

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF  
GREENWICH



MAY 18, 2008  
TRINITY SUNDAY

**ORDER OF WORSHIP  
MAY 18, 2008 10:00 A.M.  
TRINITY SUNDAY**

**IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

In what torn ship soever I embark,  
That ship shall be an emblem of thy ark;  
What sea soever swallow me, that flood  
Shall be to me an emblem of thy blood;  
Though thou with clouds of anger do disguise  
Thy face; yet through that mask I know those eyes,  
Which though they turn away sometimes,  
They never will despise.

—John Donne, “A Hymn to Christ, at the Author’s Last Going into Germany”

**THE PRELUDE**                      *Toccatà in D minor* (BWV 565)                      J. S. Bach

**THE CHURCH’S JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**THE WESTMINSTER CHIMES AND THE STRIKING OF THE HOUR**

**THE CHORAL INTROIT**                      *God of Our Life*                      SANDON

*God of our life, through all the circling years, We trust in thee;  
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, thy hand we see.  
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,  
We own thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.*

**THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

\***THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN** # 268 *God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*  
HOLY MANNA

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**THE CONFESSION AND PARDON**

The Prayer of Confession

Lector:                      The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we  
were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith  
in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. In  
faith and penitence, let us confess our sin before God  
and one another.

**People:** Gracious God, in sovereign love, you created the world and called it good. You made every person equal in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we have rebelled against you, and have hidden from our Creator. We violate your image in others and in ourselves. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. Have mercy on us, O God, and redeem your whole creation. And now hear us as we pray in the silence of our hearts...

The Kyrie Eleison

Lo - rd, have mer - cy up - on us.

Chr - ist, have mer - cy up - on us.

Lo - rd, have mer - cy up - on us.

The Assurance of Pardon

\*The Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.**

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**RECEPTION OF THE NEW MEMBERS**

The Call of Christ

The Presentation of the New Members

The Profession of Faith

The Prayer of Blessing

The Benediction

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## THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

*(Children and teachers may leave for their church school classes)*

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## THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Lesson from Holy Scripture

Genesis 6-9, Selected verses

The Response of the People

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

The Ministry of Music

*Prayer of the Cat*

DeGasztold/Davies

*Lord, I am the cat.*

*It is not exactly that I have something to ask of You!*

*No – I ask nothing of anyone – but,*

*if You have by some chance in some celestial barn,*

*a little white mouse, or a saucer of milk,*

*I know someone who would relish them.*

*Wouldn't you like someday*

*to put a curse on the whole race of dogs?*

*If so I should say,*

*Amen.*

*Prayer of the Raven*

*I believe, Lord, I believe!*

*It is faith that saves us, You have said it!*

*I believe the world was made for me,*

*because as it dies – I thrive on it.*

*My undertaker's black is in keeping with my cynical old heart.*

*Raven land is between You and that life down there,*

*for whose end I wait to gratify myself.*

*"Aha!" I cry. "Avant moi le déluge!" What a feast!*

*I shall never go back to the Ark!*

*Oh let it die in me – this horrible nostalgia.*

*Amen.*

The Sermon

*The God of Animals, Part III:*

*Adrift on a Shoreless Sea*

\***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE** # 272 *God of the Sparrow*

ROEDER

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving

The Lord=s Prayer

**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.**

## THE PEOPLE’S TITHES AND OFFERINGS

The Ritual of Friendship

The Offertory Anthem *Prayer of the Dove*

*The Ark waits, Lord, the Ark waits on your will, and the sign of your peace.*

*I am the dove, simple as the sweetness that comes from you.*

*The Ark waits, Lord; it has endured.*

*Let me carry it a sprig of hope and joy,  
and put, at the heart of its forsakenness,*

*this, in which your love clothes me,*

*Grace immaculate.*

*Amen.*

\*The Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*The Prayer of Dedication

\***THE RECESSIONAL HYMN** # 276 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* FAITHFULNESS

\***THE BENEDICTION**

**THE POSTLUDE**

*Fugue in D minor* (BWV 565)

J. S. Bach

(\*Please stand if you are able. \*\*\* Latecomers may be seated.)

## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY’S SERVICE

Preaching: The Reverend Dr. William A. Evertsberg, Senior Minister

The Reverend Kathryn Kibbie Laird, Associate Minister

The Reverend Susan L. Arner, Minister of Mission and Nurture

Judy B. Kelly, Director of Membership

Kevin L. Estes, Minister of Music

The Chancel Choir

**NEW MEMBERS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
May 18, 2008**

Please add these names and addresses of our new members to your church directory and welcome them into our community of faith.

David Detjen 35 Stonehedge Drive Greenwich, CT 06831 203-531-7583	Joining by Letter of Transfer Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church New York, New York
Jason and Princess Field 57 Oak Ridge Street Apt. 2 Greenwich, CT 06830 585-355-7053	Joining by Reaffirmation of Faith
Rozsa Gaston 44 Bruce Park Drive Greenwich, CT 06830 203-769-5120	Joining by Letter of Transfer Bronxville Reformed Church Bronxville, New York
Stephen and Melinda Lorenz 145 Riverside Avenue Riverside, CT 06878 203-344-1496	Joining by Letter of Transfer Brick Presbyterian Church New York, New York
Abigail Smith	Joining by Letter of Transfer Central Presbyterian Church Summit, New Jersey
Joshua Thomsen 75A Mead Avenue Greenwich, CT 06830 212-731-9576	Joining by Letter of Transfer First Baptist Church Windward Kailua, Hawaii
William Philip Wentworth	Joining by Letter of Transfer St. Charles Borromeo Church Woburn, Massachusetts
Bradford Williams 20 Church Street B25 Greenwich, CT 06830 203-485-0088	Joining by Profession of Faith



**We are a Stephen Ministry Church**



## WORSHIP AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**THE GREETERS** this morning are Barbara & Peter McSpadden; and Deacons Ted Karchuta and Nina Yoder.

**USHERS SERVING TODAY ARE MEMBERS OF TEAM VI:** George Hallenbeck, Captain, Sandy Brumley, Tolman Geffs, Betsy Harper, Teri James-Brumley, Dan McLeod, Colin Munro, Max Parker, Candee Weed and Hearst Zhang.

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** this morning are given in memory of Rolf K. Hasner and Edel J. Hasner, beloved parents of Nina Yoder.

**THE POEMS FOR TODAY'S ANTHEMS** were written in the 1940's during the German occupation of France by Carmen Bernos DeGasztold. Having lost her mother, she was accepted into the Abbey just south of Paris, where she was encouraged to refine her poetry by the nuns who cared for her on their farm. *Prayers from the Ark*, is a series of 27 prayers to God from the inhabitants of the Ark. Rumer Godden set about the task of translating the poems into English, with the assistance of De Gasztold, helped from behind the Abbey grille by two of the nuns.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CHILDREN OF A COMMON FATHER: A BRIEF INTRO. TO ISLAM FROM CHRISTIAN & MUSLIM PERSPECTIVES:** Christians, Jews, and Muslims all trace their lineage to Abraham, their common father, and are thus sometimes called The Three Abrahamic Faiths. Sharing a high veneration of sacred texts, the three faiths are also sometimes called The Peoples of the Book. Despite these commonalities, however, Islam is the least understood here in America. Bring your questions to the final installment of this four-week Academy series. Our speaker will be Lubna Pal.

**M.S.Y.G. (MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP—GRADES 6, 7 & 8): 4:00 – 5:30 P.M., AND F.I.S.H. (FAITH INSPIRED SENIOR HIGHS—GRADES 9 - 12): 5:30 -7:00 P.M.—**Neighbor to Neighbor Food Frenzy! Jesus asks us to feed the poor and take care of our neighbors. There are thousands of families right here in Greenwich who need help each week to put food on the table. We are going to help stock the shelves at Neighbor to Neighbor. Whichever team buys the most groceries and stays within their budget will win the grand prize!

