



The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme

**2 Ferry Road,
Old Lyme, Connecticut
(860) 434-8686
Website: www.fccol.org**

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Steven R. Jungkeit, Senior Minister
Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager, Senior Associate Minister
Carleen R. Gerber, Associate Minister
Simon Holt, Organist and Director

November 17, 2024

Worship Service

10:00 AM

Prelude

The Westminster Chimes and the Tolling of the Hour

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

*Processional Hymn: #102 “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

*Call to Worship:

Eternal Light, shine in our hearts;

Eternal Hope, lift up our eyes;

Eternal Power, be my support;

Eternal Wisdom, make us wise.

Let us worship God!

*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn: #491 “Eternal Light, Shine in My Heart”

Children’s Message

Allison Hine

Children’s Song: #364 “This Little Light of Mine”

(Children proceed downstairs. Congregation remains seated.)

Offering Invitation

Offertory Anthem: **“Come Quickly, Lord”**

by Anne McNair (born 1954)

*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: “As We Are Gathered”

The image shows a musical score for a Pastoral Prayer Response. It consists of three 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 first system is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the lyrics: 'As we are gathered, Je - sus is here; one with each'. The second system is labeled 'Fine' and contains the lyrics: 'oth - er, Je - sus is here. Joined by the Spir - it'. The third system is labeled 'to Refrain' and contains the lyrics: 'built up in love, part of the bod - y, the church of God.' The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and clear melodic lines.

Scripture: Matthew 16: 1-4, Mark 13: 33, Colossians 4: 2-5

Sermon: “Let Us Not Talk Falsely Now”

Rev. Dr. Steven R. Jungkeit

Closing Hymn: #463 “Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed”

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.

Scripture Readings

Matthew 16: 1-4

The Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test Jesus they asked him to show them a sign from heaven. He answered them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’ And in the morning, ‘It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times (the kairos). An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.” Then he left them and went away.

Mark 13: 33

Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time (the kairos) will come.

Colossians 4: 2-5

Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray for us as well, that God will open to us a door for the word, that we may declare the mystery of Christ, for which I am in prison, so that I may reveal it clearly, as I should.

Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time (the kairos).

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: “Come Quickly, Lord” by Anne McNair (born 1954)

Come quickly, Lord, we wait for peace, come quickly Lord, may all conflict cease. We hear you whispering, we long to hear your full voice. We hear you calling gently, urging us to follow you. And when we follow you, will we find peace?

Lord, we wait for you. Are you here already? Guiding us, but we refuse to follow. Help us turn to you. Help us to follow you. Help us to love you. Help us live for you.

Come quickly, Lord, we wait for hope, come quickly Lord, in darkness we grope. We glimpse your beauty here, we long to view glorious realms, where all reside in light that you provide to guide our paths. And when we walk in light, will we find hope?

Lord, we wait for you. Are you here already? Guiding us, but we refuse to follow. Help us turn to you. Help us to follow you. Help us to love you. Help us live for you.

Come quickly, Lord, we wait for love, come quickly, Lord, descend from above. We feel your presence here, we long to dwell in your grace. O Christ now come to bear our burdens, showing us the way. And when we dwell in you will we find love?

Come quickly, Lord, we wait for joy, come quickly, Lord, our talents employ. We know the gifts you give, we long to use them for you. Help us ease pain, and when we do your work, will we find joy? Come quickly, Lord, we wait.

*The flowers are given this morning by Betsey Webster
in loving memory of Bob Webster.*

The hosts for the Fellowship Hour this morning are the Clark Family.

The nursery is open today with Miss Tiffany Goss.

Events and Meeting

Adult Forum / Climate Change TODAY, after the 10:00 am service in the Meetinghouse.

New Members Orientation TODAY, after the Adult Forum in the Library.

Ladies Who Stitch Monday, November 18th at 10:00 am in the Sheffield Auditorium.

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

Ballroom Dancing Wednesday, November 20th at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Grief Group Wednesday, November 20th at 5:30 pm in Hoag Parlor.

Handbell Ringers Rehearsal Wed, November 20th at 6:30 pm in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Senior Choir Rehearsal Wednesday, November 20th at 7:30 pm in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Bible Study Thursday, November 21st at 11:00 am in the Hoag Parlor.

Board of Stewardship Meeting Thursday, November 21st at 4:00 pm in the Library.

Writers at the Well Friday November 22nd at 10:00 am in the Hoag Parlor.

Newsletter Folding Friday, November 22nd at 1:00 pm in the Library.

Shoreline Food Pantry Saturday, November 23rd at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Coming Soon...

New Members Sunday November 24th at the 10:00 am service in the Meetinghouse.

Community Thanksgiving Service Tuesday, Nov.26th at 7:00 pm in the Meetinghouse.

Church Holiday Decorating Friday, November 29th, see Sean McCarty for more details.

Adult Forum TODAY November 17th after the 10:00 am service. Tom Sherer will present *Climate is Changing - What Can We Do?*

New Members Orientation TODAY after the Adult Forum in the Library. Join us to learn more about what it means to go deeper in the FCCOL community.

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.*”

Community Thanksgiving Service November 26th, 2024 at 7:00 pm

All are welcome to join us for our Community Service of Thanksgiving on Tuesday, November 26th at 7:00 pm at The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme featuring choirs from St. Ann’s Episcopal Church and The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme under the direction of Simon Holt, Music Director at The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme.

Our Youth Group will be serving at the New London Community Meal Center, Nov 24th. Meeting at the church by 3:30 to serve from 4:00 -6:00pm. We still have space for two more volunteers. Contact Jolene, if you would like to volunteer 860-460-9511.

Environmental Committee field trip to Judge's Farm Wednesday, Nov 20 @ 1:30

Here is another opportunity to see what a sustainable future can look like! Judge's is in our own backyard, created by community members Matt and Martin Griswold. They are a wholesale farm that aims to be net zero for energy usage, and also are newly providing native plants in their offerings. I believe it's important to see what is possible, and how such a forward looking endeavor can produce a thriving business while caring for creation. Space is limited to 20. If you would like to come, please email me at MarietteTB98@gmail.com.

Our 2025 Stewardship Campaign is progressing well. Thanks to 178 of our members and friends we have received commitments for the 2025 campaign of \$455,567 or 76% of this year’s goal of \$600,000 and 350 contributors. This is a great start. However, it is important that we reach our goal. Individual contributions account for over three-quarters of the funds the church needs to fund our staff, property and benevolence giving each year. So, if you have not already sent in your commitment card for 2025, please call the church office (860-434-8686). The

Board of Stewardship will also be sending out reminders shortly. Please respond as generously as you are able. With gratitude from your Board of Stewardship.

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.

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.

Additional option for making online contributions. For several years there has been the option on the church's website Donate Page to make contributions by credit card. There is now an additional option to have funds transferred from your checking account. We hope this new option will make it easier for some to send in their contributions. Thank you to EVERYONE who supports our church financially!

Also, to make it easier to access the Donate page, just scan this image with your phone!



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 acknowledgment 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?