

## COMMUNION SERVICE

### INVITATION

### PRAYER OF OPEN HEARTS

May we turn again to you, O God, in ways that move us beyond ego to wholeness, beyond judgement to healing, beyond self-serving to generosity. May we know you in the whole of life, in both the blessings and the burdens of our lives. Heal our hurts and open our hearts this day as we return to love again. Amen.

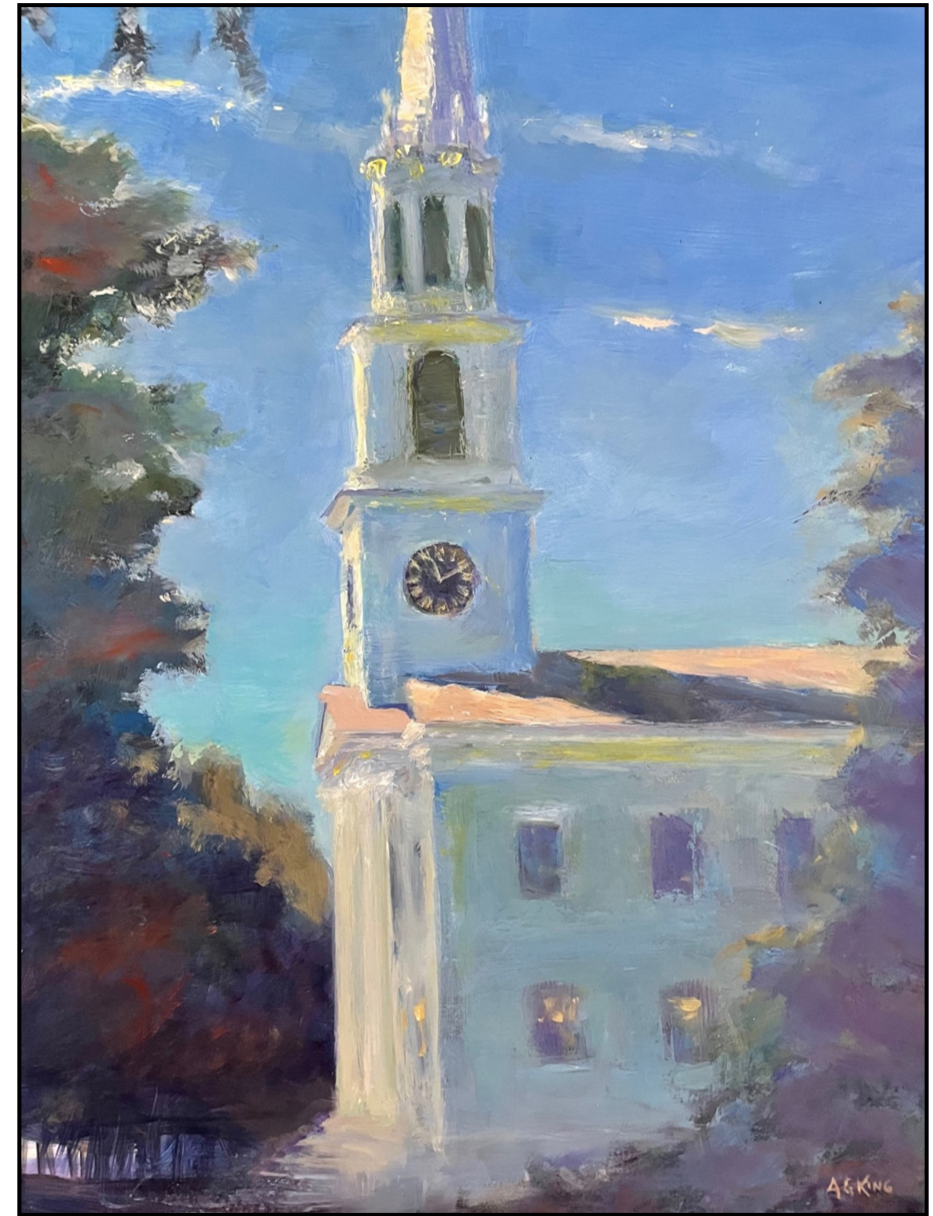
### BLESSING OF GRACE

### GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks, O God, for all who have gathered round this table. For the food and cup of blessing which delight and nourish us and for companionship that sustains us. May we know the fullness of your presence at every meal and in all our sharing this day and always, AMEN.

*It is the practice of this church to serve grape juice in our communion service.  
Bread is gluten-free.*



**The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme**  
**2 Ferry Road**  
**Old Lyme, Connecticut**  
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Website: [www.fccol.org](http://www.fccol.org)



*Flowers this morning given in loving memory of Robert Webster.*

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

*The Nursery is open today with Miss Miriame.*

**Mardi Gras Breakfast:** Our SPF and JPF will be holding a Mardi Gras breakfast on Sunday, February 11th from 8:30am up to and through Fellowship Hour. The breakfast will serve as a fundraiser for the “Walking in Their Footsteps Civil Rights Learning Trip” in April. All donations are graciously accepted and appreciated.

**Church World Service Blanket Drive:** During February and March, the Ladies Benevolent Society collects the annual offering for the CWS Blanket Drive. In 2023 blankets were distributed throughout the country to people who were affected by tornadoes, hurricanes, severe flooding and wildfires. The CWS warehouse stocks were rapidly depleted and generous donations are urgently needed to replenish the inventory. Each blanket costs only \$10. Please make checks payable to LBS, indicating in the memo line "Blanket Drive." CWS envelopes are available in the pews and can be put in the offering plate or sent to FCCOL, 2 Ferry Road, Old Lyme, CT 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).

**Save the Date.** Walking in their Footsteps: A Civil Rights Learning Trip for Teens during April vacation from April 6th - 11th. This is a 5-day journey. 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, 11-12 am 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!

Pastoral Prayer Response: *Eat This Bread*

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Eat This Bread". It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment line on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev-er be hun-gry. Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst." The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Scripture: Exodus 20: 18-21; John 1: 1-9

Sermon: **The Thick Darkness...Where God Was**

Rev. Dr. Steven R. Jungkeit

Hymn: #311 "Let Us Break Bread Together"

Sacrament of Communion (*back page*)

Hymn: #395 "We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness"

Benediction

Benediction Response

Postlude

*\*Congregation Standing*

## Choir Anthems Today

**Introit:** *Praise we the name of the Lord* by J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Praise we the name of the Lord most holy, praise Him with songs of great joy! Let His be the honor, let His be the glory and thanks!

**Offertory Anthem:** *They that wait upon the Lord* by Douglas E. Wagner (born 1952)

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up their wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint.

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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.*

## Scripture Readings

**Exodus 20: 18-21**

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance 19 and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen, but do not let God speak to us, lest we die." 20 Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin." 21 Then the people stood at a distance, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

**John 1: 1-9**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.