



The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme
2 Ferry Road
Old Lyme, Connecticut
(860) 434-8686
Website: www.fccol.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP

The Third Sunday in Advent

Steven R. Jungkeit, Senior Minister
Carleen R. Gerber, Senior Associate Minister
Joan W. Priest, Minister of Visitation
Simon D. Holt, Director of Music

December 11, 2016

11:00 AM

Prelude

Introit: *The Angel Gabriel*

Basque Carol, arr Malcolm Archer

*Processional Hymn: #136 “Angels, From the Realms of Glory”

*Call to Worship (from Psalm 126):

When the Lord restored our fortunes
We were like those who dream.

**Then our mouths were filled with laughter,
and our tongues with shouts of joy.**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord.

May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.

**Those who go out weeping
Shall come home with shouts of joy.**

Let us worship God.

*Invocation

*The Lord’s Prayer

Welcome and News of the Church

Advent Wreath Lighting

Senior Choir Bass Section

*Unison Reading:

**I wait with quickened hope for crooked paths to straighten, with tough-soul'd anguish,
while blinded keepers of the keys shut out God's own.**

I wait, and will not be dismayed.

For tiny shoot of Jesse's tree took root in me to love, transform, give sight, set free.

-Christine Schenk

*Gloria Patri: (#36 in hymnal)

Scripture: Joel 2: 23-28 (OT, pg. 804)

Luke 2: 22-38 (NT, pg. 55)

*Hymn: #149 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Pastoral Prayer

Pastoral Prayer Response: *As We Are Gathered*

The image shows a musical score for the Pastoral Prayer Response, "As We Are Gathered". It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system is labeled "Refrain" and contains the lyrics: "As we are gath-ered, Je - sus is here; one with each". The second system is labeled "Fine" and contains the lyrics: "oth - er, Je - sus is here. Joined by the Spir - it". The third system is labeled "to Refrain" and contains the lyrics: "built up in love, part of the bod - y, the church of God." The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving lines.

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Anthem: *For Unto Us A Child Is Born* from Messiah by G.F. Handel

*Doxology:

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen**

*Offertory Prayer

*Hymn: #148 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Sermon: "LET ME NOW DEPART IN PEACE" The Rev. Dr. Steven R. Jungkeit

*Hymn:: #105 "The Tree of Life My Soul Hath Seen"

Benediction

Benediction Response: *Behold The Shepherd*

Natalie Sleeth

Postlude

*Congregation Standing

We thank you for worshipping with us. Following the life and teachings of Jesus, we are a church that strives to be a place of grace, welcoming all regardless of theological expression, age, race, gender, sexual identity, national origin or financial means. In our Church Constitution we recognize that “each member shall have the undisturbed right to follow the word of God according to the dictates of his or her own conscience, under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit.” The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme, established in 1665, cherishes this proud Pilgrim tradition. We are honored by your presence among us, and we invite you to help us become what we endeavor to be.

The flowers this morning are given by Tammy Algar & Family in loving memory of Joseph Brennan.

The hosts for fellowship hour are Bob and Martha Beaudoin.

The deacon on duty is Don Gonci.

If you are visiting us for worship this morning, we welcome you, and invite you to join us in Fellowship Hall for fellowship and refreshments.

We invite you to pick up a “Welcome” packet, which can be found in the vestibule.

We hope this information will be helpful in acquainting you with our church and its activities and programs.

Quiet Activity Bags for young children are in the vestibule.

They are colorful bags with quiet projects for our youngest members.

Please feel free to offer these bags to your children.

The Rev. David W. Good serves as our Minister Emeritus.

The Rev. Rebecca T. Crosby is our Minister for Haitian Outreach.

The Rev. Christine Caton serves this church as minister of the South Lyme Union Chapel.

Large print versions of this bulletin are available from the ushers.

Forums Today: Amnesty International Sunday. Members of the Lyme-Old Lyme High School Amnesty International student group will be at our coffee hour with information for us to read and petitions to sign. **December 18th: Attorney Chad Edgar**, son of Dencie and Jerry Guindon, will speak about his work in issues of minority group incarceration.

