



"But in those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light..."
Mark 13: 24

The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme
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Old Lyme, Connecticut
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SUNDAY WORSHIP

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

December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM

Prelude

Introit: *'Wake, O wake!'*

With tidings thrilling by Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608),
arranged by J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

*Processional Hymn: #115 "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

*Call to Worship:

Now is the time to wake from sleep,
Now is the time to keep watch and stay alert.
**Now is the time for the bridegroom to appear,
Now is the time to prepare for Christ.**
For the tables are about to turn over,
Those on the margins will be welcomed in.
**The powerful will be brought down from their thrones,
The lowly raised up and the hungry filled.**
Now is the time to be ready,
Now is the time God will make all things new.

*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Wreath Lighting: The Candle of Hope Jolene, Noah and Anderson Brant

Refrain:

The dark is not an end. It is a door. It is the way a new beginning comes.
(During the hymn children and youth will leave for Sunday school)

*Hymn: #120 "Tomorrow Christ is Coming"

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Anthem: *How Beautiful Upon the Mountains* John Stainer (1840-1901)

*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: *A New Commandment*

A new com-mand-ment I give un - to you: that you love one an-oth-er as

I have loved you, that you love one an-oth-er as I have loved you.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system of music corresponds to the first line of lyrics, and the second system corresponds to the second line of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and single notes.

Readings: Isaiah 64: 1-4; Mark 13: 24-26, 32-37

Sermon: **Notes on Waiting for the End of the World** Rev. Dr. Steven R. Jungkeit

*Hymn: #128 "Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying"

Benediction

Benediction Response

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.

Choir Anthems Today

Introit: 'Wake, O wake!' With tidings thrilling by Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608), arranged by J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

"Wake, O wake!" With tidings thrilling the watchmen's cry the air is filling:
'Arise, Jerusalem, arise! Midnight strikes! No more delaying: the hour has come! We hear them saying; 'Where are ye all, ye virgins wise? The Bridegroom now is nigh: stand forth! Your lamps raise high! Hallelujah! In bright array this nuptial day go forth and meet him in the way!

Sion hears the watchmen singing, her heart for joy within her springing; she wakes, and eagerly attends; see her Friend, from heaven descending, adorned with truth and grace unending! Her light shines clear, her star ascends. Appear, thou precious Crown! God's Son, to earth come down! Sing 'Hosanna!' Now rise we all to that glad hall where to thy feast thou dost us call.

Offertory Anthem: *How Beautiful Upon the Mountains* by John Stainer (1840-1901)

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace, that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 64: 1-4

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

Mark 13: 24-26, 32-37

“But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

“Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Christmas Schedule

A Quiet Christmas Service To Light Up The Darkness

Wednesday, December 13th at 6:45 pm at FCCOL
featuring music by the woodwind quintet, Elm City Winds.

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 17 at 10:00 AM

Christmas Eve Services*

10:00 AM - Worship Service in the Meetinghouse

5:00 PM - The Living Manger

Service for families with young children

8:00 PM and 10:00 PM - Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols

*Christmas Eve Service Memorial Music & Flowers

If you would like to contribute to our special Christmas Eve music and flowers in memory of a loved one, please leave a message at the church office, fccol@fccol.org or 860-434-8686 by *Friday, December 15th.*

The image on the cover of the bulletin is "Solar Eclipse from Mount Santa Lucia," by Carleton Watkins, The Getty Center, Los Angeles, CA.

The hosts for the Fellowship Hour this morning are Cathy Mathis, Deacons & Trustees.

The Nursery is open today with Miss Miriame.

Fellowship Hour: Please join us after today's service for a special fellowship hour when we will celebrate Steve Jungkeit's tenth anniversary as Senior Minister here at FCCOL.

Elephants-in-Winter Holiday Sale: TODAY, until 1pm LBS will have their always popular Elephants-in-Winter sale. All the holiday items collected during the intake days for the White Elephant Sale this past July will be arranged throughout the Sheffield Auditorium and sold at bargain basement prices. If you've come to this sale before, you know from experience the vast assortment of delightful treasures that await. If this will be your first time attending, you will find Christmas decorations, greens and wreaths, holiday china and glassware, linens and sweaters and stockings, toys, books, CD's and DVD's, paper goods, lights, candles, and ornaments.

Senior Center Luncheons: The Lymes' Senior center will be holding their luncheons in the Church's Fellowship Hall on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays each week for the foreseeable future while their facility on Town Woods Road undergoes a major renovation. Any questions about attending the luncheons should be directed to the Senior Center's executive Director, Stephanie Gould, 860-514-5425.

Partnership Sale: On December 9th (9am-3pm) and December 10th (9am-1pm), the Partnership Committees of FCCOL will have their third annual Holiday Sale in the Fellowship Room. Here is your chance to get beautiful, thoughtful and unusual gifts for everyone on your holiday list. There will be Haitian arts and crafts, Palestinian olive oil and soaps, Lakota jewelry and crafts, and (of course) one-of-a-kind handmade items from "The Ladies Who Stitch." Everything for sale is wonderfully unique, and the support provided to the partnerships helps so many.

Meetinghouse Christmas Tree: The Meetinghouse Christmas Tree will be in place next weekend. Once again we are collecting gifts to place under the tree to help the Homeless Hospitality Center in New London. Donations of hats and gloves and coffee would be most helpful. There seem to be plenty of socks already in hand!

Adult Forum on December 10, in the Sheffield Auditorium: In a few short weeks, 11 travelers from FCCOL will be embarking upon a journey to West Africa, visiting the countries of Ghana, Togo and Benin. One feature of that journey will be to explore African Indigenous religious expressions, foremost among them, Vodun.

To help us prepare for that part of the journey, and to help our wider community understand the dynamics of this complex system, both in Africa and the Americas, Prof. Leslie Desmangles of Trinity College in Hartford will be joining us for an adult forum on Sunday, December 10, at 11:30 in the Sheffield Auditorium. Prof. Desmangles' work has been to help undergraduates, and now congregations (he is a Congregationalist, and has an M.Div. from Palmer Theological Seminary in Philadelphia) to appreciate the history and meanings of this important religious tradition.

We hope you'll join us as a community as we seek to open our minds, hearts, and spirits to a tradition with far more affinities to our own than many of us have imagined.

Board of Missions: The Board of Missions recently made a gift of \$3,000 to the Middle East Children's Alliance and \$2,000 to Doctors Without Borders. Both gifts are dedicated to help the crisis in Gaza.

Calendar of Events and Meetings

Elephants in Winter *TODAY* from 9:00 am - 1:00pm in Sheffield Auditorium.

LWS *Monday, December 4th* at 10:00 am in Sheffield Auditorium.

Senior Center Luncheon *Tuesday, December 5th* at 12:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Senior Center Luncheon *Wednesday, December 6th* at 12:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Senior Choir *Wednesday, December 6th* at 7:30 pm in Sheffield Auditorium.

Bible Study *Thursday, December 7th* at 11:00 pm in Library.

Senior Center Luncheon *Thursday, December 7th* at 12:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Partnership Sale *Saturday, December 9th* at 9:00 am - 3:00pm in Fellowship Hall.

Partnership Sale *Sunday, December 10th* at 9:00 am - 1:00pm in Fellowship Hall.

Adult Forum *Sunday, December 10th* at 11:30 am in Sheffield Auditorium.