

Feb 11, 2024



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 D. Holt, Director of Music

February 11, 2024

10:00 AM

Prelude

Introit: “**Bell Peal on *Lasst Uns Erfreuen***” arr. Linda R. Lamb
Old Lyme ringers (*All Creatures of Our God and King*)

*Processional Hymn: #330 “You Are Called to Tell the Story”

*Call to Worship:

Let us open ourselves to transfigured moments of healing,
of hope,
of possibility.

**Let us recognize the holy in every face
In every creature
and in the beauty around us.**

Step by step, may we reflect the Love that transforms all things.
In that spirit, let us worship God.

*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

*Hymn: #354 “Lord, We Would be Instruments of Loving Service”

Children’s Message

Mr. Kevin Booker, Jr.

Hymn: #364 “This Little Light of Mine”

(First verse only, as children proceed downstairs. Congregation remains seated.)

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Anthem: *O God, our help in ages past*

Alan Hovhaness

*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

Pastoral Prayer Response: *Hear Our Prayer*

The image shows a musical score for a pastoral prayer response. It consists of four staves. The top two staves are for the vocal line, and the bottom two are for the piano accompaniment. 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 music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and clear rhythmic patterns.

Scripture: Isaiah 40:28-31; Mark 9:2-11

Elsbeth Dowd

Sermon: **Up and Down the Mountain: On Praying with Our Feet**

Rev. Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager

Special music: "A Change is Gonna Come" by Sam Cooke sung by Ms. Nekita Waller

*Hymn: #445 "Be Thou My Vision"

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: “Bell Peal on *Lasst Uns Erfreuen*”** arr. Linda R. Lamb  
(*All Creatures of Our God and King*)

**Offertory Anthem: *O God, our help in ages past*** by Alan Hovhaness

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home. Before the hills in order stood or earth received her frame, from everlasting Thou art God, to endless years the same. A thousand ages in Thy sight are like an evening gone, short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun. Time, like an ever-rolling stream bears all its sons away; they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, be Thou our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home. Amen.

## Scripture Readings

### Isaiah 40: 28-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the Everlasting One,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
God does not faint or grow weary;  
God's understanding is unsearchable.  
God gives power to the faint,  
And strengthens the powerless.  
Even youths will faint and be weary,  
And the young will fall exhausted:  
But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint.

### Mark 9:2-11 (NRSVUE)

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one on earth could brighten them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean.

*We're grateful Ms. Nekita Waller for the gift of her singing during our service today. Nekita's diverse musical journey has taken her through chorus groups, musical theater, Hartt School of Music, Gospel in church, and mentoring and performing with many independent artists.*

*Nekita has shared the stage with artists, B.B. King, Ruben Studdard and Dianne Reeves. She has performed on the Steve Harvey Radio Show and has been heard on more than 60 radio stations and by approximately six million weekly listeners. Nekita is also an experienced studio session artist as a recording artist, lending her vocal talent on projects with Grammy and Emmy award-winning producers. She and her family live in Bloomfield, Ct.*

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The flowers this morning given in loving memory of Robert Webster.
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*The host for the Fellowship Hour this morning is Barbara Macgregor.*  
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The Nursery is open today with Miss Miriame.
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**Mardi Gras Breakfast TODAY:** Today we are having our delicious Mardi Gras pancake breakfast with waffle bar, hosted by JPF and SPF youth group. This is a fundraiser for the "Walking in Their Footsteps Civil Rights Learning Trip" in April. The kitchen opened at 7am and brunch will be served during coffee hour! Please join us for this fun event after church! All donations are graciously accepted and appreciated.

**Church World Service Blanket Drive:** When a series of deadly tornadoes swept across Tennessee and neighboring states in December of last year and temperatures dipped below freezing, CWS blankets were immediately distributed. The wool blankets are warm, water-resistant and flame-retardant. They are appreciated by people who have lost everything due to floods and wildfires. Each blanket costs only \$10. Please make checks **payable to LBS.** CWS envelopes are available in the pews and may be put in the offering plates or sent to FCCOL, 2 Ferry Road, Old Lyme, 06371 c/o LBS.

