



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

January 15, 2023 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SUNDAY 10:00 AM

Prelude

Introit: *Lord, Lead Us Still*

Johannes Brahms

*Processional Hymn: #250 “Here in This Place”

*Call to Worship:

Welcome, friend and stranger –
Welcome, honored guests.
We gather as a beloved community.
to be reminded of God’s goodness,
to be reminded that we are a part of that goodness.
**And to remember to let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**
Let us worship God.

*Invocation and The Lord’s Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

*Hymn: #401 “Amazing Grace” (Verses 1 and 2)

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Anthem: *Blessed is the Man That Trusteth in the Lord*

Alan Hovhaness

*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

Children’s Message

Mohamed Hamou

Hymn: #364 “This Little Light of Mine”
(First verse only, as children leave. Congregation remains seated.)

Pastoral Prayer

Pastoral Prayer Response: *Hear Our Prayer*

Musical score for the Pastoral Prayer Response. It consists of four staves. The top two staves are for the vocal line, and the bottom two are for the piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in - cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace."

Scripture Reading: Amos: 5:24; Luke: 4: 18-19

Sermon: **“Letter from a Birmingham Jail”** by **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

Rev. Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager, Gavin Lodge, Dale Bernadoni,
Rick Strickhart, Mariame Biума Kazadi, Taylor Quintin

Solo: *Take My Hand, Precious Lord* Lisa Williamson

*Hymn: #476 “We Shall Overcome” (Verses 2,5,6)

Benediction

Benediction Response: *O Freedom* Lisa Williamson

Postlude

**Congregation Standing*

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*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.*

## Scripture Readings

### **Amos: 5:24**

“Let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”

### **Luke: 4: 18-19**

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because God has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. God has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

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### **“Letter from a Birmingham Jail” Litany**

1st Excerpt:

I am in Birmingham because injustice is here. Just as the prophets of the eighth century B.C. left their villages and carried their “thus saith the Lord” far beyond the boundaries of their hometowns, and just as the Apostle Paul left his village of Tarsus and carried the gospel of Jesus Christ to the far corners of the Greco Roman world, so am I compelled to carry the gospel of freedom beyond my own home town...I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.

**Congregation says: We Shall Overcome.**

2nd Excerpt:

You deplore the demonstrations taking place in Birmingham. But your statement, I am sorry to say, fails to express a similar concern for the conditions that brought about the demonstrations...Racial injustice engulfs this community. Birmingham is probably the most thoroughly segregated city in the United States. Its ugly record of brutality is widely known. (People of color) have experienced grossly unjust treatment in the courts. There have been more unsolved bombings of homes and churches in Birmingham than in any other city in the nation. These are the hard, brutal facts of the case.

**Congregation says: We Shall Overcome.**

3rd Excerpt:

In any nonviolent campaign (like ours) there are four basic steps: collection of the facts to determine whether injustices exist; negotiation; self purification; and direct action.

You may well ask: “Why direct action? Why sit ins, marches and so forth? Isn’t negotiation a better path?” You are quite right in calling for negotiation. Indeed, this is the very purpose of

direct action. Nonviolent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and foster such a tension that a community which has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue.

Just as Socrates felt that it was necessary to create a tension in the mind so that individuals could rise from the bondage of myths and half truths...so must we see the need for nonviolent gadflies to create the kind of tension in society that will help people rise from the dark depths of prejudice and racism to the majestic heights of understanding and brotherhood.

**Congregation says: We Shall Overcome.**

*Amazing Grace*

Lisa Williamson

4th Excerpt:

We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed... We must come to see..that “justice too long delayed is justice denied.”

Since we so diligently urge people to obey the Supreme Court’s decision of 1954 outlawing segregation in the public schools, it may seem rather paradoxical for us consciously to break laws...There are two types of laws: just and unjust. I would be the first to advocate obeying just laws. One has not only a legal but a moral responsibility to obey just laws. Conversely, one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws. I would agree with St. Augustine that “an unjust law is no law at all.” Any law that uplifts human personality is just. Any law that degrades human personality is unjust.

