



The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme
2 Ferry Road
Old Lyme, Connecticut
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THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF OLD LYME

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

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

December 24, 2022

8:00 & 10:00 PM

Prelude

Carols from Around the World and Music of the Season
played by Jill Maurer-Davis (flute) and Simon Holt (organ)

*Processional Hymn: #155 “Once In Royal David’s City”
Verses 1 and 2 Sung by the Choir
Congregation joining in on Verses 3 and 4

Call to Worship

Invocation

The Lord’s Prayer

Words of Welcome

Choir Carol: *Matin Responsory* G.P. da Palestrina
soloists Pete Lang, Eunice Taylor, Sean and Anne McCarty

First Lesson: Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

*Hymn: #132 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Second Lesson: Isaiah 11: 1-10

Choir Carol: *A Maiden Most Gentle* arr. by Andrew Carter

Third Lesson: Luke 1: 26-35, 38

*Hymn: #137 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Fourth Lesson: Luke 2: 1, 3-7

Choir Carol: *Thou Must Leave Thy Lowly Dwelling* Hector Berlioz

Fifth Lesson: Luke 2: 8-16

Choir Carol: *In the Bleak Mid-Winter* Harold Darke
soloists Lisa Feltes (soprano) and Brian Cheney (tenor)

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Solo: *O Holy Night* Adolphe Adam
Soloist Brian Cheney (tenor)

Offertory Prayer

Choir Carol: *Candlelight Candle* John Rutter

Sixth Lesson John 1: 1-14

Christmas Litany

*Hymn: #142 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

Christmas Eve Prayer

The Pealing of the Bells

*Recessional Hymn: 134 "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"

Postlude Music: *In dulci jubilo* J.S. Bach

*Congregation Standing

Our offering this evening will go the Ministers' Discretionary Fund, used to assist those in need with housing, food, fuel and special medical assistance.

The largest single collection is from the Christmas Eve offering.

We ask that you give generously.

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

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

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.

We are grateful for the generous contribution of time and talent given by the members of our Senior Choir and our soloists: Lisa Feltes, Brian Cheney, Pete Lang, Eunice Taylor, Sean McCarty, Anne McCarty and Jill Maurer-Davis (flute).

We also thank Gary Jungkeit for directing our bell choir and the ringers who are participating in this evening’s bell peal that announces the birth of Christ: Diane Claussen, Lisa Feltes, Trevor Handlin, Allison Hine, Bella Hine, Leland Hine, Anna Jungkeit, Augie Jungkeit, Elsa Jungkeit, Jeremy Jungkeit, Lilly Jungkeit, Luca Jungkeit, Pat Jungkeit, Rachael Jungkeit, Sabina Jungkeit, Steve Mazeau, Annie McCarty, Sean McCarty, Kate Paterson, and Eve Todd.

The singing of “O Holy Night” has been a long-standing tradition in this church. David Sargent often told the story of entering a small church in a village in France on Christmas Eve, just as this piece was being sung. He said it was a brief moment of blessed peace in a time of war.

On this night, as “O Holy Night” is sung, we remember in prayer all those across this world who are suffering now from the ravages of war. The peace of this night is both sacred and fragile. But as the music fills the Meetinghouse this night, the blessing of peace is, indeed, holy.

Our special music and flowers this evening are given in loving memory of:

Paul & Elizabeth Bates and David & Dorothy Sams

Virginia Gonci

Thomas Whitaker

loved ones of the Griswold and Fisher families

loved ones of the Blair family

Pauline M. Johnson & Vincent J. Santangelo

loved ones of the Gerber family

Jonathan T. Hine

loved ones of the Fitzpatrick family

The Deacons on Duty tonight are Ellen Calkins and Mary Bradford at the 8:00 pm service; Dave Roberts and Rick Strickhart at the 10:00 pm service.

As 2022 draws to a close, we invite anyone who is able to make a donation of any amount to the annual stewardship campaign of our church. The work of this church is entirely funded by its members and friends. Additional gifts, at any time, are very much appreciated.

Mission Outreach at The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme in 2022

This evening's offering will be used to support the Minister's Discretionary Fund of the First Congregational Church. This fund is used to support individuals and families in need. Over the course of the past year this fund has dispersed a little over \$30,000. It is supported by this church's annual budget, by occasional special donations in memory of a loved one, and, **most importantly**, by the annual Christmas Eve collection. We ask that you give as generously as you can.

