

Reproduction of a 19th Century Wood Engraving, found in "Walter Cranes Painting Book" 1889.

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 29, 2024

Worship Service

10:00 AM

Prelude

*Processional Hymn: #136 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

*Call to Worship:

O Christ, how shall we meet you, how welcome you aright?

Your people long to greet you, our hope, our heart's delight.

O kindle, Lord, most holy, a lamp within our breast,

To do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

Come and worship, Come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.

*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

Sacrament of Baptism

Hymn: "I Saw Three Ships"

see page 5

Scripture Reading: Psalm 30:5b

Weeping may linger for the night, But joy comes with the morning.

A Christmas Reading: The Ghost Ships, by Angela Carter, Part I

Offering Invitation

Offertory Music:

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

Scripture Reading: Psalm 30:11

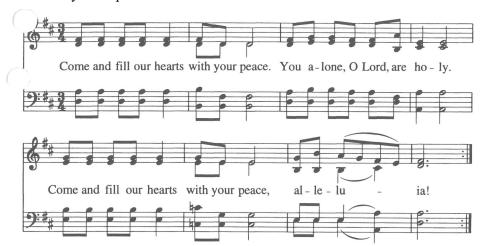
You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,

A Christmas Reading: The Ghost Ships, by Angela Carter, Part II

Hymn: #41 "The First Nowell"

Pastoral Prayer

Pastoral Prayer Response: "Come and Fill Our Hearts"



Scripture Reading: Luke 2:7

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:10

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."

A Christmas Reading: The Ghost Ships, by Angela Carter, Part III

Hymn: #158 "Good Christians All, Rejoice"

Benediction

Postlude

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.

^{*}Congregation Standing

Scripture Readings

Psalm 30:5b

Weeping may linger for the night, But joy comes with the morning.

Psalm 30:11

You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,

Luke 2:7

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Matthew 2:10

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."



This morning we are pleased to celebrate the baptism of Martín José Berrendero, son of Cassandra A. Algar and José Manuel Berrendero Tovar.



The hosts for the Fellowship Hour this morning are Susan and Wayne Mountz.

The nursery is open today with Miss Tiffany Goss.



Events and Meetings

White Elephant Sale Meeting Monday, December 30th at 6:00 pm in Hoag Parlor.

The FCCOL Office will be closed Wednesday, January 1st.

ARC Blood Drive *Thursday, January 2nd from 1:00 pm -6:00pm,* in the Fellowship Hall.

Food Pantry and Diaper Bank Saturday, January 4th at 8:30 am in Fellowship Hall.

Three Kings Worship Service and Fellowship Festivities Sunday January 5th at 10:00 am.

Ladies Who Stitch Monday, January 6th at 10:00am in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Save These Dates

Children's Handbell Ringers Rehearsal *Wednesday, Jan. 8th at 4:15 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

ACLU Town Hall Thursday, January 9th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Adult Forum with Christine Palm, How to Move the Needle Toward Justice in Hartford Sunday, January 12th at 11:15am in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Church Annual Meeting Sunday, January 26th at 11:15 am in the Meetinghouse

Bible Study Goodness, Greed and Grace: Journeys through Genesis and Exodus Bible Study will resume on Thursday, January 16th at 11:00am.

Reading the South African Kairos Document

Beginning on Thursday, January 16, members and friends are invited to gather for a reading and study group of the South African Kairos Document. Written at the height of the apartheid struggles in South Africa in 1985, this brief theological statement remains stunningly relevant. We'll meet every Thursday at 12:00 noon, in the Hoag Parlor, immediately after the weekly Bible study. Copies of the Document will be available in the church Narthex, on the table at the bottom of the stairs between the Meetinghouse and the Fellowship Hall, and in the church office.

Sunday Flowers

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

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 Christmas 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.

A Note from the Treasurer:

As we approach the end of the year, we hope that everyone will be able to satisfy their pledge commitments for 2024. Almost a year ago we reluctantly had to present a deficit budget to the congregation since our projected income was not forecast to cover expected expenses. As always, and especially this year, additional contributions are welcome and needed. Early in December we mailed the 2024 contributions statements to ensure our records match yours. Please call Julie or me in the church office (860-434-8686) with any questions or concerns. Thanks to all who faithfully support our church!

Adult Forum Sunday January 12th: How to Move the Needle Toward Justice in Hartford

Christine Palm served six years as a CT state representative. While there, she was responsible for initiating and leading to passage many bills that mirror the social justice agenda of our church community. She is passionate about protecting the environment, supporting women's rights, gun safety, education, civil rights, etc. On January 12th she will lead us through an exciting power point program she developed to help citizens like us be more effective in Hartford. Christine will ever be remembered for tagging the omnibus climate bill #5004 "the Green Monster." Fans of Fenway Park know that monster. Through her leadership it was raised and passed by the house. With our help this year it could get raised again and come through both chambers. Come and learn how your voice in Hartford can influence the quality of life we aspire to in Connecticut.

Old Lyme Meeting

Several of our members have been active in a plan to make some changes in the layout of the Halls Road business area. There is an important hearing that is critical to the progress of this work which will be held on Monday, January 13th at 6:30 in the Old Lyme Town Hall. This is perhaps mostly pertinent to residents of Old Lyme, though the shopping district is an important part of our region. The meeting is public.

ACLU Civil Rights Town Hall in Old Lyme

On Thursday, January 9, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Connecticut will hold a town hall at the First Congregation Church of Old Lyme (FCCOL) entitled "Civil Rights Town Hall: Implications of a Second Trump Administration."

Legal, policy and communications experts from the ACLU of CT will outline how the organization plans to use every tool at its disposal – litigation, advocacy and grassroots organizing – to protect civil rights and discuss the critical role Connecticut residents can play.

The experts will also take questions from the audience and facilitate a robust conversation on protecting the civil liberties most likely to be targeted by the incoming administration, including: Free speech and the right to assemble, Immigrants' rights, Reproductive rights and bodily autonomy, LGBTQIA+ rights, Voting rights, Criminal legal system, Government surveillance

The individuals expected to be on hand from the ACLU include:

Jaclyn Blickley, Staff Attorney (panelist/speaker), Jess Zaccagnino, Policy Counsel (panelist/speaker), Bethany Rae Perryman, Director of Communications (panelist/speaker) Logan Marshall, Director of Philanthropy (moderator).

The evening will be hosted by Greg Melville, Susan Fox and Ned Farman.

To attend the town hall, please RSVP here.

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aclu-of-connecticut-civil-rights-town-hall-old-lyme-tickets-1090070934509