**Congregation says: We Shall Overcome.**

5th Excerpt:

I must confess that over the past few years I have been gravely disappointed with the white moderate...The white moderate, who is more devoted to “order” than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice...Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will...

We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the hateful words and actions of the bad people but for the appalling silence of the good people. Human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability; it comes through the tireless efforts of those willing to be co workers with God...Now is the time to lift our national policy from the quicksand of racial injustice to the solid rock of human dignity.

**Congregation says: We Shall Overcome.**

6th Excerpt:

Though I was initially disappointed at being categorized as an extremist...I gradually gained a measure of satisfaction from the label. Was not Jesus an extremist for love: “Love your

enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.” Was not Amos an extremist for justice: “Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever flowing stream.”

So the question is not whether we will be extremists, but what kind of extremists we will be. Will we be extremists for hate or for love? Will we be extremists for the preservation of injustice or for the extension of justice?

**Congregation says: We Shall Overcome.**

7th Excerpt:

If today’s church does not recapture the sacrificial spirit of the early church, it will lose its authenticity, forfeit the loyalty of millions, and be dismissed as an irrelevant social club with no meaning for the twentieth century. Every day I meet young people whose disappointment with the church has turned into outright disgust. Is organized religion too inextricably bound to the status quo to save our nation and the world?

We will reach the goal of freedom in Birmingham and all over the nation, because the goal of America is freedom...One day (the country) will know that when these disinherited children of God sat down at lunch counters, they were in reality standing up for what is best in the American dream and for the most sacred values in our Judaeo- Christian heritage, thereby bringing our nation back to those great wells of democracy which were dug deep by the founding fathers in their formulation of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.

**Congregation says: We Shall Overcome.**

For full text see <https://letterfromjail.com>

## 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held after the 10am worship service on Sunday, January 29th, 2023. This is an important opportunity for all of us to hear the reports of the ministers, the board and committee chairs and the treasurer covering all of the important activities of 2022. It is also an opportunity for everyone to be actively engaged with questions and discussions. Please put this meeting on your calendars.

We are delighted to have guest soloist, Lisa Williamson, performing during today's service. Lisa Williamson is a frequent guest on Connecticut stages having sung with Salt Marsh Opera, Opera Theater of Connecticut, Hartford Opera Theater, Brief Cameo at the Ivoryton Playhouse, the New Haven Symphony Orchestra and NHSO Pops, the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra, Farmington Valley Chorale, and Cappella Cantorum. From 2005-2010 she was the vocal soloist with The United States Coast Guard Band. She teaches voice at UConn and Eastern Connecticut State University.

A note about the hymn: *Take My Hand, Precious Lord* was one of Dr. King's favorite hymns. According to musician Ben Branch, who was with King at the Lorraine Hotel on April 4, 1968, King requested that he play the hymn at that evening's meeting of the Southern Christian Leadership Council in Memphis. King was shot minutes later. At the request of his family, Mahalia Jackson performed the hymn at his funeral.

The host for Fellowship Hour today is Martha Gibson.

**PARJE MLK Day:** On Monday, January 16, 2023 at 10 am please join PARJE (Public Art for Racial Justice Education) in front of Penny Lane Pub, 150 Main Street, Old Saybrook, CT. To commemorate Dr. King, please come and hear from guest speaker David Addams, Executive Director of the Graustein Memorial Fund. After his remarks, we will walk over to our PARJE mural and artist Jasmine Oyola will share her inspiration.

**Bible Study** begins again on Thursday, January 19th, from 11-12. We'll complete our study of the prophet Isaiah. Join us on Zoom or in person. Please see our Week Ahead email message for link.

**Tech Savvy Parent: Parenting in the Digital Age.** Join the Lymes' Youth Service Bureau's presentation on January 19th at 7:00pm with Adam Dodge, Founder of EndTAB, featuring their LOLHS Youth Panel. Kids' lives have gone digital but parenting hasn't. Learn practical tools, tips, and tricks to build your child's digital instincts. Prepare your children to navigate digital adolescence. Learn from LOLHS student leaders as they share their own social media experiences and its effects on mental health. Register for the Zoom link at [www.LYSB.org](http://www.LYSB.org).

**Our PF Youth Group** for middle and high schoolers will meet next Sunday, January 22nd in Fellowship Hall from 4-6 pm. We'll enjoy a film, plan our upcoming Box Night and other projects and eat tacos! Feel free to bring a friend, too. Email Laura at [lfitz.nager@gmail.com](mailto:lfitz.nager@gmail.com).

**Message from the Treasurer.** It's time to say THANK YOU! During 2022 all of you, our members and friends, contributed a total of over \$651,000 for the missions and ministers of this church, which represents over three-quarters of our total church budget. This generous giving is nothing short of extraordinary. Your generosity enables us to support the ministries of worship, Christian Education, music, community outreach, local and worldwide missions and charity support, and pastoral care. All who receive this outpouring are grateful. Thank you again for supporting our church.  
Bob McCracken, Treasurer.

**2023 Offering Envelopes.** Offering envelopes for 2023 can be found in the connector.

**AED January 28th:** Cathy Mathis will be holding a training session on the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AEDs) at FCCOL on Saturday, January 28th. Please contact her at 860-399-7714 if you are interested.

**Save the Date:** Chili Cookoff, Friday night, February 10th, 6-8 pm.

**Diaper Bank Saturday:** 51 babies received diapers on January 7, to start 2023 on a “dry” note. This was our first Saturday indoors, and we most appreciate the relief to shed our hats, gloves and winter jackets. Size 5 was the winner of the day with 14 babies served, and 10 babies were given size 3. Our next Saturday distribution day is February 4. Thank you for your continuing support.

**Spirit Visions of New Orleans: March 17-22.** Long before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus, Homer Plessy did the same on a train in New Orleans. That occurred in 1892, and it was arguably the first action (or first flame) following the collapse of Reconstruction, in what we now understand to be the modern Civil Rights Movement. Sadly, it took another 60 years for the fire to catch, but the match was struck in New Orleans. They've been lighting flames of the spirit ever since in that town, in music, public art, street ritual and theater, and in movements toward human rights and justice.

From March 17-22, members and friends of FCCOL are invited to visit the city of New Orleans, to learn about its unique culture, and to witness the many ways that the city has nurtured a vision of human life that is creative, celebratory, and just. We'll take to the streets with Black Masking Indians on St. Joseph's Night, one of the ritual focal points of both African descended peoples and Italians living in the city. We'll join a Second Line, visit artists in their homes, visit jazz clubs, experience house concerts with local musicians, and attend a gospel church service on Sunday. We'll hear from writers and justice advocates. We'll sample some of the best food and drink on the planet. And we'll learn about the history of New Orleans, of its historic connections to Haiti and other parts of the Caribbean, and with Africa itself. These are all a part of the unique spirit, and spirituality, that surrounds the city of New Orleans.

And so why not think about coming on this pilgrimage like no other? If you're interested in joining this journey, email Steve Jungkeit ([steven@jungkeit.net](mailto:steven@jungkeit.net)) for further details.

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#### **Calendar of Events and Meetings**

**Partnership Meeting** *TODAY at 11:00 am* in the Library.

**Office Closed** *Monday, January 16.*

**LWS** *Monday, January 16 at 10:00 am* in Sheffield Auditorium.

**Bell Ringers** *Wednesday, January 18 at 6:30 pm* in Sheffield Auditorium.

**Senior Choir** *Wednesday, January 18 at 7:30 pm* in Fellowship Hall.

**Bible Study** *Thursday, January 19 at 11:00 am* in the Library.

**JPF/SPF** *Sunday, January 22 at 4:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.