



**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN**

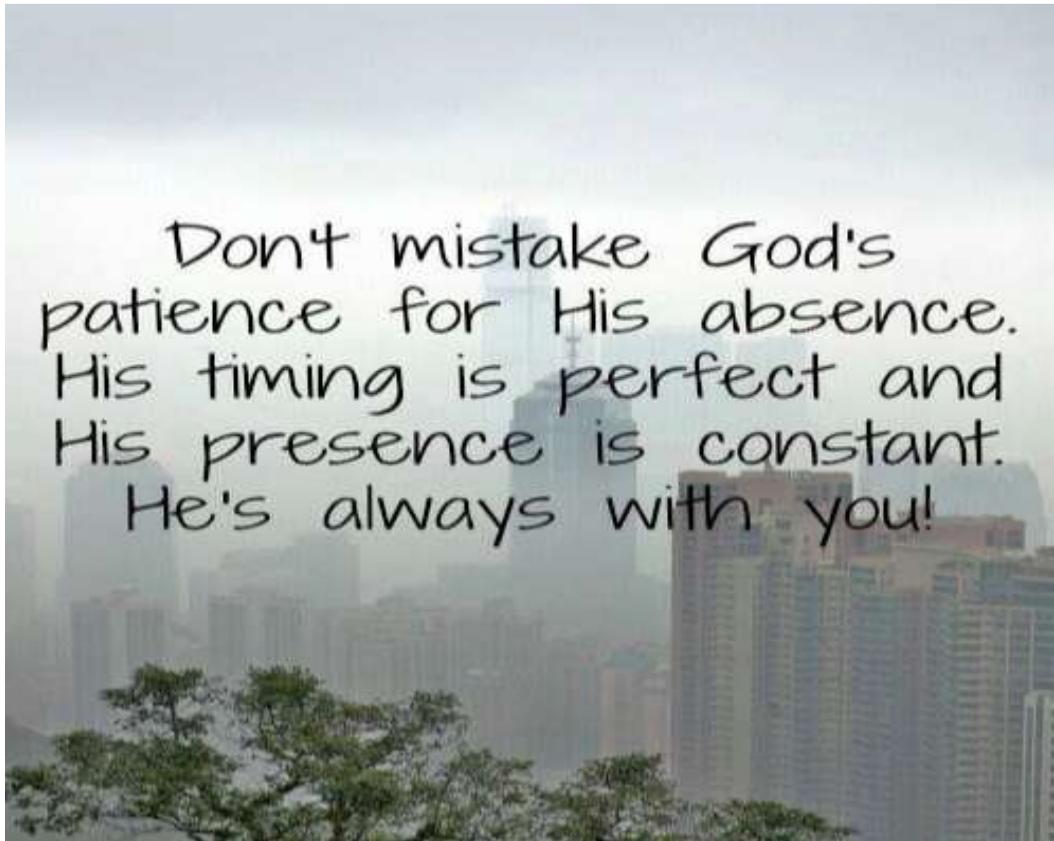
United Church of Christ  
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***FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT***

***April 2, 2017***

***8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.***



# ***FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT***

***April 2, 2017***

***8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.***

*Children are always welcome at our worship services.*

*A drop-off Nursery is available to children age 2 and younger,  
in the Nursery School wing starting at 9:45 a.m.*

***\*Those who are able are invited to stand.***

## **PRELUDE**

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Dale Rosenberger, Senior Minister

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

### **\*HYMN #12**

“IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE”

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

As the Spirit moves, how can we not respond?  
For God does a wholly new thing in our midst.

**We gather to sing our thanks and praise.  
It is good to recall God’s unqualified favor.**

God does great things for us; hearts are gladdened.  
So God leads us out of ourselves, to new horizons.