**F.I.S.H. MISSION TRIP STOCK** is now available for sale. Please support our senior high youth and adults who are going to work for an orphanage in Roatán Island, Honduras this summer and help better the lives of 23 orphans. You may purchase stock from our table at coffee hour, now until we depart, in July. Questions? Please speak with Kibbie Laird—(203) 869-8686 x 119.

**SIGN UP TODAY** in Fellowship Hall for the **Annual Church Picnic, Hats Off to Summer**, on **Sunday, June 8** following worship. Enjoy an all American barbeque, Dixieland Band, children's activities and more. Wear a fun hat and casual clothes. Volunteers are needed to help with grilling, set-up and salads. \$8.00 per person; \$25 family; \$5.00 seniors. For more information, contact: Sharon Parker, 203-637-3630.

**BIBLE STUDY SPRING SERIES: MAJORING IN THE MINORS—HOSEA AND AMOS:**

The Reverend Dr. William Evertsberg leads the Academy Bible Study as we examine the Old Testament Books Hosea and Amos, often listed as among the "minor prophets". The twelve minor prophets in the Hebrew Bible sometimes get shouted down by their better known colleagues Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel, but the penetrating words of Hosea and Amos still speak today. Sometimes majoring in the minors is a good thing. Meetings will be held Tuesday mornings at 11:00 a.m. and will be repeated Wednesday evenings at 8:00 p.m., both in the Session Room.

**FAMILY RE-ENTRY LIBRARY:** You will recall our successful January gathering of clothing for the children of incarcerated fathers in Bridgeport. We have now devised additional ways for our congregation to assist these children. We are creating a children's lending library to be maintained by Family Reentry. We need donated children's books of all kinds, at reading levels for grades 2 through 8. Call Nancy Raker at 203-661-8536 for more details, and drop off books during the week.

**THE WALRUS AND CARPENTER SOCIETY, a men's discussion group,** will meet this Thursday, May 22, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., in the church library, to discuss *The Power and The Glory* by Graham Greene. Dinner (provided by Phil McWhorter – please contribute \$13) will be in the Session room at 8:00 p.m. RSVP to Carolyn Hahn-Re at [carolyn.hahn-re@fpcg.org](mailto:carolyn.hahn-re@fpcg.org) or (203) 869-8686, ext. 111. Thanks for calling ahead if you plan to attend. And thanks for truly showing up if you called ahead. Soda, water, coffee, tea and wine provided. For other libations, bring your own.

**FUTURE ACADEMY PRESENTATION—NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2008:** The Greenwich Music Festival will present a program on baroque opera and the planned presentation of works of Monteverdi in June. Rob Ainsley, principal conductor for the Festival, will lead the program.

**FAMILY RE-ENTRY & BALL GAME:** We plan on taking each of these 27 children to a professional baseball game, the Bridgeport Bluefish, in a wonderful minor league ballpark on June 1, 2008. To be a part of our FPCG group, and accompany these children, please contact Bruce Winningham at [bwinningham@northstarpartersinc.com](mailto:bwinningham@northstarpartersinc.com).

**MISSION MATTERS:** For Mission Survey results check out the website, [www.fpcg.org](http://www.fpcg.org) and click on *Member Survey Results* in the top right corner. The Mission Committee is making progress in six areas: 1. Food, 2. Shelter, 3. Education/Mentoring, 4. Kids, 5. Seniors, 6. International Trips. We look forward to sharing more information soon.

**DISASTER RELIEF WORK:** The Mission Committee is keeping a watchful eye on the recent disasters in Myanmar and China. The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance network is actively preparing ways to help in Myanmar. As opportunities arise to assist these world needs, we will let the congregation know the best way that we can help.

**SUMMER WORSHIP BEGINS JUNE 22—** From June 22 - July 27 we will have two summer worship service choices: 10:00 a.m. in the FPCG sanctuary, and 8:30 a.m. at Tod's Point, Old Greenwich in the Seaside Garden. Come as you are, and bring your own blanket/lawn chair. (If you do not have a beach card, just tell the guardhouse staff you are coming to church).