



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

March 19, 2023

10:00 AM

Prelude

Introit: *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

arr. Bruce Greer
Old Lyme Ringers; Kelli O'Connor, clarinet

*Processional Hymn: "For Everyone Born" (next page)

*Call to Prayer:

Sajed Allababidi

*Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Aisha Aly

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Reflection:

Ghoufran Allababidi
President, Tree of Life Educational Fund

*Hymn: #515 "This is My Song"

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Anthem: *He, Watching Over Israel from Elijah*

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

*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

Ghoufran and Seja Allababidi

"Amen"

Delaney Donovan

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Susan Switzer Colihan

Pastoral Prayer Response: *As We Are Gathered*

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the lyrics: 'As we are gath-ered, Je - sus is here; one with each'. The second system is labeled 'Fine' and contains the lyrics: 'oth - er, Je - sus is here. Joined by the Spir - it'. The third system is labeled 'to Refrain' and contains the lyrics: 'built up in love, part of the bod - y, the church of God.' The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines in both hands.

Scripture Reading: Genesis 18:1-14; Amos 5:24

Sermon: **Whichever Route Love's Caravan Shall Take: Reflections on Our Tree of Life Journey**

Rev. Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager, Fatima Aly, Ken Roberts
and Lecia Harbison, Mansoor Bilal, Kate Summerlin

*Hymn: #477 "God of Grace and God of Glory"

Benediction

Benediction Response: *God so loved the world from Crucifixion*

John Stainer (1840-1901)

Postlude

**Congregation Standing*

769

For Everyone Born



1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
 for young and for old, the right to be - long,
 for just and un - just, a new way to live,
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Refrain

B All E E/G# A2 Bsus B

and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and

E E/G# A2 Bsus B

joy, com-pas - sion and peace: yes,

C#m C#m/B A2

God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,

Bsus B E (E) Fine A2 E Bsus B

jus-tice and joy!

This hymn from a noted New Zealand hymnwriter affirms that God's hospitality transcends the barriers erected by human society and that we who have been created in God's image are called to live in ways that reflect our Creator's values: justice and joy, compassion and peace.

Scripture Readings

Genesis 18:1-14

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three people standing near him. When Abraham saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

The visitors said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?” The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.”

Amos 5:24

"Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

Choir Anthems Today

Offertory Anthem: He, watching over Israel from Elijah by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Text: He, watching over Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps. Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish, He will quicken thee.

Benediction Response: God so loved the world from Crucifixion by John Stainer (1840-1901)

Text: God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoso believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.



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 host for Fellowship Hour today is Kristen Clark .

During Fellowship hour today, Allison Behnke and friends of the Lyme Youth Service Bureau will offer a Photo Booth set up as part of their "Show Up" event to be held in June. They're traveling throughout the community asking neighbors, How do you show up for others? Check it out!

The Lyme Refugee Resettlement Committee is now looking for people to help with new refugees who may be coming in the near future. We offer help in many ways to get the family settled in Old Lyme. If interested please call Joe Cipparone at 867-912-7161 or Robin Sedgwick at 860-434-2114 if interested in finding out more of what we do.

PF Youth Group (Middle and High School): Join us for a trip to NYC on Saturday, March 25th for the 2 pm premiere of Alexander Zeldin's LOVE at the Park Avenue Armory. Meet at the church at 9:30 and we'll carpool to the MetroNorth train in New Haven. Cost \$40.00 plus train fare. Tickets going fast! Email Laura to reserve tix at lfitz.nager@gmail.com. More show details at: <https://armoryonpark.org>.

Calling all those who signed up to read from Dante's Inferno: we'll have a planning meeting to work out organizational details on Sunday, March 26, at 11:30 in the Sheffield Auditorium. We'll cover topics like timing, flow, how to read publicly, and other questions that may arise. Thanks to everyone who is taking part!

Tree of Life. Many thanks to all of our Tree of Life travelers and friends who shared their reflections and also came to support one another!

Turkey/Syria Earthquake Response: The Board of Missions has allocated \$4,000 to help victims of earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. An additional \$2,000 has been sent by members of the congregation. This week we forwarded the accumulated \$6,000 to IRC (International Rescue Committee) of New York to aid in the rescue support work they have already begun. If further donations are received, they will be forwarded as quickly as possible. Should you want to make an additional gift, please do so by sending your gift to the office as a check made out to FCCOL with "earthquake relief" in the memo line.

Church World Service (CWS) Blanket Drive: In 2022 blankets and kits were distributed to people who had lost everything during the wildfires in California. The blankets are flame retardant, water repellent and therefore also useful for fire fighters. Church World Service has helped 767 Ukrainian and Moldovan families with blankets and other winter items. Each blanket costs only \$10. Please make checks payable to LBS. CWS envelopes are available in the pews and can be put in the offering plate or sent to the church c/o LBS.

Calendar of Events and Meetings

- LWS Monday, March 20 at 10:00 pm** in Sheffield Auditorium.
Grief & Caregivers Group Wednesday, March 22 at 5:00 pm in Hoag Parlor.
Old Lyme Ringers Wednesday, March 22 at 6:30 pm in Sheffield Auditorium.
Senior Choir Wednesday, March 22 at 7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.
Bible Study Thursday, March 23 at 11:00 am in the Library.
PF NY Matinee Saturday, March 25 at 9:30 am.