Partnership Co-operative Annual Holiday Sale Featuring Native American Crafts, Haitian Art and Palestinian Goods Join us at the Old Lyme Marketplace (next to the pharmacy) *today* 11:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Bible Study Becky Crosby is leading a Bible Study on the Gospel of John with special attention to its uniqueness. We meet in the Library on **Thursday mornings** at 10:45 am for one hour. **Note:** *In December Bible Study meets this week, but not from December 22 - February 9th.* Please bring a Bible (we like many versions). All are welcome!!

Refugee Resettlement Project Update Hani Hamou, the energetic father in our Syrian refugee family, is eager to move from his present work as dishwasher into full-time employment that would better help him support his family. Hani has outstanding past experience as a distributor/deliveryman in Turkey and as assistant head waiter in a high-end restaurant in Syria, though he is open to other forms of work. We are currently helping Hani launch his job search and would appreciate hearing from anyone in our three co-sponsoring churches with ties to a business, or who might be able to make a referral to one, that could lead to a job interview for this highly motivated, hard-working man. Contact Arthur Pope at 860-227-6369 or <apope721@gmail.com>.

Pilgrim Fellowships “Gifts Made With Love” Crafting Event **TODAY!** From 10:30-2:30 today your children will be able to make Christmas gifts, eat a light lunch and play with friends while you get your Christmas shopping done! Children should wear clothes that are great for crafting. All FCCOL children out of diapers are welcome!

Our Annual Christmas Pageant is on *December 18*. All JPF, SPF, children and families who would like to participate are welcome to arrive at 2:30 p.m. to rehearse. Our pageant is at 5:00 p.m. Snacks will be served before the performance.

Christmas Cookie delivery - On *Sunday, December 18*, during Sunday School our youth will be frosting cookies for some of our older church friends and members. Then on *Thursday, December 22* youth grades 3 and older will deliver Christmas cookies to some of our older residents— at nursing homes, some shut-ins, and some of our friends who live at Essex Meadows. We will gather at 4:00 pm at church and then be back at church around 6 p.m. We hope to drive through the Christmas Lights in the Village of Ivoryton on our way home. Please RSVP to LisaDoggart@gmail.com by *Tuesday, December 20*, if you want to join in!

Christmas Concerts *Con Brio* celebrates Christmas and its 20th Anniversary with two joyous concerts featuring Bach's Christmas Oratorio, Christmas Carols and much more. Join us *TODAY for the second concert at 3 pm* at Christ the King Church, Old Lyme, to inspire your Christmas spirit! Tickets are \$30, \$15 for students.

Book Group Please join us on *Sunday, January 8th*, after the 11:00 am service for a discussion of *Just Mercy, A Story of Justice and Redemption*, by Bryan Stevenson. This "unforgettable true story about the redeeming potential of mercy" will challenge our thinking and lead to insightful discussion. Led by Carleen and Martha Beaudoin. All welcome.

Senior Pilgrim Fellowship 2017 Annual Trip to Haiti is scheduled for Friday, April 7, to Friday, April 14, 2017. For more information about the trip, please join us on January 8, 2017 at 12:15 pm in the Sheffield Auditorium of the FCCOL. This is the 4th annual trip led by Becky and Ted Crosby, founders of The Crosby Fund for Haitian Education. Priority is given to current SPF youth. After January 30th, the trip is open to youth from local churches and towns (youth must be in 9th to 12th grade). Any questions? Please email Becky at <rtcros@ftcrosby.com> or call 860-434-8054.

News from Tree of Life **Our March Journey: The Wisdom of Jesus, Mohammed and The Prophets of Israel (Peace be upon them), with extension to Bosnia** is bulging at the seams with 43 participants! A few new stops and great new partnerships, as well as visits with old friends will make this a truly powerful experience. We are thrilled to announce another Trade Union Journey in September 2017, open to all. More details to come after the New Year.

