



The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme

**2 Ferry Road,
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 Holt, Organist and Director

October 27, 2024

All Saints Sunday Worship Service

10:00 AM

Prelude

Introit: “O Thou Joy of Loving Hearts” by Ludovico Tommaso da Vittoria (1540-1613)

*Processional Hymn: #486 “For All the Saints” (verses 1-2)

*Call to Worship:

For all the saints, who from their labor rest,
Who thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might,
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well fought fight,
Made brave by their presence, our hearts grow brave again,
And our arms grow strong;
Hallelujah! Let us worship God.

*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn #493 “In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

Children’s Message

Lisa Feltes

Children’s Song: “The Rainbow Connection”

performed by Sean McCarty

Why are there so many, Songs about rainbows
And what's on the other side?
Rainbows are visions, But only illusions
And rainbows have nothing to hide.

So we've been told and some choose to believe it, I know they're wrong, wait and see...
Someday we'll find it, the rainbow connection, The lovers, the dreamers and me.

Offering Invitation

Offertory Anthem: “The Gift of Love”

arranged by Hal H. Hopson (born 1933)
Soprano soloist - Lisa Feltes

*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.

*Offering Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Pastoral Prayer Response: “Hear Our Prayer ,O God”

The image shows a musical score for a 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 4/4. The lyrics are: "Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in - cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace." The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system continues the melody and accompaniment.

Scripture: Matthew 14: 22-27, Hebrews 11 and 12 (selected passages)

Sermon: “The Specters That Haunt Us (and the Spirits that Heal)

Rev. Dr. Steven Jungkeit

Closing Hymn: #486 “For All the Saints”

(verses 4-5)

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: “O Thou Joy of Loving Hearts” by Ludovico Tommaso da Vittoria (1540-1613)

O Thou joy of loving hearts, of peace and truth, of truth the fountain bright; in Thee rejoicing all our day, grant us to walk in heavenly light.

Offertory Anthem: “The Gift of Love” arranged by Hal H. Hopson (born 1933)
Soprano soloist - Lisa Feltes

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, and have not love; my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain. Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin. Come, spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed. By this we worship and are freed. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Matthew 14: 22-27

Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Hebrews 11 and 12 (selected passages)

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of all those who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented — of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.

The flowers are given this morning are given in Memory of Dinah Seecof, who first taught me to love flowers by Christine Darnell

The hosts for the Fellowship Hour this morning are Wendy Knight and the Adult Ed. Committee

The nursery is open today with Miss Tiffany Goss.

Thank you to our guest Organist this morning, Karin Larsen.

Events and Meeting

Adult Forum: Visioning Church Together Part TODAY at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

Ladies Who Stitch Monday, October 28th at 10:00 am in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Grief Group Wednesday, October 30th at 5:30 pm in Hoag Parlor.

Senior Choir Rehearsal Wednesday, October 30th at 7:30 pm in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Bible Study Thursday, October 31st at 11:00 am in Hoag Parlor.

Shoreline Food Pantry Saturday, November 2nd at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Women's Retreat Saturday, Nov.2nd from 10:00 - 2:00 pm at the Guilford Comm. Center.

Coming Soon...

Youth Group Fall Cleanup Save the Date: November 3rd from 12:00 - 3:00 pm.
at The Major Edward Good House for Homeless Veterans in New London.

Youth Group Pequot Museum Trip Saturday, November 9th at 10:00 am.

Elephants in Winter Sale with the Partnership Store Sale Saturday, Nov 16th from 10:00 am till 2:00 pm and Sunday, November 17th from 9:00 am till 1:00 pm.

TODAY!! Convergence Adult Forum Part 2

As an important part of our work with the Convergence consulting firm, the Rev. Cameron Trimble from Convergence who is an expert on cultural shifts impacting churches and will make another presentation, Part 2 today following the worship services. Please join us for this important presentation.

The video of the Convergence Adult Forum Part 1 can be viewed at online at:

<https://youtu.be/yrZHi0jdMwM>

Prayer Vigil for the Victims of Genocide in Palestine

Today, October 27th, 2024 at 2:00pm. Islamic Association of Greater Hartford, 1781 Berlin Turnpike Berlin, CT 06037. Sponsored by MCCT, IAGH and CAIR CT.

Women's Wellness Retreat: The Sanctuary of Friendship

Saturday, Nov 2nd, 2024. This year, we're invited to a wellness retreat including lunch, yoga and storytelling with women refugees from the New Haven area. The retreat will be at the Guilford Community Center, 32 Church St, Guilford, CT from 10:00 am till 2:00 pm. Suggested donation of \$25.00 and includes lunch. Reserve your spot today! To register and get more information, email Anne at fccol@fccol.org or call 860-434-8686.



On Saturday, November 2nd, we have a further opportunity to support and celebrate Haitian communities living in our region. Every year around the beginning of November, Haitians gather, much as we're doing today, to honor the ancestors and wisdom keepers who are now departed, and they do so with enormous style. Bamboche means "party," and that's exactly what we'll witness. But we'll also see the work of an incredible dance troupe. This event will take place in the Roxbury section of Boston, and so we'll need to depart around 4:30. Let Steve Jungkeit know if you're interested in heading up to Boston next Saturday (steven@jungkeit.net). The event cost is \$40.

