and the Town of Greenwich. We will also welcome a new class of 50-year members during worship in the Meetinghouse. A special community hour will be held following worship with historic artifacts curated by our historian Pat Larrabee.

All-Church Beach Service - August 3, 8 a.m.

A special Summer Beach Service will be held on Sunday August 3 at 8 a.m. at Greenwich Point Park. It's a special time to gather together and be in the beauty of God's creation. No passes are necessary - simply tell the gatekeeper you're attending First Congregational service.

See the full Church Calendar for all upcoming events

www.fccog.org

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

Sexton

First Church Preschool Director

First Church Preschool Assistant Director

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

Beth Genovese

Melanie Garnett

Reverend Sally Colegrove



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

See more about the stories of our
Stained Glass Windows



See the Tour of our Main Cemetery -
People of Note

