



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Steven R. Jungkeit, Senior Minister
Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager, Senior Associate Minister
Carleen R. Gerber, Associate Minister
Simon D. Holt, Director of Music

**COMMITMENT SUNDAY
COMMUNION SUNDAY
CONFIRMATION SUNDAY**

October 2, 2022

10:00 AM

Prelude

Introit: *Blessed is the Man*

Arcangelo Corelli

*Processional Hymn: #10 “Holy, Holy, Holy”

*Call to Worship:

All over the earth the faces of living ones are alike
Look upon your children that they may face the winds and walk the good road
Great Spirit, fill us with light
And give us the strength to understand, and eyes to see
Teach us to walk the soft Earth as relatives to all that live
Let us worship God
(adapted from a Sioux Prayer)

*Invocation and The Lord’s Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

Moment for Stewardship

Henry May

*Hymn: #327 “I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry”

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Anthem: *Psalms of Celebration*

Jane Marshall

*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

Service of Confirmation

Children’s Message

Allison Hine

Song: “If Anybody Asks You Who I Am”

Rachael Jungkeit

Pastoral Prayer

Pastoral Prayer Response: *Eat This Bread*

The image shows a musical score for a pastoral prayer response. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev-er be hun - gry. Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst." The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for a church service.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 54:2-3; I Corinthians 12:12-14, 27; I John 3:18-24

Sermon: **A Communion Meditation: In Praise of the Lowly Spider**

Rev. Carleen R. Gerber

*Hymn: #368 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

Sacrament of Communion

*Hymn: #325 "Now Let Us from this Table Rise"

Benediction

Benediction Response: *Go Now in Peace*

Don Besig

Postlude

**Congregation Standing*

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 54:2-3

²“Enlarge the place of your tent,
stretch your tent curtains wide,
do not hold back;
lengthen your cords,
strengthen your stakes.

³For you will spread out to the right and to the left;
your descendants will dispossess nations
and settle in their desolate cities.

I Corinthians 12:12-14, 27

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

I John 3:18-24

¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹ By this we shall know that we are of the truth, and reassure our hearts before him ²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²² and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ All who keep his commandments abide in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit which he has given us.

Testimonial—Henry May

Good Morning. I am pleased to give you a testimonial for our fine church. It is in your bulletin and I would like to read it as well. I have two stories.

Joanie and I moved to Essex CT from Chappaqua, NY in 1999. Joanie had been very active in a Presbyterian church in our area. With my retirement and our move to Essex, she was hopeful I would be active with her in a new church. Over a period of Sundays in 1999, we visited many churches in Essex, Old Saybrook and one in Old Lyme.

We attended an 11AM service here and heard the minister, David Good, preach a compelling sermon and the choir sing beautifully. We knew no one at the church or in Old Lyme. At the end of the service, two men in our pew welcomed us and asked where we were from. Then we had a nice conversation with Bob McCracken (yes, our Bob McCracken) and the late Les Reynolds. As Joanie and I were leaving, I whispered to her, "This is our church."

Our second story. Fifteen years or so ago, we had become very active in this, our church. One week, longtime friends of ours from Chappaqua were staying with us in Essex. He, with the unusual name of Sabin, and I had been talking about churches. Sabin had a position at the highest lay level of the Episcopal church in New York. He knew of our active involvement at this church and had attended our two daughters' weddings here.

We had a few hours free and decided to come to Old Lyme and walk through our church. Sabin had read our annual report and was interested in our Missions and other aspects of our church.

I should say, our friend Sabin was and is a very accomplished and generous person. He had been a high ranking successful executive at a New York investment bank. He and his wife made generous donations to their church, their schools and many non-profits. Sabin was a Trustee at Middlebury College and early on, pushed hard for a diversified student body. So, Sabin and I came to church on a weekday afternoon. We went through the classrooms and the food pantry in the lower level. We went upstairs and looked into the offices and met some church staff. We looked at our commercial kitchen, the Sheffield Auditorium, Fellowship Hall, the library and the meetinghouse including the marvelous wood carvings in our pulpit. As we were discussing some of the history of our church, Sabin asked many questions about our outreach and programs.

When we were leaving, Sabin put his hand on my shoulder and said, "Thank you Henry, this is a very special place."

This church is, indeed, a very special place.

