



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

The 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 18, 2016

11:00 AM

Prelude

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

*Call to Worship (from Psalm 96):

O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
**Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.**
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods.
**Honor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**
Let us worship God.

*Invocation

*The Lord's Prayer

Welcome and News of the Church

Advent Wreath Lighting

Susan and Wayne Mountz

*Unison Reading:

**He will come like last leaf's fall. One night when the November wind has flayed the trees to
bone, and earth wakes choking on the mould, the soft shroud's folding.
He will come like the frost. One morning when the shrinking earth opens on mist,
to find itself arrested in the net of alien, sword-set beauty.
He will come like dark. One evening when the bursting red December sun draws
up the sheet and penny-masks its eye to yield the star-snowed fields of sky.
He will come, will come, will come like crying in the night, like blood,
like breaking, as the earth writhes to toss him free. He will come like a child.**

-Rowan Williams

*Gloria Patri: (#36 in hymnal)

Scripture: Luke 2: 1-19 (NT, pg. 55), 34-35 (NT, pg. 56)

Luke 8: 19-21 (NT, pg. 64)

*Hymn: #138 “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

Pastoral Prayer

Pastoral Prayer Response: *Come and Fill Our Hearts*

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The lyrics are: "Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly." and "Come and fill our hearts with your peace, al-le-lu-ia!". The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and a steady rhythm.

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Selection

*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”

Sermon: “THE LABOR OF CARING ”

The Rev. Dr. Steven R. Jungkeit

*Hymn: #141 “The First Nowell”

Benediction

Postlude

**Congregation Standing*

Large print versions of this 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.

*The flowers this morning are given by Ted and Pamela Hamilton
in loving memory of Grace and Frank Hamilton and John W. Dyer.*

*The hosts for fellowship hour are Joy Bylan and Sharon Howell.
The deacon on duty is Mary Charlton.*

*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.*

TODAY
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
5:00 PM

Forums Today: **Chad L. Edgar**, a court-appointed criminal defense attorney for many years, will present “Minorities in the Federal Criminal Justice System: A View from the Trenches.” Learn more about what really goes on with the indigent and minorities in our courts and what, if anything, can be done to address their issues.

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.

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 **Our Annual Christmas Pageant** is TODAY. All JPF, SPF, children of all ages 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 TODAY, 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!

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.

8th Annual Messiah Sing TODAY at 4:00 Cappella Cantorum and a chorus of volunteers at the Kate in Old Saybrook Open to all who want to sing along. Singers should arrive at 3:30 for section seating and rehearsal. Sit in the back and listen or down front and participate. Tickets, \$10, available at 877-503-1286, www.thekate.org or day of the performance.

New Look for Our Website in January As we launch into the New Year, we'll be launching a new look and feel for our church's website – designed to help us engage with you more meaningfully online, and to attract new members into our congregation to help us carry on Christ's work. All the elements of the site that you know and love – our sermons, calendars, bulletins and newsletters – will still be there. The new design will feature larger type, a lot more pictures and videos of parishioners engaged in church activities, and be easier to use on smartphones, tablets and laptops. When people seek out a new church, they look for a community of people who truly embody the beliefs they profess to believe. Our new website will show our congregation in action, following in the footsteps of Christ's life and His teachings.

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 Many thanks for all your support at our Partnership Storefront! In addition to the huge sales of olive oil for our scholarships, we are proud to support Palestinian artists with the sale of Hebron glass ornaments, beautiful items from Jerusalem Pottery, exquisite scarves, and more. Each purchase has supported an artist, a keeper of the culture and tradition. We hope to sell out of these items before March so we can do it all again! Thank you for your donations as well; your generosity makes a real impact, and we are grateful.

LBS Sewing Group The LBS sewing group's final 2016 session is *Monday, the 19th*. Many thanks for all the donations and purchases! December sales of sewn and knitted items topped \$1500! We will reconvene on January 9th and remind everyone that you are welcome to come by the Sheffield Auditorium on Mondays while we are working 10:00 - 2:00 to purchase things from our inventory. Also, we are occasionally able to fill custom orders. All profits go to the church's outreach programs. Call Eunice Taylor, 860-447-3025.

REMINDER Our bus trip to see "Come from Away," the Broadway musical directed by our own Sue Frost, is scheduled for *March 15th*. The total cost for transport by bus and the ticket to the show (great seats, by the way) is \$150. Plans and reservations need to be finalized by January 15. Please call the office for details, or to sign up!

Calendar of Events & Meetings for This Week

Christmas Pageant *TODAY at 5:00 pm, rehearsal at 2:30 pm.*

Messiah Sing *TODAY at 4:00 pm at the Kate in Old Saybrook.*

Sewing Group *Monday, December 19th at 10:00 am in the Sheffield Auditorium.*

Writing Group *Wednesday, December 21st at 4:00 pm in the Hoag Parlor.*

Children's Choir *Wednesday, December 21st at 5:00 pm in the Sheffield Auditorium.*

Senior Choir *Wednesday, December 21st at 7:30 pm in the Sheffield Auditorium.*

Christmas Eve Services *Saturday, December 24th at 5:00, 8:00 & 10:00 pm.*

Christmas Day Service *Sunday, December 25th at 11:00 am only.*

What Better Investment Can We Make?

If you have already made your 2017 investment in our church's life-changing endeavors, we again offer our heartiest thanks! If not, the second Stewardship mailing should have arrived at your mailbox this week. We ask you to pull it out of your heaping pile of holiday mail and review once again the brochure with its heartwarming stories written by five of our members. They tell of watching their children gain confidence in our Sunday school, of working with the homeless in the New London Hospitality Center, of adding layers of meaning to our worship by singing in the choir, of building community through the soup kitchen and food pantry, and of helping create a new life of safety and friendship for a Syrian refugee family.

How better can you invest your resources than to support spiritual growth and human understanding while alleviating suffering and injustice? We encourage you to "step up" if you can, but if not, be assured that whatever you can do will be warmly received.

With appreciation for your generosity - of time and talents, of spirit, and of resources,

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

CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE

TODAY

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**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH
ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 11 AM
in unity with the South Lyme Union Chapel
& NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**