**We wait upon what God would have us do.  
We prepare to offer ourselves in new ways.**

All uniting:  
**Forgetting what lies behind, we greet our future.  
we press on, responding to Christ’s upward call.**

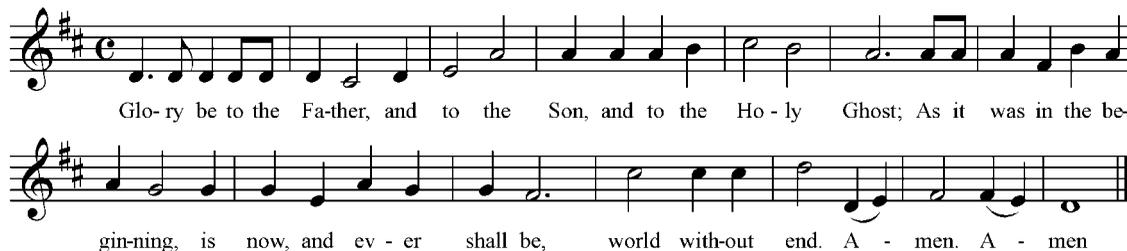
### **\*OPENING PRAYER**

Mr. Gary M. Morello, Associate Minister

**\*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.**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**



Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost; As it was in the be-  
gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A - men. A - men

**CHILDREN'S DISMISSAL (10:00 only)**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** EZEKIEL 37:1-14 (SEE TEXT FOLLOWING) Lou Converse (8:30)  
Frank Burke (10:00)

**\*HYMN #314** "AS WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE"

**GOSPEL LESSON** John 11:1-45 (SEE TEXT FOLLOWING) Rev. Rosenberger

**SERMON** "All in God's Good Time" Rev. Rosenberger

**OFFERTORY** "I AM THE LIVING BREAD" Tom Dwight (10:00 only)  
Senior Choir

**\*DOXOLOGY (10:00 only)**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison) (10:00 only)**

**Lift us up, O God, from our graves of self-interest as we invest ourselves in sharing your good news with the world. Increase our gifts of time and treasure, that all who are empty of hope might have their minds set on the Spirit. May the Spirit raise them to new life as we celebrate the resurrection Jesus promised to Lazarus, and to all who trust you. Amen.**

## CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### INVITATION

#### CALL TO PRAYER

(Leader) The Lord be with you.  
(Congregation) **And also with you.**  
(Leader) Lift up your hearts.  
(Congregation) **We lift them up to the Lord.**  
(Leader) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
(Congregation) **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

#### \*SANCTUS

“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”  
*Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!  
My heart knows how to say to you: Holy are you, Lord!*

#### PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

*Please pray for the seven third –graders seated in the front pew receiving bread and cup today for the first time: Jack Buscemi, Yasiana Cappella, Ryan Cochrane, Gavin Hanig, Anna Petti, Wyatt Robbins, Jane Westbrook*

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (*unison*)

**Lord Jesus Christ, we offer our thanks for what you have given us in this bread and cup. Fed and renewed by your life in us - we go now to share that life with others. Send us forth equipped with the power of your Spirit to spread the message of your love and compassion to all whom we meet. Amen.**

#### \*HYMN #94

“IF YOU WILL TRUST GOD TO GUIDE YOU”

#### \*BENEDICTION

Rev. Rosenberger

#### POSTLUDE

### **EZEKIEL 37:1-14**

“The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath:

Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.”

I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

### **JOHN 11:1-45**

“Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.” After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen

asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.”

\* \* \*

TODAY'S USHERS are Lou Converse (8:30am), Marianne Lauer and Frank Burke (10:00am)

## **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CELEBRATION OF EASTER**

#### **Palm Sunday**

April 9, 8:30am and 10:00am services  
10:00 am - parade of Church School students waving their palms

#### **Maundy Thursday**

April 13, 7:00 pm service  
A quiet, contemplative, "Tenebrae" service (early evening, without lights) with communion.

#### **Good Friday Vigil**

April 14, 6am-Midnight.  
As is tradition, FCC will be reading the entire New Testament from the pulpit on Good Friday. Sign up for 30-minute blocks between 6:00 a.m. and midnight. The signup sheet is posted in Parish Hall or you can contact Lou Converse at [lou.converse@viacom.com](mailto:lou.converse@viacom.com).

#### **Good Friday Cross Walk—in Solidarity with Persecuted and Refugee Christians around the World**

April 14, 10:30am

The Darien Clergy Association is dedicating this year's Good Friday Cross Walk through town in solidarity with persecuted and refugee Christians all around the world today. Christians in Iraq and Syria have been prominent in the news certainly. But Christians in places like Indonesia, the Sudan, Somalia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and N. Korea are perennially at risk. Because Christianity remains our majoritarian faith in the US, we too easily overlook that Christianity is the most persecuted religion worldwide—by a fairly significant margin.