The Youth Group is having a Fall Clean-Up at the Major Edward Good Veterans Home for Homeless Veterans in New London on Sunday November 3rd from 12-2pm. Pizza will follow!

Bible Study Goodness, Greed and Grace: Journeys through Genesis and Exodus

Curious about what we do in Bible Study? Wondering about the problem of evil and where the heck God might be found on any given day? Bible Study is every Thursday, 11:00 am till 12:00 pm. Hybrid format in person and on Zoom. Join us for rich discussion and wanderings as we pick up our reading of Genesis with Joseph, his brothers and that famous technicolor coat. Our companion book this fall will be *“Reading Genesis”* by Marilynne Robinson. Robinson wrote, *“The whole of human existence is like some sweet parable told in the most improbable place and circumstances...God values our humanity. One of the things that's fascinating about the Hebrew Bible is that it declared and was loyal to the fact that God is good and creation is good.”*

Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center

Saturday, November 9th at 10:00 am. All ages are welcome to the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center 10am- go at your own pace. We are getting a group rate going together, and we get to experience learning about this culture together! Then the next day, the kids will do a craft similar to something we see at the museum, during Sunday School. \$13 for youth, \$13 for chaperones, and \$18 for adults. Please reach out to Jolene Brant at 860-460-9511 if you'd like to go, or if you'd like to drop your child off at FCCOL and they go with us to the museum! We will plan to meet at the church at 9:00 am and drive as many as we can with us! Just need a headcount.

Elephants in Winter Sale

Save the Dates for the Elephants in Winter Sale, Saturday November 16th from 9:00 till 2:00 pm and Sunday, November 17th from 9:00 am till 1:00 pm. Also the Partnership Store will be having a sale of their own, same dates and times!

Save the Date: Adult Forum

November 17th after the 10:00 am service Fred Behringer, Tom Sherer and Mariette Brown will present "Climate is Changing - What Can We Do?"

An Update on the David W. Good Memorial Fund

Shortly after David Good's memorial service this past April, FCCOL invited members and friends to contribute to a fund established in his honor. Thanks to the generosity expressed by many of you, that fund now stands at a little over \$22,000, and counting. To reflect David's long commitment to mission partnerships and education, the ministers, in consultation with the Board of Trustees and the Endowment Committee, have decided that the fund will be used to support the ongoing work of our partnerships. The fund will be invested along with our endowment, though unlike the endowment itself, it will be available for use when needed. Whether for Green Grass or Palestine, for South Africa or Haiti, or a newer venture, the David W. Good Memorial Fund will be used to expand upon the work that David began, and that we continue in his memory.

Sunday Flowers

We're scheduling members and friends who would like to provide pulpit flowers for Sunday. If desired, flowers can be given in memory of a loved one, with a dedication in the bulletin. Flowers or greenery can be fresh from your garden or from a florist, or a house plant would be lovely, as well. To sign up, call Jill Harned, 603-398-9004. Thank you!

Housing Wanted

We regularly hear from folks who are in need of an affordable rental. If you have any information that could be helpful, please let Anne in the office know. Even for a room to rent for a period of time would be greatly appreciated.

Nehantic Land Acknowledgement

We, the First Congregational Church of Old Lyme, acknowledge that we occupy and benefit from the Indigenous land upon which our church and our homes are standing. For thousands of years, this has been, and continues to be, the traditional territory of the Nehantic people, along with the Indigenous kin of other tribes.

We hereby acknowledge the continued presence, resilience, and sovereignty of the Nehantic community today.

We commit ourselves to collaborating with all Indigenous communities in the challenge of decolonizing, recovering, and restoring Indigenous histories, lives, and futures.

We give thanks to those first Nehantic people and their present day descendants. And we affirm that any land acknowledgement must also contain an acknowledgement of the wisdom of the land itself: the trees, the water, the rocks, the soil on which we live.

We have been taught by Indigenous elders to draw our minds together at the beginning of any gathering and that we should remember to be grateful and thankful for all that we have been given by the Creator. And so we give thanks:

For this beautiful day; to the four directions; to all creatures who are our kinfolk and teachers; to the river and the ocean that have sustained us; to the last 7 generations and the next 7 generations; to our ancestors who have guided us and who are here with us now. We do not have to ask for anything. All this has been given to us.

But finally, we recognize that acknowledgement in a sentence or paragraph is not enough. And so we at the First Congregational Church of Old Lyme commit to listen to Native voices who can remind us and teach us how to live in balance and reciprocity. We commit to a continual process of discernment, asking what is to be done, seeking to include voices that have not been heard. We confess that, in such a great task, we are always at the beginning, and that acknowledgement is but the first step in a long process of self-education and relationship building.

With our Nehantic friends, as well as Lakota and other Indigenous partners, we affirm that we are all in this together, brothers and sisters of Spirit, dwelling under the same sky. What shall we do with the many gifts we have been given?