



SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025
TWELFTH 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

Solemn Prelude
John Marsh (b. 1939)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Patrick Collins

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, travelers on the journey, seekers of truth and beauty.
All: **We set out on the path of mystery, open to wonder.**
One: Lift your eyes to the heavens, where galaxies declare God's glory.
All: **Look within, where the smallest spark reveals God's breath.**
One: At every crossroad, God's Spirit meets us.
All: **In questions and in silence, in awe and in belonging.**
One: Come, let us worship the One in whom all things hold together.
All: **With open hearts, we step into the adventure of God's love.**

†CHORAL INTROIT

HYMN SING

Please say (loud and with gusto!) the hymnal first, then the page number – make sure you use the index to find your favorite hymn so we have more time to sing and not have to search

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

God of stardust and Spirit, you are the Mystery that holds the galaxies in place and the breath that stirs within our lungs. We come today as explorers; curious, questioning, open to awe. Guide us on this adventure of faith. When the road is clear, give us joy. When the path is hidden, give us trust. Remind us that in every choice, in every moment, in every corner of creation, you are with us, and everything is spiritual. 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, 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

Psalm 8

New Revised Standard Version

Pat Larrabee

O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.
Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are humans that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God
and crowned them with glory and honor.
You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,
all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

HYMN SING

Please say (loud and with gusto!) the hymnal first, then the page number – make sure you use the index to find your favorite hymn so we have more time to sing and not have to search

SECOND LESSON

Romans 8: 18-25
New Revised Standard Version

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

MESSAGE

Quantum Faith: A Choose Your Own Adventure with God
Reverend Patrick Collins

HYMN SING

Please say (loud and with gusto!) the hymnal first, then the page number – make sure you use the index to find your favorite hymn so we have more time to sing and not have to search

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

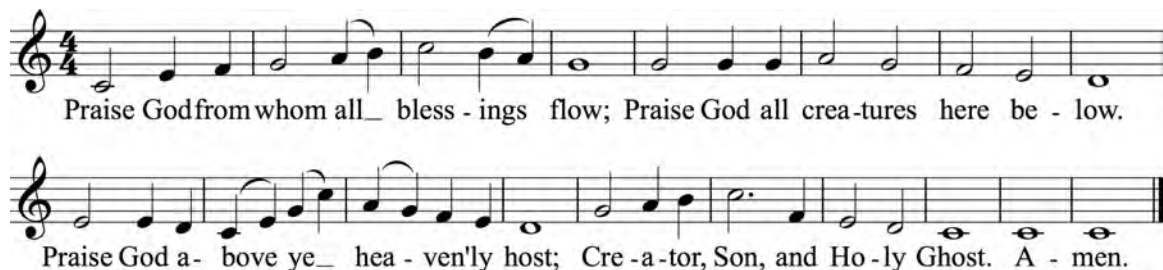
Anders Ekernas

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

He That Shall Endure To The End (from *Elijah*)
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
The Summer Choir

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN SING

Please say (loud and with gusto!) the hymnal first, then the page number – make sure you use the index to find your favorite hymn so we have more time to sing and not have to search

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

I Will Sing My Maker's Praises
Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

†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 August are members of the Church Council.

COMMUNITY
hour
HOUR

FIRST CHURCH, YOUR CHURCH

Member Survey

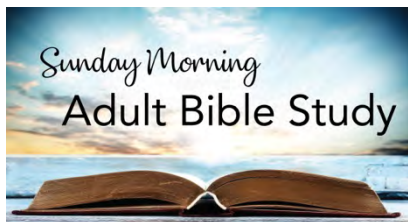
This September, FCCOG will send out a brief member survey with opportunities to connect, serve, and grow—both in faith and in friendship. From music to caring ministries, teaching children to welcoming newcomers, community outreach and more, there's a place here for everyone to belong.

The survey was thoughtfully created by a Member Survey Task Force (Linnea Stenberg, Meg Dempsey, Laura Erickson, Jenny Gartner, Meaghan Gruppo, and Pat Larrabee) to help everyone find a place where they feel both joy and purpose.

Please complete the survey by September 30th—because First Church isn't just a church, it's your church.

NEW SUNDAY MORNING DROP-IN BIBLE STUDY!

Just Drop-In: A First Look at Sunday's Scripture
9:00-9:45 AM in The Lounge



Starting September 14th, join Pastor Cydney on Sunday mornings for a drop-in time of conversation around the day's scripture. Together we'll explore the passage, gain context, and notice fresh insights before entering worship. No need to prepare—just bring yourself. Come for the whole time, or even 15 minutes, and trust that God will give you something good to carry into worship and beyond.



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 Church School/ Regional Youth Ministry

Parish Nurse

Director of Operations

Director of Finance & Administration

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