Please join our 2017 Good Friday Cross Walk, uniting our Christian communities. We begin at First Congregational Church at 10:30 AM. You may walk part or all of the way. Baby strollers and dogs welcome.

## **Easter Flowers**

It's that time of year! We are in the season of giving thanks. If you would like to order Easter flowers, order forms are in the church office. Deadline for ordering is Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **Easter Sunday**

April 16

Easter morning will commence with a 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service at Mather Cemetery on Stephen Mather Road; followed by two identical services at 9:00 am and 11:00 am, complete with balloons and "The Hallelujah Chorus."

## **Hospitality**

In between the two Easter services, please join us for coffee, fruit, and sweets. The Youth Group will be running their annual Bake Sale! At approximately 10:15 - we will have an Easter Egg Hunt for small children on the Nursery School playground. Bring your own baskets. It is rumored that the Easter Bunny will be making an appearance!

## **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH**

The First Congregational Church of Darien Helps!

The First Congregational Church of Darien Board of Christian Outreach has a full schedule of events planned to help those in need. Please help!

- **Help distribute Easter hams at the Open Door Shelter!** Thursday, April 13th from 8:30am to 10:30 am. Contact Heather Raker at [hraker@me.com](mailto:hraker@me.com) to help!
- **Habitat for Humanity Build Days** in Bridgeport - FCCD is invited to join The Sound Coalition of Churches in Fairfield to help build on the following dates during 2017: 4/8, 7/8, 8/26, 10/21 and 12/9. No experience needed! Just come with willing hands and heart! Helpers (16 or older) will meet at the warehouse by 8:30 am, and be done by 4. Please email Heather Raker at [hraker@me.com](mailto:hraker@me.com) to help.
- **The 3rd annual Darien House Tour: Homes with Heart** is scheduled for June 8, 2017! This event has raised over \$60K each year for our Outreach Beneficiaries. This year our lead beneficiary is The Open Door Shelter. We will support their Building Lives Initiative which will transform South Norwalk and impact the lives of the area's most vulnerable citizens. This \$6 million project involves the building of a brand new 19,000 square foot facility will provide housing for 16 units of supportive housing apartments for those in need, plus medical health, outpatient addiction treatment and job training services. For more information and to help, check out [darienhousetour.org](http://darienhousetour.org)!

- **SUPPORT OUR BENEFICIARIES BY ADVERTISING YOUR BUSINESS IN THE HOUSE TOUR EVENT PROGRAM!** The event program will be distributed to more than 500 people and offers a great opportunity to promote a business! Discounted rates for church members!! Visit [darienhousetour.org](http://darienhousetour.org) for more information or contact [darienhousetour@gmail.com](mailto:darienhousetour@gmail.com).

**Mark your calendars for upcoming events held by our Outreach Beneficiaries!**  
Grab some friends, have some fun and SUPPORT our fabulous friends!

- **OPEN DOOR SHELTER** Gala and Auction - Thursday, April 27, 2017, 6 to 9 pm at the Woodway Country Club. More info at [opendoorshelter.org](http://opendoorshelter.org).
- **INSPIRICA Spring Soiree** - Thursday April 20, 2017, 5:30 to 7:30 pm at The Palace Theater, 61 Atlantic Street, Stamford. More info at [inspicact.org](http://inspicact.org).
- **LIBERATION PROGRAMS** 2017 Sprit of Hope - Thursday, June 8 at the Woodway Country Club. Stay tuned for more info!

Thank you for your hands on help for those in need!

*The First Congregational Church of Darien Board of Outreach*

Chair: Heather Raker, Vice Chair: Anna Denoyer, Members: Gayle Appleby, Lindsay Atha, Scott Barrett, Tracey Berry, Elmerina Brooks, Annette Madden-Kline, Bob McGee, Charlie Wetmore, Carol Wilson, Lauren Swenson

### **CONFIRMANDS**

- We will meet 11:15 am, right after church today.
- Please mark your calendars for **Easter, Sunday April 16<sup>th</sup>** we are meeting at the church at 7:30am to help fill Easter balloons.