Looking for a meaningful holiday gift? Consider a donation to Tree of Life in the name of your loved one. We are happy to send them a personalized message acknowledging your gift. Additionally, Palestinian olive oil, zatar, and Palestinian goods are available in our partnership room, and also our Partnership storefront weekends in December.

Calendar of Events & Meetings for This Week

Gifts Made With Love *TODAY from 10:30 to 2:30 pm* in the Sunday School rooms.
Tribal Crafts Partnership Holiday Sale TODAY, 11:00 - 5:00 at the OL Marketplace.
Sewing Group *Monday, December 12th at 10:00 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.
Board of Trustees *Tuesday, December 13th at 7:30 pm* in the Library.
Poetry Group *Wednesday, December 14th at 4:00 pm* in the Hoag Parlor.
Children's Choir *Wednesday, December 14th at 5:00 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.
Senior Choir *Wednesday, December 14th at 7:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.
Bible Study *Thursday, December 15th at 10:45 am* in the Library.
Gordon Hall Austin Memorial & Reception *Thursday, December 15th at 1:00 pm.*
All Church Christmas Open House *Saturday, December 17th, 3-8 pm at the Priest's home.*
Christmas Pageant *Sunday, December 18th at 5:00 pm, rehearsal at 2:30 pm.*

The Hat, Sock and Mitten Tree This year under our Meeting House Tree, we would like to gather packages of socks, underwear, hats, scarves and mittens/gloves to be distributed at the New London Homeless Hospitality Center. If possible, please wrap in white tissue paper, but no worries either way. Thank you for providing the blessings of basic essentials to women and men who need our care and support. We are in special need of Large and X- Large Men's heavy warm athletic socks.

FCCOL New Website In the New Year, we will be launching a new look for our website. The new design will feature larger type, a lot more pictures and videos, and be easier to use on smartphones, tablets and laptops. All the sections you know and love will still be here – our sermons, calendars, bulletins and newsletters. The new design is part of our ongoing effort to engage with our congregation more meaningfully online, and to attract new members to our congregation who can help us carry on Christ's work. Look for our new look in the New Year!

Finding Happiness!

*I don't know what our destiny will be, but one thing I do know:
the only ones among us who will really be happy are those who
have sought and found how to serve."*

--Albert Schweitzer

As of three days ago, our Stewardship Campaign stands at \$490,776, or only 78% of our goal of \$630,000. To help reach our goal, we need those of you who have not yet renewed your commitments to "step in" and "step up" if you can!

The second Stewardship letter will go out this week to those who have not yet made their campaign commitment. If you are among the 250 generous members and friends who have returned their response cards to date, we extend our heartiest thanks.

If you have not yet responded, please help us "catch up" by returning your response card to the church office at your earliest convenience so the trustees and church treasurer will know what resources they have available to serve our members and community in 2017. ***Your commitment matters, and will bring happiness - to you and to those you support!***

With gratitude for all you do,

The Board of Stewardship: Barbara Smith (Chair), Emily Fisher, Wendy Knight, Mike Long, Sandy Long, Chuck Lynch, Wayne Mountz, Paul Stigliano, Matt Winkler

CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE

December 18 - Sunday

5:00 PM ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Rehearsal @ 2:30 PM

All JPF, SPF, children and families who would like to participate in the Pageant are welcome at the 2:30 pm rehearsal.

December 24 - Christmas Eve

**5:00 PM Service for families with young children,
THE LIVING MANGER**

8:00 PM and 10:00 PM

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE MEMORIAL MUSIC & FLOWERS

If you would like to make a contribution to our special Christmas Eve music and flowers in memory of a loved one, please leave a message at the church office, <fccol@fccol.org> or 860-434-8686 by *Monday, December 12th.*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 11 AM

**in unity with the South Lyme Union Chapel
& NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

All Church Christmas Open House

Come enjoy some holiday cheer with your church friends,
Saturday, December 17th, 3:00 - 8:00 pm.

Stop by as your schedule permits and share snacks,
beverages and good cheer by a warm fire.

Perhaps sing a few Christmas carols at the home of
Joan and Jeff Priest, 117 Elys Ferry Road (off 156), Lyme.