The past several years have been very challenging in many ways. Many families have endured unprecedented hardships. And some of the organizations which our community has traditionally supported have endured through financial struggles as well. But the extraordinary generosity of this congregation has made it possible for our Board of Missions to continue to offer courageous support within our region and throughout some of the most critically needy parts of the world. As of tonight, the Board of Missions has released \$72,000 already this year. And they anticipate further gifts in the next few weeks.

Our Ladies Benevolent Society donated an additional \$51,000 to agencies in this region. This money is raised mainly through their annual White Elephant Sale; a courageous undertaking that gathers in many volunteers (as well as donors) throughout our community.

Additionally, in 2022, special gifts totaling more than \$143,000 were made by our members and friends to our refugee work, our immigration assistance program, the Witness Stones Project in the town of Old Lyme, our monthly diaper bank initiative, and the Ministers' Discretionary Fund. Included in that total was a remarkable gift of over \$29,000 to the people of Ukraine, administered through the International Rescue Committee in New York.

Thus, in total for the year 2022, over \$290,000 in aid and support was made possible through the generosity of the people of this church.

All the agencies supported by this church are listed below in random order:

The United Church of Christ; One Great Hour of Sharing (UCC); Homeless Hospitality Center of New London; the Hospital Chaplaincy Programs of L&M and Middlesex Hospitals; Habitat for Humanity of SECT; Bethlehem University in Palestine; Safe Futures of New London (formerly the Women's Center of New London); New London Soup Kitchen on Montauk Avenue; Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Food Pantries; The Diaper Bank Project of FCCOL; The Crosby Fund for Haitian Education; the Martin House; the Alliance for Living of SECT; the Covenant Shelter of New London; the Shepherd's Field School of Beit Sahour; Lymewood Senior Housing; Church World Service; the Ministers' Discretionary Fund of FCCOL; FRESH New London; Tree of Life Educational Fund Inc.; Tribal Crafts; Humanitarian outreach on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in South Dakota; Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services, Inc. of New Haven, CT (IRIS); PARJE (public art for racial justice education); Doctors Without Borders (targeted for HAITI relief); International Rescue Committee; the Refugee Resettlement House of FCCOL; UCC Pakistan relief following the climate crisis and flooding there; Hospice and Palliative Care of Middletown, Literacy Volunteers of Valley Shore; the CT Hospice; Old Lyme Historical Society; Estuary Council of Seniors; Lymes Senior Center; A Sacred Place of the York Prison (the Barbara Fund); World Central Kitchen; and the League of Women Voters.

Christmas Day Service is on December 25th at 10:00 am. All are invited to come in your pajamas! Our service will feature the Elm City Winds Quintet. Elm City Winds is an active woodwind quintet that performs frequently throughout the New Haven area.

New Year's Day Service is on January 1st at 10:00 am. Join us as we celebrate the New Year!

Epiphany Service & Potluck: Join us on Friday, January 6 at 6:00 PM in celebration of Three Kings Day, otherwise known as the 12th Day of Christmas.

God's Neighborhood Sunday School meets weekly during the school year during the 10:00 am church service. In the second half of our Sunday school year, we'll continue with our theme of *The Deep Blue Sea: Sacred Stories of Care for One Another and the Earth* and explore the sacred gift of water and its importance to our world. We'll be reading gospel stories of Jesus with his friends and learning about how different countries and communities use and depend on water for life. As our Lakota friends have taught us, "Mni Wiconi," "*Water is Life!*" All children Pre-K-grade 8 are welcome to join us. We offer a nursery for those younger children as well starting at 9:55 am. We will resume God's Neighborhood on January 8th, 2023.

Our Youth Group, Pilgrim Fellowship, of Middle and High School students meets 1-2 times a month for social and service projects. Our next meeting is Sunday, January 22nd, from 4-6pm for a taco dinner and movie. Bring a friend!

AA Meetings, as regularly scheduled in our Church facility, **will be held** in the week between Christmas and New Years.

2023 Offering Envelopes. For those of you who have desired offering envelopes for 2023, they're in the connector for you to pick up.

Save the Date: Chili Cookoff, Friday night, February 3rd, 6-8 pm.

The church office will be closed Monday, December 26th and January 2nd.