



**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

### God's Neighborhood Christmas Pageant

**December 17, 2023**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**10:00 AM**

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Prelude

Introit: *The Lamb*

words by William Blake, music by John Tavener

\*Processional Hymn: #32 "God of Grace and God of Laughter"

\*Call to Worship:

Gather us in to listen to the story

**Gather us in to savor the wonder**

Gather us in to sing of our blessings

**Gather us in with our hopes and challenges, preparations and our dreams.**

Gather us in just as we are. May Love abound.

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, God-is-With-Us!**

\*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

Sacrament of Baptism

Robert Joseph Greenwood

Moment for Stewardship

Erik Johannesen

Advent Wreath Lighting: The Candle of Joy

The Byers Family

Refrain:

**The dark is not an end. It is a door. It is the way a new beginning comes.**

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Anthem: *Christmas Lullaby*

words and music by John Rutter

\*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

**Christmas Pageant: The Christmas Eve News Hour**

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 first system has the lyrics "Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly." The second system has the lyrics "Come and fill our hearts with your peace, al-le-lu-ia!". The piano accompaniment is written in a simple, homophonic style with block chords and moving bass lines.

\*Hymn: #314      “Joy to the World” (verses 2-3)

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: The Lamb, words by William Blake, music by John Tavener**

Little Lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?  
Gave thee life, and bid thee fed by the stream, and o'er the mead;  
softest clothing, woolly bright; gave thee such a tender voice,  
making all the vales rejoice?

Little Lamb, I'll tell thee: He is called by thy name, for he calls himself a Lamb.  
He is meek, and he is mild; He became a little child.  
I, a child, and thou a lamb, we are called by his name.  
Little Lamb, God bless thee!

### **Offertory Anthem: Christmas Lullaby, words and music by John Rutter**

Clear in the darkness a light shine in Bethlehem; angels are singing, their sound  
fills the air.

Wise men have journeyed to greet their Messiah; but only a mother and baby lie  
there.

*'Ave Maria, ave Maria' hear the soft lullaby the angel hosts sing.  
Ave Maria, ave Maria, maiden and mother of Jesus our King'.*

Where are his courtiers, and who are his people? Who does he bear neither  
sceptre nor crown?

Shepherds his courtiers, the poor for his people, with peace as his sceptre and  
love for his crown.

*'Ave Maria, ave Maria' hear the soft lullaby the angel hosts sing.  
Ave Maria, ave Maria, maiden and mother of Jesus our King'.*

What through your treasure are not gold or incense? Lay them before him with  
hearts full of love.

Praise to the Christ child, and praise to his mother who bore us a Saviour by  
grace from above,

*'Ave Maria, ave Maria' hear the soft lullaby the angel hosts sing.  
Ave Maria, ave Maria, maiden and mother of Jesus our King'.*

# CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

## Christmas Eve Services

*Sunday, December 24th*

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

This morning we are pleased to celebrate the baptism of Robert Joseph Greenwood, son of Eric and Marianne Greenwood and grandson of Donna and Mik Byrne.

*The host for the Fellowship Hour this morning is Susan Mountz.*

The Nursery is open today with Miss Miriam.

**South Lyme Union Chapel: Lessons and Carols.** The South Lyme Union Chapel will hold its annual Lessons and Carols TODAY 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.

**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!

**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.

**Grief Group** meets Wednesday, December 20th from 5:00-6:00 in Hoag Parlor.

**God's Neighborhood Sunday school** will resume after the Christmas holiday on Sunday January 14th at the 10:00 am service. Happy New Year!

**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.

**Last Chance Before Christmas!** The Partnership Shop, offering goods from Haiti, Palestine, Tribal Crafts, and the Ladies Who Stitch will be open today after the service but not on Sunday the 24th. So, come finish your holiday shopping with us! Also, The Ladies Who Stitch will be taking a well-deserved break until 2024. Our next Monday work session will be January 8th.

**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. This is a faith practice that is still vibrant today, and about which we hope to learn more. We will return on January 12th.

Our travelers are:

Kevin Booker, Jr.  
Jolene Brant  
Lee Carpenter  
Dana Dixon  
Carleen Gerber  
Lecia Harbison

Drew Johnson  
Steve Jungkeit  
Miriam Kazadi  
Cathy Mathis  
Susan Switzer

Please keep all of them in your prayers, as they stretch their minds, their hearts, and their imaginations, considering the many ways of exercising faith in our world.

**West Africa Trip Request:** 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!

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### Calendar of Events and Meetings

**Senior Center Luncheon** *Tuesday, December 19th at 12:00 pm* in Fellowship Hall.

**Board of Deacons** *Tuesday, December 19th at 7:00 pm* in the Library.

**Senior Center Luncheon** *Wednesday, December 20th at 12:00 pm* in Fellowship Hall.

**Grief Group** *Wednesday, December 20th at 5:00 pm* in Hoag Parlor.

**Senior Choir** *Wednesday, December 20th at 7:30 pm* in Sheffield Auditorium.

**Bible Study** *Thursday, December 21st at 11:00 am* in the Library.

**Senior Center Luncheon** *Thursday, December 21st at 12:00 pm* in Fellowship Hall.

**Office Closed** *Monday, December 25th.*

**Holiday Dinner** *Monday, December 25th at 1:00 - 2:00 pm* at Grace Episcopal Church.

## Pageant Carols

O Come All Ye Faithful	Hymn #132 - one verse
Away in a Manger	Hymn #150 - one verse
Angels We Have Heard on High	Hymn #135 - one verse
While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks	Hymn #138 - one verse
The First Noel	Hymn #141 - one verse
We Three Kings	Hymn #162 - one verse
Joy to the World!	Hymn #134 - one verse