### **2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

If you made a pledge for 2017, your Offering Envelopes are available for pick-up and are on the table, outside the church office. If you do not see envelopes with your name, and would like offering envelopes, please contact Karen Hansen at [KHansen@uccdarien.org](mailto:KHansen@uccdarien.org).

“Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind.” - Albert Einstein



## **Science & Religion 11th Hour** **Sunday, April 23rd 11:30am**

**The relationship between science & religion has long been debated in philosophy and theology. To what extent are they compatible?**



Join the discussion with Rev. Dale Rosenberger and Dr. Fraser Fleming, PhD, Head of Chemistry Department at Drexel University and author of “The Truth of Science and Religion: From Big Bang to Neuroscience”.

Presented by the Board of Christian Education

## **OPENINGS AT THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH NURSERY SCHOOL**

We have a few openings in the 3's and, for the first time ever, the Pre-k. If you are looking for a morning 3's class or are undecided about sending your child on to kindergarten in September, call us at (203) 655-3150. Teri Manning is happy to discuss options!

## **MIDNIGHT RUN: APRIL 1, 2017**

On behalf of the Boards of Christian Education and Outreach, and the Youth Group -- our thanks to the entire congregation for an amazing Midnight Run experience. It has been an effort that has united our congregation together in more ways than one, and we thank all those who contributed their time, talent and donations. Because of your kindness and generosity, many men and women received toiletry bags, new clothing, and two hearty meals. What a blessing!

## **KNITTING MINISTRY**

The Knitting Ministry will break out their needles today, at 11am in the Morehouse Room. Bring your knitting, crochet projects, needlepoint, and join us for fiber and fellowship. New needle crafters are especially welcome. There is nothing like a little yarn therapy to get you through these trying times. For more information, contact Lora Grassilli (646) 932-3735.

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## **DEDICATE A HYMNAL TO SOMEONE SPECIAL WITH A BOOKPLATE**

Please see insert. Return your completed form to the church office.

## **BEREAVEMENT**

Please continue to keep our long-time Administrative Assistant, Dennis Hanlon and his daughters Shanley, Sydney, Sawyer and Stella in your thoughts and prayers as they mourn the loss of his wife and their mom, Gloria Hanlon. We have started a fund to receive gifts for the support of the Hanlons and if you would like to contribute, please send your check payable to FCC Darien with memo marked "Gloria Hanlon Fund" to Karen Hansen in the church office.

**WELCOME TO THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN**

**"Where God's extravagant love welcomes and affirms,  
where Christ's transforming truth enlivens and compels."**

We are an accepting community where faith in Christ makes a difference. We welcome you to worship with us wherever you are on your journey. As a spiritual home, our hallmarks are education, fellowship and pastoral care. Children have a special place in our church family, and are embraced with love, guidance and opportunities for spiritual growth. We are a church of conscience, unafraid of the issues of today and serving as a reconciling force among different faiths.

**CHURCH CALENDAR**

**TODAY**

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent  
Knitting Ministry 11:00am  
Confirmation Class 11:15am

**PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 9**

Services 8:30am and 10:00am  
Church School Parade 10:00am

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 13**

Tenebrae Service 7:00pm

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 14**

Good Friday Vigil 6am – Midnight  
Cross Walk 10:30am  
All-Community Good Friday Worship 12:00pm

**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 16**

Sunrise Service 7:00 am

**SUNDAY, APRIL 23**

Science & Religion 11<sup>th</sup> Hour 11:30am

***Ministers:*** Every member of the congregation.

***Clergy and Staff:***

The Rev. Dale Rosenberger, *Senior Minister (emergency pager) 1- (203) 368-7789*

Gary M. Morello, *Associate Minister*

The Rev. Ronald T. Evans, *Pastor Emeritus*

Mary Jo Colman, *Church School Director*

Daniel Hague, *Music Director* Maxim Pakhomov, *Organist*

Teri Manning, *Nursery School Director* Karen Hansen, *Treasurer*

Pamela Toason, *Church Administrator (M, T)* Dennis Hanlon, *Church Administrator (W, Th, Fri)*

Carlos Maya, *Weekday Sexton* Ruth Salazar, *Sunday Sexton*