



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

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
**Fourth 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 24, 2017**

**11:00 AM**

Prelude

Introit: *This Is the Truth Sent From Above*

R. Vaughan Williams

Soprano soloist: Marcy Conway

\*Processional Hymn: #132 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

\*Call to Worship:

God has shown love among us by coming into the world in Christ.

**If God has so loved us, we also ought to love one another,  
for if we love one another, God dwells in us.**

Let us worship the one discovered in the child born in Bethlehem,  
and seek to love as we have been loved.

\*Invocation

\*The Lord's Prayer

Welcome and News of the Church

Advent Wreath Lighting

Diane Claussen and Sean McCarty

\*Unison Reading:

Give us, O God, the vision which can see  
Your love in the world in spite of human failure.

Give us the faith to trust

Your goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness.

Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts.

And show us what each one of us can do  
to set forward the coming of the day of universal peace,  
when you shall be born anew among us.

-- *Frank Borman, Apollo 8 space mission, 1968*

\*Gloria Patri: (#36 in hymnal)

Scripture: Isaiah 9: 2-7 (OT, pg. 606)

Luke 2: 1-20 (OT, pg. 55)

\*Hymn: #138 "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"

Reading: *What Love Can Do*

Louisa May Alcott

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Anthem: *Mary's Magnificat*

Andrew Carter

Soprano soloist: Lisa Feltes

\*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: #135 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Reading: *What Love Can Do*, Part II

Pastoral Prayer

Pastoral Prayer Response: *Spirit of the Living God*

The image shows a three-system musical score for the hymn "Spirit of the Living God". Each system consists of a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me; Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me." The music is in 4/4 time and features a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady piano accompaniment.

Reading: *What Love Can Do*, Part III

An Ever So Brief Reflection On *What Love Can Do*

The Rev. Dr. Steven R. Jungkeit

\*Hymn: #141 "The First Nowell"

Benediction

Benediction Response: *Candlelight Carol*

John Rutter

Postlude

\*Congregation Standing

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

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.

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*The flowers this morning are given by Betsy and David Sams in loving memory of our parents Dorothy and David Sams and Elizabeth and Paul Bates.*

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*The deacon on duty is Elizabeth Nocera.*

*Childcare is available every Sunday morning in the nursery downstairs at the 9 AM service. If you need help finding it, please ask the ushers to assist you.*

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*If you are visiting us for worship this morning, we welcome you, and 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.*

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

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

*Thomas Burke (4<sup>th</sup> year Yale Divinity School student) serves as minister to the South Lyme Union Chapel.*

**Refugee Resettlement Committee News!** The Refugee Resettlement Committee of Lyme/Old Lyme is excited to announce that we have decided to help a wonderful family of four from Puerto Rico who were displaced by Hurricane Maria. They are **climate refugees!** Everything they owned, including their home, was washed into the ocean. We have been working over the past few weeks with Junta for Progressive Action, an organization in New Haven that advocates for Puerto Rican families, to make this happen. Both parents will be seeking employment after the New Year. They have two sons, ages 2 and 12. This hardworking family just needs a helping hand to get their new start. We are so proud to say that we are prepared to give them that start. What a Christmas gift for the family and for us all!

**Under the Meetinghouse Christmas Tree** We are collecting socks and men's underwear for the Homeless Hospitality Center. Cans of ground coffee are also most welcome!

**Book Study** We'll meet on *Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>*, following the 11 am worship service to discuss The Book of Joy: Conversations with the Dali Lama and Desmond Tutu, edited by Douglas Carlton. This is a delightful little book chronicling conversations between these two faith leaders – conversations about some of life's challenges and joys, and the ways in which their faith has guided their living. Martha Beaudoin and Carleen will lead the discussions. You are surely welcome even if you haven't read the book! 12 noon in the church library, January 7<sup>th</sup>. A Christmas book recommendation from the Environmental folks: The Water Will Come by Jeff Goodell. This recently released book sheds light on the effect rising seas will have on our coastlines, cities, and communities. A good read on an important subject!

**Haiti Trip 2018 for Senior Pilgrim Fellowship is scheduled for April 13 to 20, 2018.** Our first meeting will be *Sunday, January 21, at 12 noon*. Please contact Becky Crosby <[rtcros@ftcrosby.com](mailto:rtcros@ftcrosby.com)> if you or your child is interested in joining us this year. More details are in the December newsletter.