Thank you

Today we are pleased to welcome our Confirmands and Mentors:

Ella Austin (Mary Bradford)
Elliot Bjornberg (Bill Belluzzi)
Molly Boardman (Sue Beeman)
Delaney Donovan (Ellen Calkins)
Mulanga Kazadi Drysile (Julie Martel)

Leland Hine (Tom Sherer)
Bettina Irakiza (Carleen Gerber)
Sabina Jungkeit (Beth Hamilton)
Ella Kiem (Martha Gibson)

The flowers in the meeting house this morning are from the **Ladies Who Stitch** in loving memory of **Janet Funke**. Janet was one of our longtime creative and talented members who could both knit and sew and made many of the things we sell and donate - including tote bags, shawls, aprons, pillows, Bernie Mittens, hats, scarves, and baby quilts. She is deeply missed. We are especially grateful for the loving end-of-life care so graciously provided for Janet by Simphiwe (Sim) Mbele.

The hosts for Fellowship hour today are the JPF, Cathy Mathis and Rick Strickhart.

TODAY—Commitment Sunday—Our 2023 Stewardship Campaign Begins: Your commitment and generosity will enable our church to continue to be a source of solace and shelter, to continue our work of helping others. We need everyone's financial support for the year ahead. Please return your Commitment Card as soon as possible. YOUR commitment matters! Thank you.

Ushers: If you would like to usher, please step forward and tell the deacon at the door as you arrive. Your participation will be appreciated!

The Partnership Store, offering goods and creations from Haiti, Palestine, Tribal Crafts, and the Ladies Who Stitch, will be open today after the service.

Bible Study Class continues this Thursday, October 6th from 11-12 in the Library and on Zoom. All are welcome! For more information email Laura. (lfitz.nager@gmail.com)

Support for Ukraine The extraordinary support of this congregation has made it possible for over \$28,000 to be sent for relief for Ukraine. More details will be coming in the next newsletter. But for now, **sincere thanks** to all who have given so generously to this special fund.

Tree of Life —“The City of Hebron: The Palestinian Struggle for Human Rights”. Please join us next Tuesday, Oct. 4th at 4 PM in the Parish House as we plan for our Oct. 23rd program. We'll meet for only one hour! We'll need help with reception, Middle Eastern Bazaar, sale of Palestinian olive oil, distribution of flyers, hospitality for our visitors and transportation. All are welcome! Please join us! David W. Good, Minister Emeritus and Founder of Tree of Life Educational Fund, davidwgood@fccol.org.

Calendar of Events and Meetings

LWS Monday, October 3 at 10:00 am in Sheffield Auditorium.

Pottery Morning Wednesday, October 5 at 10:00 am in Walt's Pottery Studio.

Pottery Evening Wednesday, October 5 at 6:00 pm in Walt's Pottery Studio.

Senior Choir Wednesday, October 5 at 7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Bible Study Thursday, October 6 at 11:00 am in Library and on Zoom.

Office Closed Monday, October 10.

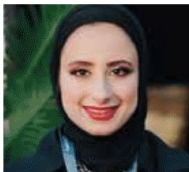
Large print versions of the bulletin are available from the ushers.

City of Hebron: The Palestinian Struggle for Human Rights



A program exploring the severe impact of the Israeli occupation on the economic vitality of the city of Hebron and the challenges of daily life for Palestinians living there.

The speakers bear witness to the most oppressive manifestations of the occupation. Efforts to revive the Old Town area and initiatives to bring assistance to Palestinians will be addressed as well.



Dalia – Resident of Hebron and graduate of Bethlehem University



Sadeq – Resident of Hebron and graduate of Hebron University



Melissa – Community Peacemaker Teams



Mella – Author of recent Mondoweiss article, “Illegal Kings On Palestinian Land”

Sunday, October 16 at 2:00 p.m.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
310 Rte. 137, Harwich (Cape Cod)

Monday, October 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Community Church of Boston
565 Boylston Street, Boston, MA

Wednesday, October 19 at 5:30 p.m.

Islamic Association of Greater Hartford-Berlin Mosque
1781 Berlin Turnpike, Berlin, CT

Friday, October 21 at 5:00 p.m.

Farmington Valley Islamic Center
35 Harris Road, Avon, CT

Sunday, October 23 at 10:00 a.m. service

First Congregational Church of Old Lyme
4 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, CT

Sunday, October 23 at 3:00 p.m.

Palestine Museum US
1764 Litchfield Turnpike, Woodbridge, CT

COMMUNION SERVICE

INVITATION

PRAYER OF OPEN HEARTS

May we turn again to you, O God, in ways that move us beyond ego to wholeness, beyond judgement to healing, beyond self-serving to generosity. May we know you in the whole of life, in both the blessings and the burdens of our lives. Heal our hurts and open our hearts this day as we return to love again. Amen.

BLESSING OF GRACE

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

SHARING OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks, O God, for all who have gathered round this table. For the food and cup of blessing which delight and nourish us and for companionship that sustains us. May we know the fullness of your presence at every meal and in all our sharing this day and always, AMEN.

*It is the practice of this church to serve grape juice in our communion service.
Bread is gluten-free.*

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.