



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

December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM

Prelude

Introit: **“Matin Responary”** adapted from a Magnificat by G.P. da Palestrina (1525-1594)

*Processional Hymn: #116 “People, Look East”

*Call to Worship:

Praise God, who deep within us sings

A song of hope for unseen things

‘Til every creature feels its worth

And justice reigns in all the earth.

Come let us gather in and seek the God who waits for us.

*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Wreath Lighting: The Candle of Hope

Sim, Claire and Menzi Mbele

Hymn: #115 “Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People”

(During the hymn children and youth will leave for Sunday School.)

Offering Invitation

Offertory Anthem: **“Creator of the Stars of Night”**

by 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.

*Offering Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Pastoral Prayer Response: "Come 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 (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. 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!". The score includes various musical notations such as chords, stems, and beams.

Scripture: Psalm 25:1-6, Daniel 6:6-27

Sermon: "Hello Courage"

Rev. Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager

Closing Hymn: #114 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (use lyrics as below)

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel Refresh us at your life-giving well.
All people long to feel your grace, Pour out your Spirit on every place.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to thee wherever you may dwell.
2. O come to us, our Everlasting Home, Your people lost and broken, roam,
And seek a place of welcome and peace, From war and violence, may they know
release.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to thee wherever you may dwell.
3. O come Beloved, hear your peoples' plea The wounded soul, the homeless refugee.
May 'Welcome' be our own heart's call, 'Till there be room and justice for us all.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to thee wherever you may dwell.

(Words by Juanita L. Austin – Nov. 29 2017)

Benediction

Benediction Response

Postlude

**Congregation Standing*

Scripture Readings

Psalm 25:1-6

In you, my God, I put my trust.

I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame,
but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause.

Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.

Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

Remember your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.

Daniel 6:6-23

New International Version

So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: “May King Darius live forever! The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions’ den. Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.” So King Darius put the decree in writing. Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem.

Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: “Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions’ den?” The king answered, “The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.” Then they said to the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day.” When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.

Then the administrators went as a group to King Darius and said to him, “Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed.” So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!”

A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel’s situation might not be changed. Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep. At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions’ den. When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?” Daniel answered, “May the king live forever! My God sent an angel, and the angel shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was

found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.” The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in God.

Luke 21:25-28

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Child of Humanity’ coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Choir Anthems Today

Introit: “Matin Responary” adapted from a Magnificat by G.P. da Palestrina (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.

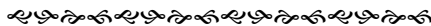
Offertory Anthem: “Creator of the Stars of Night” by Malcolm Archer (born 1952)

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.



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.

*The flowers today are offered with love and appreciation for the lives of
Nancy A. Higgins and her daughter, Nancy B. McIndoe.*

The host for the Fellowship Hour this morning is Ellen Calkins.

The nursery is open today with Miss Tiffany Goss.

Events and Meeting

FCCOL Science Discussion Group TODAY at 11:30 am after the service in Hoag Parlor.

Ladies Who Stitch Monday, December 2nd at 10:00 am in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Glenn Formica Meeting Tuesday, December 3rd at 7:00 pm in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Sally Aubrey Memorial Service Wednesday, December 4th at 11:00 am in the Meetinghouse.

Board of Missions Meeting Wednesday, December 4th at 4:00 pm in the Library.

Old Lyme Ringers Rehearsal Wednesday, December 4th at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Senior Choir Rehearsal Tuesday, December 4th at 5:30 pm in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Bible Study Thursday, December 5th at 11:00 am in the Library.

Board of Stewardship Meeting Thursday, December 5th at 4:00 pm in the Library.

Church Council Meeting Thursday, December 5th at 7:00 pm in the Library.

Jane Stubenbord Memorial Service Friday, December 6th at 1:00pm in the Meetinghouse.

Food Pantry and Diaper Bank Saturday, December 7th at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Musical Masterworks Concerts Sat, Dec. 7 at 5:00 pm and Sun, Dec. 8th at 3:00 pm.

Sunday Worship Service and Adult Forum following with Dr. Mazin Qumsiyeh and Dr.

Mark Braverman Sunday, December 8th at 10:00 am in the Meetinghouse.

A Brown Bag Lunchtime Bible Study with Mark Braverman Monday, December 9th at 12:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you! Friday's "Turkey Trot" event in Lyme raised \$400 for the Shoreline Soup Kitchen. Many thanks to all who contributed.

Copies of the "**Meditation for the Thanksgiving Service**" by Rev. Carleen Gerber are available in the vestibule and online at <https://fccol.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-11-26-Thanksgiving-meditation-by-Rev.Carleen-Gerber.pdf>

Immigration and the Coming Deportations:

A Meeting with **Glenn Formica**, immigration attorney on Tuesday, December 3, 7:00 PM in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Many among us are concerned about the mass deportation of immigrants promised by the incoming administration. How will this affect those we know in our communities? How will this affect the friends that FCCOL has assisted in their own immigration journeys? How will this affect the state of Connecticut, and the U.S. more broadly?

Glenn Formica is an immigration attorney working in New Haven, and a long time friend of FCCOL. He guided us through our Sanctuary process, and worked with us on many other cases as well. He's been following developments in immigration policy carefully, and strategizing for the struggle ahead.

Join us for this conversation with Glenn, as we hear his insights, and think about how FCCOL might respond to the deep human needs around us.

Diaper Bank First Saturday of Every Month

The diaper bank inventory is low. We are in need of sizes 4, 5, and 6. Any donation: package or case, is greatly appreciated. Consider adding diapers to your Xmas list. Thank you, on behalf of our babies and toddlers who receive these items. Diapers can be left at or near the food pantry box at the top of the basement stairs.

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. In person and on Zoom. Our companion book this fall will be "*Reading Genesis*" by Marilynne Robinson. Our last session before Christmas will be on December 12th.

Zoom link: Meeting ID: 872 4715 9042, Passcode: 039076

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87247159042?wd=xKhyjFSzCLRrhqTGbw6lB3Qvx0Navg.1>

Musical Masterworks will be presenting 2 concerts at FCCOL Saturday, December 7th at 5:00 pm and Sunday, December 8th at 3:00 pm in the Meetinghouse. Tickets can be purchased at <https://musicalmasterworks.org/concerts/december-7-8-2024/>

Sunday Flowers

We're scheduling members and friends who would like to provide pulpit flowers for odd Sundays. 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.

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK AT FCCOL

Friday, December 13th from 6:00 - 8:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
At the same time all young people are invited to a PJ's party with hot chocolate, pizza and a movie in the Sheffield Auditorium.

A QUIET CHRISTMAS SERVICE TO LIGHT UP THE DARKNESS

Tuesday, December 17th at 6:30pm.

For those of us desiring a more contemplative and meditative Christmas, please join us for a quiet Advent service of music, prayer and candle lighting in the name of healing and peace for one another and the world. Featuring the wonderful woodwind quintet, Elm City Winds, from New Haven.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 22nd at 10:00 AM

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Tuesday, December 24th:

THE LIVING MANGER

5:00 pm Service for families with young children

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

8:00 PM and 10:00 PM Services

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, December 25th
the church will be open for prayer and meditation.

EPIPHANY SERVICE AND BRUNCH

Sunday, January 5th at 10:00 am
in celebration of 3 Kings Day