



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

September 3, 2023

10:00 AM

Prelude

*Processional Hymn: #500 “O For A World”

*Call to Worship:

Love is divine only and difficult always.

If you think it is natural, you are blind. It is a learned application without reason or motive except that it is God.

You can only learn - by practice and careful contemplations – the right to express it, and you have to learn how to accept it. Which is to say you have to practice God.

You have to think *God-Carefully*. Love is not a gift. It is a diploma.

(Toni Morrison, *Paradise*)

*Invocation and The Lord’s Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

*Hymn: #223 “Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me”

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Selection

*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

Pastoral Prayer

Pastoral Prayer Response: *Come and Fill Our Hearts*

The image shows a musical score for a pastoral prayer response. It consists of two 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 3/4. The lyrics are: "Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly." and "Come and fill our hearts with your peace, al-le-lu-ia!". The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

Readings: Isaiah 65:17-23 and 25b; Matthew 6:19-21; John 12:1-8

Sermon: **A Meditation on Low-Flying Turkeys, the Kindness of Strangers, and the Joy of Dispossession** Rev. Carleen Gerber

*Hymn: #454 "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

Benediction

Postlude

**Congregation Standing*

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 Cathy Mathis.

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The Nursery is open today.  
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Homecoming Sunday is Sunday, September 10th at 10:00 am! God's Neighborhood Sunday School program begins, and there will also be an Open House for families downstairs following the service.

Our theme this year is called, *Everyone's Invited: Stories and Songs of Belonging from Around the World*. Each of our classes this fall will be exploring the practices of hospitality rooted in stories of scripture, our church community and partnerships with others around the world using music, drama, art and other curriculum experiences. Please submit a registration form for the child/children in your family on our opening day or as soon as you can!

Please fill out a God's Neighborhood Registration Form available on our website and in the vestibule.

Help with Sunday Flowers. We hope to start a schedule of members and friends who would like to provide pulpit flowers for a week. If desired, flowers can be given in memory of a loved one, with the loved one(s) mentioned in the bulletin. This system worked well before the disruption of Covid. Flowers or greenery can be fresh from your garden or ordered from florist. A house plant from home displayed for the morning would be lovely, as well. To sign up for a future week, please call Jill Harned, 603-398-9004. Thank you!

Old Lyme Refugee Resettlement Committee (RRC): As the (RRC) celebrates the successful move of the Popal family into independent housing, we are now actively looking for people to welcome new refugees coming to our community in the near future. We offer assistance and support in a wide variety of areas to try to best settle the family into a home in OL owned by the FCCOL. Our ultimate goal is to assist the family in their acclimation process to a point where they can be as self-sufficient as possible in their new environment.

Of particular need are volunteers to help with driving family members to various appointments/meetings as well as volunteers to help with babysitting needs (as required). If interested in joining our group or exploring how you can help, please email Juliette Meeus jmeeus1@gmail.com or Carole Otto ottocarole@gmail.com.

LBS September Luncheon: As the end of summer approaches, LBS is set to begin hosting their Fall luncheons. The September luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, September 12th, with lunch served at noon, and a program about Women in Science presented by a speaker representing the CT Women's Hall of Fame to begin around 1pm. The cost of the luncheon is a minimum donation of \$5, and a nonperishable food item or a package of disposable diapers for the Shoreline Food Pantry.

Please, if possible, call the church office by Friday, September 8th to make a reservation. Come join us for a delicious meal, an educational presentation, and some wonderful fellowship.