



**The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme**  
**2 Ferry Road**  
**Old Lyme, Connecticut**  
**(860) 434-8686**  
**Website: [www.fccol.org](http://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

**December 10, 2023**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**10:00 AM**

Prelude

Introit: *Matin Responsory*

G.P. da Palestrina (c.1525-1594)

soloists: Sean McCarty, Alan MacGregor, Marcy Conway, Eve Todd

\*Processional Hymn: #127 “Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates”

\*Call to Worship:

God has shown love among us  
by coming into the world in Christ,  
that all people might live.  
**If God has so loved us  
we also ought to love one another,  
for if we love one another,  
God dwells in us.  
Let us worship God,  
seeking to love as we have been loved.**

\*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Prayer

Ghoufran Allababidi, President, Tree of Life Educational Fund

Advent Wreath Lighting: The Candle of Peace

The Hartenstein Family

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 where they will be rehearsing for our upcoming Christmas pageant)

\*Hymn: #116 “People Look East”

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Anthem: *Creator of the Stars of Night*

Malcolm Archer (born 1952)

\*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: *Hear Our Prayer*

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Hear Our Prayer'. 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; incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.'

Readings: Matthew 23: 38; Philippians 2: 5-7; John 4: 7-9

Sermon: **These Weeping Eyes, Those Seeing Tears**

Rev. Dr. Steven R. Jungkeit

\*Hymn: #117

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

Benediction

Benediction Response

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.*

## **Choir Anthems Today**

### **Introit: Matin Responory adapted from a Magnificat by G.P. da Palestrina (c.1525-1594)**

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel? High and low, rich and poor, one with another, go ye out to meet him and say: Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep, tell us, art thou he that should come? Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

### **Offertory Anthem: Creator of the Stars of Night by Malcolm Archer (born 1952)**

Creator of the stars of night, thy people's everlasting light, Jesu, Redeemer, save us all, and hear thy servants when they call.

Thou camest, bridegroom of the bride, as drew the world to eveningtide, proceeding from a virgin shrine, the Son of Man, yet all divine.

At thy great name, exalted now, all knees must bend, all hearts must bow, and things in heaven and earth shall own that thou art Lord and King alone.

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One, Laud, honor, might and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.

## Scripture Readings

### **Matthew 23: 38**

"Behold, your house is left unto you desolate."

### **Philippians 2: 5-7**

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness.

### **John 4: 7-9**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

# 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](mailto:fccol@fccol.org) or 860-434-8686 by *Friday, December 15th*.

*The hosts for the Fellowship Hour this morning are Julie Martel and Kristen Clark.*

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The Nursery is open today with Miss Miriame.  
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**Partnership Sale:** TODAY, 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 is in place. 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!

**Writing at the Well:** On Friday, December 15th from 10:00-11:30, join us as we meet once a month to write pages together. Using informal writing prompts, participants give voice to memories and the stories that make up our lives. No writing experience necessary...just a willingness to pay attention and tap into the wellspring. Meeting in the library.

**Adult Forum Postponed:** The Adult Form scheduled for today has been postponed until the new year. More information to follow shortly.

**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.

**A Quiet Christmas Service to Light up the Darkness:** Wednesday, December 13th at 6:45 pm in the Meetinghouse.

The weeks leading up to Christmas can be a time of joy and hectic anticipation as well as pain and loss. For some, it can be a season of hardship and illness, disappointment or anxiety. Many of us, too, are acutely aware of the chaos of our world and looking for hope in the darkness.

Join us for a contemplative service of music, prayer and candle lighting as we gather to create sacred space for one another this Advent. We'll honor the blessings that come from attending to what is deepest and most in need of healing. Featuring the music of Elm City Winds, a woodwind quintet from New Haven. All are welcome!

**Christmas Pageant Rehearsal,** Saturday, December 16th at 3:00-5:00 pm with pizza.

**West Africa Trip:** On December 28th, 11 members and friends of our church will begin a journey to West Africa, visiting Ghana, Togo and Benin. We will learn about the origins of the slave trade in western Africa, and explore the faith traditions (the indigenous practice of Vodun) that helped sustain the enslaved peoples as they made their painful journey into the unknown. These is a faith practice that is still vibrant today, and about which we hope to learn more. We will return on January 12th.

We are seeking to borrow two vans for the journey into New York, and again for our arrival home. We will hire drivers for those two vans, who will return the vans home. So we just need the van for about 6 hours. If you have a van (needs to seat five people in addition to the driver) that we could borrow either one of those days, please call Carleen at 860-304-2070. Thank you!

**South Lyme Union Chapel: Lessons and Carols.** The South Lyme Union Chapel will hold its annual Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 17th at 3:00 pm at the chapel. The Select Singers from Lyme-Old Lyme High School will once again bring their beautiful voices to the chapel, offering traditional songs of the season. All are welcome! Please stay to enjoy some snacks and hot chocolate with us immediately after in our Fellowship Room.

**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.

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

**Partnership Sale** *TODAY till 1:00pm* in Fellowship Hall.

**LWS** *Monday, December 11th at 10:00 am* in Sheffield Auditorium.

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

**Board of Stewardship** *Tuesday, December 12th at 4:00 pm* in the Library.

**Trustees** *Tuesday, December 12th at 7:30 pm* in the Library.

**Senior Center Luncheon** *Wednesday, December 13th at 12:00 pm* in Fellowship Hall.

**A Quiet Christmas** *Wednesday, December 13th at 6:45 pm* in the Meetinghouse.

**Senior Choir** *Wednesday, December 13th at 7:30 pm* in Sheffield Auditorium.

**Bible Study** *Thursday, December 14th at 11:00 am* in the Library.

**Blood Drive** *Thursday, December 14th at 1:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Senior Center Luncheon** *Thursday, December 14th at 12:00 pm* in Sheffield Auditorium.

**Writing at the Well** *Friday, December 15th at 10:00 am* in the Library.

**Christmas Pageant Rehearsal** *Saturday, December 16th at 3:00 pm.*

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