**Interested in Confirmation?** Confirmation classes for 1st, 2nd or 3rd year high school students have begun. Classes will meet January-May and include field trips, films and a service project. Confirmation is offered every other year. For more information or if you would like to be a mentor, please contact Laura at 860-304-9096 or [lfitz.nager@gmail.com](mailto:lfitz.nager@gmail.com).

**Soup Bowl Supper - Save the date!** The Soup Bowl Supper makes its triumphant return on Friday, March 8th, 5:00-7:00 pm. Choose from an assortment of amazing handcrafted bowls donated by Walt's Pottery and friends. Enjoy delicious homemade soups and donate to a great cause! Proceeds will go toward the church's food pantry and food ministry programs. We hope you'll join us!

**Walking in their Footsteps:** A 5-day Civil Rights Learning Trip for Teens during April vacation from April 6th-11th. 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). Our next planning meeting will be on February 25th in the Library following the service.

**Bible Study:** Bible Study meets on Thursdays, 11am-12pm in the library. Available also on Zoom. All are welcome!

The Bible is chock full of legendary characters, strange plot twists, tricksters and thieves, mystics and musicians as well as the horror and the holy within its pages. How does it all end up and what's love got to do with it? We're making our way through Genesis and someday we'll get to the book of Revelation. Join us!

**The Way of the Cross:** From February 14-21, clergy and leaders from African American congregations have organized a March to demand an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. The March will begin on Ash Wednesday, when people of faith have historically received ashes in the shape of a cross upon their foreheads, a commitment to follow Jesus toward Jerusalem during Lent. That will take on new meaning this year, as the March commences that day at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. It will conclude a week later in Washington, D.C, proceeding in stages day by day. There is an open call for all of those who are committed to human rights for Palestinians to attend, or to otherwise support the effort. The ministers are exploring this opportunity, and are making plans to attend at least part of the March. Further details and information can be found at [pilgrimageforpeace.org](http://pilgrimageforpeace.org). Stay tuned for more information as we learn what this might entail.

**Dante Returns! *The Preparation Begins on Sunday, February 25, at 11:30am*** in the Sheffield Auditorium with a lecture from Prof. Peter Hawkins, professor emeritus of religion and literature at Yale Divinity School. While he is unable to be with us in person, he will be offering a presentation via Zoom. As he did last year, Peter will help us to understand the contours of the *Purgatorio*, and to connect it to our own lived experiences. We will have the opportunity at that time to sign up to be readers of individual cantos on Maundy Thursday.

On Maundy Thursday, March 28th, we will continue our exploration of Dante's *Divine Comedy*, making the arduous ascent up Mt. Purgatory. Beginning at 7 PM, and continuing until we're done, we'll read the entirety of the *Purgatorio* canto by canto.

**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.

**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!

**Book for Sale:** The book entitled “Accidental Activist” by our late friend and member Prue Allen is now for sale at Fellowship Coffee Hours after worship services. The book was self-published and funded by two of her friends. The price is \$50.00.

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

**LWS Monday, February 12th at 10:00 am** in Sheffield Auditorium.

**Senior Center Luncheon Tuesday, February 13th at 12:00 pm** in Fellowship Hall.

**Senior Center Luncheon Wednesday, February 14th at 12:00 pm** in Fellowship Hall.

**Ash Wednesday Service Wednesday February 14th at 6:30 pm** in the Meetinghouse

**Bell Ringers Wednesday, February 14th at 6:00 pm** in Fellowship Hall.

**Senior Choir Wednesday, February 14th at 7:30 pm** in Fellowship Hall.

**Bible Study Thursday, February 15th at 11:00 am** in the Library.

**Senior Center Luncheon Thursday, February 15th at 12:00 pm** in Fellowship Hall

**Food Pantry Saturday, February 17th, 8:30-10:30 am** in Fellowship Hall.

**Memorial Service for Joan Kratzert Sunday, February 18th at 1:00 pm**

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***Note:** The deadline for the March Newsletter is Friday, February 16th*

*Please submit articles in “Word” format and images as jpg files*