



**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

**January 7th, 2024**

**EPIPHANY SUNDAY**

**10:00 AM**

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Prelude

Introit: *What Sweeter Music*

by John Rutter (b. 1945)  
Words by Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

\*Processional Hymn: #162 “We Three Kings”

\*Call to Worship:

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
**when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flock,  
the work of Christmas begins:**  
to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
**to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among brothers and sisters,  
to make music in the heart.**  
**Come let us worship God.**

*-Adapted from prayer by Howard Thurman*

\*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

\*Hymn: #154 “In the Bleak Midwinter”

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Anthem: *Behold a Star from Jacob Shining* Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

\*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

Abigail Cipparone

Pastoral Prayer Response: *Come and Fill Our Hearts*

The musical score is written in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. 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!".

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 60: 17-18  
Matthew 2:1-12

Amy Cabaniss

Sermon: **Home by Another Way**

Rev. Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager

\*Hymn: #164 "Brightest and Best Stars of the Morning"

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: What Sweeter Music by John Rutter Words by Robert Herrick (1591-1674)**

What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing the birth of this our heavenly King? Awake the voice! Awake the string! Dark and dull night, fly hence away, and give the honour to this day that sees December turn to May. Why does the chilling winter's morn smile, like a field beset with corn? Or smell like a meadow newly shorn thus on the sudden? Come and see the cause, why things thus fragrant be: 'tis he is born, whose quickening birth gives life and lustre, public mirth, to heaven and the underearth. We see him come, and know him ours, who, with his sunshine and his showers, turns the patient ground to flowers. The darling of the world is come, and fit it is, we find a room to welcome him. The nobler part of all the house here, is the heart, which we will give him; and bequeath this holly, and this ivy wreath, to do him honour; who's our King, and Lord of all this revelling.

### **Offertory Anthem: *Behold a Star from Jacob Shining***

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Behold a star from Jacob shining, and a scepter from Israel rising. To reign in glory over the nations. Like some bright morning star is he, the promise of the coming day, beyond the night of sorrow. Break forth, O Light! We, our joyful hearts uplifting with thanksgiving, hail the brightness of Thy rising.

## Scripture Readings

### **Isaiah 60: 17-18**

Instead of bronze I will bring gold;  
    instead of iron I will bring silver;  
instead of wood, bronze;  
    instead of stones, iron.  
I will appoint Peace as your overseer  
    and Righteousness as your taskmaster.

Violence shall no more be heard in your land,  
    devastation or destruction within your borders;  
you shall call your walls Salvation  
    and your gates Praise.

### **Matthew 2:1-12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

*The Fellowship Hour is an Epiphany Party!.*

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The Nursery is open today and next Sunday with Miss Mulanga.  
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*The Image on the cover is "Women Also Came" by Jan Richardson*

**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.

**West Africa Trip:** Eleven members and friends of our church are on their journey to West Africa, visiting Ghana, Togo and Benin. They 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. Our travelers 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

**God's Neighborhood:** The nursery is open every Sunday! The Sunday School is on winter break and will return January 14th with the start of the new session of our curriculum.

**Epiphany Party:** During Fellowship Hour following church TODAY. We will join cultures all over the world to celebrate Three Kings Day and Epiphany. Come and enjoy some special homemade treats.

## ANNUAL MEETING

On Sunday, January 28, at 11:15 am, the church will hold its annual meeting, during which, among other things, we will elect officers and board members, and approve the church budget for the coming year.

The "2023 Annual Report" available later in the month contains the agenda for the meeting and other informative materials. **All Board and Committee chairs, please submit your annual reports by the deadline of January 10.**

The purpose of the annual meeting is to:

- receive the reports of the ministers, boards and committees, and church officers for the year 2024;
- receive and approve the report of the nominating committee;
- elect officers and board members for the coming year;
- approve the church budget for the year 2024; and
- conduct such other old or new business as shall properly come before the meeting.

**Interested in Confirmation?** Confirmation classes for 1st, 2nd or 3rd year high school students will begin on Sunday, January 28th from 4-6 pm. Classes will meet January-May and include field trips, films and a service project. Confirmation is offered every other year. For more information contact Laura at 860-304-9096 or [lfitz.nager@gmail.com](mailto:lfitz.nager@gmail.com).

**Chili Cookoff:** Calling all chefs for the Ground Hog Day Chili Cookoff tentatively scheduled for Friday, February 2nd, at 5:30-7:00 pm. Chefs please email the office.

**Save the Date.** Walking in their Footsteps: A Civil Rights Learning Trip for Teens during April vacation from April 6th - 11th. This is a 5-day journey. We will fly round trip to Atlanta, Georgia and visit sights there and drive to Birmingham, Alabama among other places. For more information or to reserve a spot, email Jolene Brant at [jmbrant2023@gmail.com](mailto:jmbrant2023@gmail.com).

**Bible Study:** Will resume on Thursday, Jan. 18, 11:00 am in the library. All are welcome.

**Ladies Who Stitch (LWS)** will resume activities on Monday, January 15th, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, in Sheffield Auditorium.

**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.

**Home to Rent Desperately Needed:** A family of four who are good friends of the church need a home to rent in the immediate future. While we sponsored and settled this family of former refugees a few years ago, they now need to move from their present home. Any location on the shoreline would be acceptable. Please call the church office (860-434-8686) if you can help or know someone who can. Thanks!

**Shares of Stock:** We have gratefully received 46 shares of Intel stock on 11/28/2023. We do not know who sent in this gift. Kindly contact the Church office at (860) 434-8686 and leave a message for Bob or Julie to let us know if you have made this contribution so we can give you the proper credit. Thank you.

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

**Epiphany Party TODAY** *following church* in Fellowship Hall.

**Senior Center Luncheon** *Tuesday, January 9th at 12:00 pm* in Fellowship Hall.

**Senior Center Luncheon** *Wednesday, January 10th at 12:00 pm* in Fellowship Hall.

**Bell Ringers** *Wednesday, January 10th at 6:30 pm* in Fellowship Hall.

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

**Senior Center Luncheon** *Thursday, January 11th at 12:00 pm* in Fellowship Hall.

**Food Pantry** *Saturday, January 13th, 8:30-10:30 am* in Fellowship Hall.