**Bible Study** Becky Crosby is leading a study on the life and teachings of the Apostle Paul through his letters and the Book of Acts to discover how he shaped Christianity. To accompany our study, we will read A. N. Wilson's book, "Paul: The Mind of the Apostle." The book can easily be purchased on-line. **Bible Study meets on Thursdays at 10:45** in the church's Library. We will meet again **January 4th and 25th**.

**God's Neighborhood** No Childcare this morning. There *will* be childcare on *December 31, 2017 at the 11 a.m. service.*

**Sunday School News:** Please join us on *January 7, 2018* as we resume Sunday School at 9:30 am and celebrate Three Kings Day. Everyone is Welcome! Please Join Us!

**Ladies Who Stitch** The stitching ladies are taking a break until January 8th. Our final intake from 2 days of Elephants in Winter, the December 5th LBS Luncheon (including the raffle), the Essex Meadows Bazaar, and the Christmas Open House was \$2780. Everything goes to LBS for the church's many outreach programs. Thank you everyone for your support and purchases. Questions? Email Eunice: [eunicetaylor@me.com](mailto:eunicetaylor@me.com).

**Get Our Newsletter in Your Inbox** Are you receiving the church's monthly email communication? Communicating by email saves us a significant amount of money on postage. If you'd like to received our monthly email, please send us your email address at [FCCofOldLyme@gmail.com](mailto:FCCofOldLyme@gmail.com). Thank you!

**Love Flowers?** We're looking for someone to coordinate our Sunday morning memorial flower schedule. If you'd like to know more about what this entails, please give Carleen a call at 860-434-0058. Susan Griggs has carried this responsibility for a good number of years, and we are very, very grateful for her service. But now it's time for her to step aside. She'll share all the contacts and information she has gathered with the next person and will be helpful as the new person takes over. *Note: The third week in October is available for Sunday Memorial flowers, please call Susan Griggs at 860-434-7660 for more information.*

**Fuller Center for Housing Disaster Relief** Fuller Center is making plans to respond to the environmental disasters in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico. There is the possibility of a group responding to these needs in the spring of 2018. Please email Allison Hine, [allisonghine@gmail.com](mailto:allisonghine@gmail.com) for more information. We'll put together a group to talk about potential details in a few weeks.

**The American Red Cross** urges eligible donors to give more life by donating blood in the new year. January is National Blood Donor Month, the perfect time to resolve to give more life by being a blood donor. Winter weather and illness can make it difficult for the American Red Cross to maintain a sufficient blood supply at this time of year. Healthy, eligible donors are urged to give at First Congregational Church on *Wednesday, January 3, from 1:00-6:00 pm*. All those who come to donate blood will receive a long-sleeved Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last.

**NEW LBS COOKBOOK PRESERVES THE WISDOM OF THE AGES** LBS has collected more than 300 tested and cherished recipes from members and friends. Some come from Grandma's table; some are almost as new as yesterday. One of the great treasures of our church family is a very deep reservoir of remarkable cooking wisdom accumulated over decades, centuries even. Cookbooks, \$10, available at the church office.

**THE ANNUAL MEETING  
IS SUNDAY,  
JANUARY 28, 2018,  
AFTER THE 11:00 AM SERVICE.**

**Annual reports from Boards and Committees are due  
Wednesday, January 10, 2018.**

***Please send as a Word Document to [fccol@fccol.org](mailto:fccol@fccol.org).***

**Calendar of Events and Meetings for This Week**

**Christmas Eve TODAY at 5:00 pm, *The Living Manger Family Service.***

**Christmas Eve TODAY at 8:00 & 10:00 pm, *Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols.***

**One Service Only & No Sunday School *Sunday, December 31st at 11:00 am.***

*The church office will be closed Monday, December 25th and January 1st.*

*We resume our regular 9 and 11 services on Sunday, January 7th.*

# **CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE**

**THIS MORNING  
ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 11 AM  
No Sunday School.**

**CHRISTMAS EVE (TODAY!)**

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

**8:00 PM and 10:00 PM  
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS**