

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

May 7, 2023

10:00 AM

Prelude

Introit: *God Be In My Head*

John Rutter (born 1945)

*Processional Hymn: #63 “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

*Call to Worship (adapted from “Calling the Spirit Back” by Joy Harjo:

Put down that bag of potato chips, that white bread, that bottle of pop.

Turn off that cellphone, computer, and remote control.

Open the door, then close it behind you.

**We acknowledge this earth, which has cared for us since we were dreams
planted in our parents' desire.**

Let your moccasin feet take you past the high-rises, interstates, checkpoints,
armed soldiers, massacres, wars, and those who will despise you because
they despise themselves.

**The journey might take a few hours, a day, a year, a few years,
a hundred, a thousand or even more.**

When you find your way to the circle, to the fire kept burning by the keepers
of your soul, you will be welcomed.

We must cut the ties we have to failure and shame. We must ask forgiveness.

Now call your spirit back. It may be caught in corners and creases of shame,
judgment, and human abuse. Speak to it as you would to a beloved child.

**So it is that we welcome our spirits back from wandering. It may have returned
in pieces, in tatters. And so we gather them together.**

Then, you must do this: help the next person find their way through the dark.

Calling our Spirits back from wandering...let us worship God!

*Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

*Hymn: #86 “The Lone Wild Bird”

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Anthem: *O Jesus, Crowned With All Renown*

arr. Grover J. Oberle

*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

Elsbeth Dowd

Heleluyvan, Native hymn

While hymn is being sung, children and youth are invited to proceed downstairs to God's Neighborhood for Sunday School.

Pastoral Prayer

Pastoral Prayer Response: *Spirit of the Living God*

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Spirit of the Living God". 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 lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me; Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Readings: Genesis 3: 1-7, 13; Skywoman Falling: An Indigenous Creation Myth

Sermon: **Original Blessings and Original Sins: Lessons from Different Creation Stories**

Rev. Dr. Steven R. Jungkeit

*Hymn: #244

"Like a Tree Beside the Waters"

Benediction

Benediction Response: *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* Peter C. Lutkin (1858-1931)

Postlude

**Congregation Standing*

Scripture Readings

Genesis 3: 1-7; 13

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.”

Skywoman Falling: An Indigenous Creation Myth from the Peoples of the Great Lakes, as retold by Robin Wall Kimmerer

In the beginning there was the Skyworld.

She fell like a maple seed, pirouetting on an autumn breeze. A column of light streamed from a hole in the Skyworld, marking her path where only darkness had been before. It took her a long time to fall. In fear, or maybe hope, she clutched a bundle tightly in her hand.

Hurling downward, she saw only dark water below. But in that emptiness there were many eyes gazing up at the sudden shaft of light. They saw there a small object, a mere dust mote in the beam. As it grew closer, they could see that it was a woman, arms outstretched, long black hair billowing behind as she spiraled toward them.

The geese nodded at one another and rose together from the water in a wave of goose music. She felt the beat of their wings as they flew beneath to break her fall. Far from the only home she'd ever known, she caught her breath at the warm embrace of soft feathers as they gently carried her downward. And so it began.

The geese could not hold the woman above the water for much longer, so they called a council to decide what to do. Resting on their wings, she saw them all gather: loons, otters, swans, beavers, fish of all kinds. A great turtle floated in their midst and offered his back for her to rest upon. Gratefully, she stepped from the goose wings onto the dome of his shell.

Moved by these and other gifts from the animals, she sang in thanksgiving and then began to dance, her feet caressing the earth. The land grew and grew as she danced her thanks, from the dab of mud on Turtle's back until the whole earth was made. Not by Skywoman alone, but from the alchemy of all the animals' gifts coupled with her deep gratitude. Together they formed what we know today as Turtle Island, our home.

Like any good guest, Skywoman had not come empty-handed. The bundle was still clutched in her hand. When she toppled from the hole in the Skyworld she had reached out to grab onto the Tree of Life that grew there. In her grasp were branches—fruits and seeds of all kinds of plants. These she scattered onto the new ground and carefully tended each one until the world turned from brown to green. Sunlight streamed through the hole from the Skyworld, allowing the seeds to flourish. Wild grasses, flowers, trees, and medicines spread everywhere. And now that the animals, too, had plenty to eat, many came to live with her on Turtle Island.

Choir Anthems Today

Introit: God Be In My Head, by John Rutter (born 1945).

Offertory Anthem: O Jesus, Crowned With All Renown, arranged by Grover J. Oberle.

Benediction Response: The Lord Bless You and Keep You, by Peter C. Lutkin (1858-1931).

Text

God be in my head and in my understanding. God be in mine eyes and in my looking. God be in my mouth and in my speaking. God be in mine heart and in my thinking. God be at my end and in my departing.

O Jesus, crowned with all renown, since thou the earth hast trod, thou reignest, and by thee come down henceforth the gifts of God. Thine is the heath and thine the wealth that in our halls abound, and thine the beauty and the joy with which the years are crowned. Lord, in their change let frost and heat, and winds and dew be given; all fostering power, all influence sweet, breathe from the bounteous heaven. Attemper fair with gentle air the sunshine and the rain, that kindly earth with timely birth may yield her fruits again. That we may feed the poor aright, and gathering round thy throne, here, in the holy angels' sight, repay thee of thine own: that we may praise thee all our days, and with the Father's name, and with the Holy Spirit's gifts, the Savior's love proclaim.

The Lord bless and keep you, the Lord lift his countenance upon you; and give you peace, the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. Amen.

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.

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The memorial flowers this morning are given by John and Jeanne Schaaf  
in memory of Ken & Helen Dolph (Old Saybrook) and John Schaaf (Stratford).

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The host for Fellowship Hour today is Cathy Mathis .
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**New Members Orientation:** Interested in learning more about FCCOL and church membership? Join us TODAY for a welcome orientation after church at 11:30 am in the library. New Member Sunday will be May 14th at the 10:00 am service. If you are unable to attend and would like more information, feel free to contact any of the ministers.

**Cross Lane Playground:** The Board of Youth Ed invites families of children elementary age and younger to join us for an afternoon playdate at Cross Lane Playground TODAY at 3pm. Come join us and meet families with similar-aged children! Light snacks will be provided. The Playground is ADA accessible and located at 14 Cross Lane in Old Lyme. If you need an easy idea for dinner after our playground runaround, Teddy's Pizza Palace is just around the corner.

**LBS Luncheon:** Tuesday, May 9th, from noon-2pm, final LBS Luncheon for the spring. At 1 pm, master pastel artist, Judy Perry, will give an illustrated discussion of her discoveries in "The Art of Healing" after suffering a major car accident. Her work has been widely exhibited in art museums and galleries across CT. Suggested donation is \$5 per person, plus canned goods or diapers for the Food or Diaper Banks.

If you plan to join the Luncheon, please call the FCCOL office at 860-434-8686 by Friday, May 5th, so we can be sure to have enough food prepared for all.

**White Elephant Sale:** – Get out your calendars out and mark these dates – *Friday, July 14th from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm* and *Saturday, July 15th from 8:00 am - Noon*. Good time of the year to sort through the cellar and attic to put aside some of those treasures for this year's sale. Hold them until the first intake day, **Thursday June 29rd**.

Help wanted

- **Children's clothes** - need co-chairs
- **Men's clothes dept** - sort and work sale days
- **Pkg check** - the days of the sale
- **Parking attendants, small furniture** - setup Thursday and **on sale day - please volunteer**
- **Daily sorting and intake** - 6/29 to 7/7 from 9-2 pm [not 7/2-7/4]. For those that can, please stop in and help unload cars or sort inside -- All are welcome for as long as you can stay. Great way to meet folks and see what the WES is all about - people helping people. Thank you in advance.

**Witness Stones Clean-Up:** Please consider joining us after church on Sunday, May 28th at 11:30 am as we clean and polish the brass plaques of the Witness Stones found in front of our church and a few sites on Lyme Street. Materials and snacks provided!

If you'd be willing to spend an hour with us, please email Laura at [lfitz.nager@gmail.com](mailto:lfitz.nager@gmail.com)! We're preparing them for our next Witness Stones Installation ceremony at the Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library on June 2nd at 10:00 am. Further information at [www.witnessstonesoldlyme.org](http://www.witnessstonesoldlyme.org).

**Box Night** is here! Saturday night June 3rd, PF Youth Group and friends (7th-12th graders) are invited to learn more about the issues confronting those who are homeless and looking for affordable housing. Program begins at 6:00pm with dinner and guests from the Homeless Hospitality Center along with preparing a service project. Our youth will sleep overnight on the church lawn in boxes or tents and share breakfast the next morning. To participate, contact Laura at [lfitz.nager@gmail.com](mailto:lfitz.nager@gmail.com).

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### Calendar of Events and Meetings

**New Members Orientation** *TODAY, May 14 at 10:30 am* in Sheffield Auditorium.

**Cross Lane Playground** *TODAY, May 14 at 3:00 pm* in Old Lyme.

**LWS** *Monday, May 8 at 10:00 pm* in Sheffield Auditorium.

**LBS Luncheon** *Tuesday, May 9 at 12:00 pm* in Fellowship Hall.

**Trustees** *Tuesday, May 9 at 7:30 pm* in the Library.

**Senior Choir** *Wednesday, May 10 at 7:30 pm* in Sheffield Auditorium.

**Bible Study** *Thursday, May 11 at 11:00 am* in the Library and on Zoom.

**New Members Sunday** *Sunday, May 14 at 10:00 am* Worship Service.


**2023**

**85th White Elephant Sale**

**June**

| Sun       | Mon       | Tue       | Wed       | Thur                                                                          | Fri                                                                   | Sat                                                        |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>18</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b><br><u>Pre SET-UP INSIDE</u><br>[hang signs<br>move tables,<br>etc ] | <b>23</b><br><u>Pre SET-UP INSIDE</u><br>[milk crates,<br>tubs,etc ]  | <b>24</b><br><u>SET-UP INSIDE</u><br>[9:00 am –<br>12:00 ] |
| <b>25</b> | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b><br><u>INTAKE</u><br>9:00 - 2:00                                     | <b>30</b><br><u>INTAKE</u><br>9:00 - 2:00<br><br><u>Workers Lunch</u> | <b>1</b><br><u>INTAKE</u><br>9:00 - 2:00                   |

**July**

| Sun      | Mon                                                                                                                            | Tue                                                                                                                                                 | Wed                                                                                       | Thur                                                                              | Fri                                                                  | Sat                                                                                          |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2</b> | <b>3</b><br>CLOSED<br>Sort & Price                                                                                             | <b>4</b><br><b>HOLIDAY</b><br>                                   | <b>5</b><br><u>INTAKE</u><br>9:00 - 2:00                                                  | <b>6</b><br><u>INTAKE</u><br>9:00 - 2:00                                          | <b>7</b><br><u>INTAKE</u><br>9:00 - 2:00<br><br><u>Workers Lunch</u> | <b>8</b><br>CLOSED<br>Sort & Price                                                           |
| <b>9</b> | <b>10</b><br>CLOSED<br>Sort & Price<br><br>for sale.<br>Move art to<br>Narthax<br><br>Clean up and<br>Finalize<br>inside setup | <b>11</b><br><b>During Day<br/>Big Tents &amp;<br/>Sport Goods</b><br><br>5-7 pm<br>Outside<br>tables, Plant<br>Baked Good<br>Coffee Tents<br>Go up | <b>12</b><br>CLOSED<br>Sort & Price<br><br>Finalize any<br>remaining<br>outside<br>Set-up | <b>13</b><br><u>SET-UP<br/>OUTSIDE</u><br>8:00 AM --><br><br><u>Workers Lunch</u> | <b>14</b><br><b>SALE</b><br>9:00 – 2:00                              | <b>15</b><br><b>SALE</b><br>8:00 – 12:00<br><br><b>CLEANUP<br/>&amp; Snacks</b><br>12:00 --> |