

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE  
GREENWICH POINT  
SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2025  
6:00 A.M.



**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.

*During the prelude, the cross is symbolically processed in. This cross was physically carried here by youth and community members from First Church in Old Greenwich on Good Friday.  
Now, what was a tool of oppression and death stands empty and is instead a symbol of new life for all people.*

## PRELUDE

*Mighty Are Your Works, O God*  
W.A. Mozart and Hal H. Hopson  
The Genesis Choir  
Danny Young, director  
Matt Stolfi, piano

## EASTER GREETING

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Early in the morning, when the sun rose upon the empty tomb,  
**All: it brought a new day,**  
One: Everything was changed:  
**All: there was a new Creation.**  
One: God of resurrection,  
**All: by the light of Christ's rising,**  
One: grant us a new day.  
**All: By the mystery of your grace,**  
One: raise us up to new life  
**All: in the Spirit of Christ,**  
One: so that we can proclaim with all of creation:  
**All: Christ is Risen!**  
One: He is risen, indeed!  
**All: Let us worship our God of new life!**

### **"Early in the Morning" - A Litany of Retelling in 5 Parts**

*adapted from Rev. Phil Letizia*

*This litany is a kind of prayer, beginning with "Lord God," and ending with "Amen." Throughout this prayer we will remind ourselves of our faith story—of Creation, Incarnation, Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Celebration—through scripture, word, and song.*

#### 1. Creation

Person 1: Lord God, early in the morning, when the world was young, you made life in all its beauty and wonder; you gave birth to all that we know: sky and seas; plants and trees; bodies of light in the sky; creatures of the land, water, and air; man and woman.

Person 2: *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. . . And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. Thus, the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. (excerpts from Gen. 1 & 2)*

One: God of new life,

**All: We stand in awe of your creation and give you thanks, O Lord.**

All creatures of our God and King lift up your voice and with us sing,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother sun with golden beam and sister moon with softer gleam:  
Oh, praise him. Oh, praise him. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear mother earth, who day by day unfolds rich blessings on our way,  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
The fruits and flowers that verdant grow, let them his praise abundant show.  
Oh, praise him. Oh, praise him. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O everyone of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part,  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Christ bears your burdens and your fears, so, even in the midst of tears,  
Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## 2. Incarnation

Person 1: Early in the morning, when the world least expected it, a newborn child crying in a cradle announced that you had come among us, that you were one of us. The angels proclaimed it, the shepherds heard it, and in obedience . . . worshiped.

Person 2: *Joseph went up to Bethlehem . . . with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."* (excerpts from Luke 2:4-20)

One: God of new life,

**All: We stand in awe of your incarnation and give you thanks, O Lord.**

## 3. Crucifixion

Person 1: Early in the morning, surrounded by respectable liars, religious leaders, anxious rulers, and silent friends, you accepted the death you were given for our sake: You shouldered and suffered the cross, and with the words, "It is finished!" you put an end to hopelessness, giving instead hope in the promise of salvation and eternal life.

Person 2: *When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One."* (excerpts from Luke 23:33-38)

One: God of new life,

**All: We stand in awe of your sacrifice and give you thanks, O Lord.**



#### 4. Resurrection

Person 1: Early in the morning, a voice in a guarded graveyard, empty cloths and footsteps in the dew proved that you had risen, that you had come back to those and for those who had forgotten, denied, and destroyed you.

Person 2: *On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with 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; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" Then they remembered his words.*

*When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. (Luke 24:1-11)*

One: God of new life,

**All: We stand in awe of your resurrection and give you thanks, O Lord.**

#### **EASTER MESSAGE**

*Early In The Morning*

#### 5. Celebration

Person 1: Early in the morning, this morning, the body of believers gather together, one in faith and hope, one in purpose: To believe in and worship you, the one Lord, Jesus Christ, to live forgiven and thankful lives, and to celebrate the victory over death and the promise of eternal life.

Person 2: *But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 15:57)*

One: God of new life,

**All: We stand in awe of your love that conquers all, and we join in the celebration! We give you thanks, O Lord! AMEN!**

#### **HYMN**

*Christ The Lord Is Risen Today*

**"Christ the Lord is risen today!" Alleluia! All creation, join to say: Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!**

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

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

## EASTER PRAYER

### 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.

### BENEDICTION

One: He is Risen!

All: He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

### CHORAL RESPONSE

*Prepare Ye*  
(from Godspell)  
Stephen Schwartz

At the conclusion of the service, you will receive a daffodil, a symbol of new life. These flowers are a gift from the Speer Family for this Easter Sunday Sunrise Service.

## 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 Community Hour - we'll be next to the Quilt Raffle table. Reservations for the luncheon can be made beginning today. 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-beginning at 5:30 pm at the Sue Baker Pavilion at Greenwich Point with rain dates the following Tuesday evening.

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!



## Finding Faith In Ted Lasso

Join us for this fun and engaging conversation as we explore the elements of faith found in the hit show Ted Lasso

Every Wednesday  
6:00 - 7:00 P.M.  
May 7 - 28



# Upcoming Events

## **Rise Against Hunger - Sunday May 4**

During our morning worship time, we will pack 20,000 meals to support Rise Against Hunger which feeds communities around the world in need.

## **Music Sunday - May 18**

This special day in the life of First Church celebrates our amazing music ministry with all of our ensembles, featuring Robert Ray's Gospel Mass sung by the Chancel Choir with piano, bass, and drums.

## **Confirmation Sunday - June 8**

We celebrate and honor the year-long dedication of our confirmands as they publically declare their faith with the First Church community.

## **Celebration Sunday - June 15**

This day features our youngest in the church as they conclude another exciting year of Church School activities.

## **Annual Meeting - Sunday June 22**

Attend this important gathering following worship as we hear reports and watch a special video highlighting the activities of the past year.

## **Open And Affirming Sunday - June 29**

Each year we celebrate our church's Open & Affirming designation achieved in 2003 and re-affirm and re-commit to the inclusion of all people as beloved children of God, regardless of matters like age, race, gender, and sexual orientation.

**See the full Church Calendar for all upcoming events**  
**[www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org)**

## 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 Assistant Director  
Pastor Emerita

Reverend Patrick Collins  
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke  
Dr. Craig Scott Symons  
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Susan Asselin, RN  
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OF CHRIST  
a just world for all