



Shining Hope by Lauren Wright Pittman, 2016

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

January 5, 2025

Worship Service

10:00 AM

Prelude

Introit: **“We Three Kings”**

arr. Mitchell Eithun

Handbell Quartet: Annie McCarty, Sean McCarty, Gary Jungkeit, Pat Jungkeit

Piano: Rachael Jungkeit

*Processional Hymn: #162 **“We Three Kings of Orient Are”**

*Call to Worship:

In this, the time of the year when night is longest,

We gaze into the darkness,

Discerning beams of light that will guide us.

As the magi followed the star in search of wisdom,

We too journey through the night,

Trusting that our search leads toward life, toward hope, toward love.

Let us worship God!

*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn: #160 **“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”**

Children's Message

Sean McCarty

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

(Children proceed downstairs. Congregation remains seated.)

Offering Invitation

Offertory Anthem: **“Behold a Star from Jacob Shining”**

by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

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: “Spirit of the Living God ”

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me; Spir - it of the
liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me,
use me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Scripture: Matthew 2: 1-12, I John 4: 1, 16-21

Sermon: “Not Every Spirit: The Power of Discernment”

Rev. Dr. Steven Jungkeit

Closing Hymn: #163 “All Poor Ones and Humble”

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 2: 1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea.”

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

I John 4: 1, 16-21

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, “I love God,” and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Old Lyme Handbell Ringers

Introit: *“We Three Kings”*

arr. Mitchell Eithun

Handbell Quartet: Annie McCarty, Sean McCarty, Gary Jungkeit, Pat Jungkeit

Piano: Rachael Jungkeit

Choir Anthems

Offertory Anthem: **“Behold a star from Jacob Shining”** by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Behold a star from Jacob shining, and a scepter from Israel rising. To reign in glory over the nations. Like some bright morning star is he, the promise of the coming day, beyond the night of sorrow. Break forth, O Light! We, our joyful hearts uplifting with thanksgiving, hail the brightness of Thy rising.

The host for the Fellowship Hour this morning is Lee Carpenter.

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*The nursery is open today with Miss Tiffany Goss.*  
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Events and Meetings

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

Old Lyme Ringers Rehearsal *Wednesday, January 8th at 6:30 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

Senior Choir Rehearsal *Wednesday, January 8th at 7:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Children's Handbell Ringers Rehearsal *Thursday, January 9th at 4:15 pm*
in the Sheffield Auditorium.

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

Taking Down the Greens *Friday, January 10th at 11:00 am* contact Sean at 860-710-8414.

Food Pantry *Saturday, January 11th at 8:30 am* in Fellowship Hall.

Judy Simmons Memorial Service *Saturday, January 11th at 2:00 pm*
Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Coming Soon...

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

Bible Study will resume on *Thursday, January 16th at 11:00am* in Hoag Parlor.

The Kairos Document Reading *Thursday, January 16th at 12:00pm* in Hoag Parlor.

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

Church Annual Meeting Sunday, January 26th after Worship Service.

ACLU Civil Rights Town Hall in Old Lyme

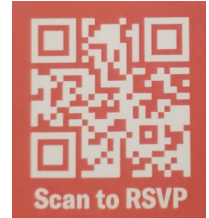
On Thursday, January 9, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Connecticut will hold a town hall at the First Congregation Church of Old Lyme (FCCOL) entitled “Civil Rights Town Hall: Implications of a Second Trump Administration.”

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 evening will be hosted by Greg Melville, Susan Fox and Ned Farman. To attend the town hall, please scan the QR code.



The Meetinghouse Christmas Tree...

The tree will be coming down this week. We are grateful to everyone who helped with the donations of socks and coffee for the Homeless Hospitality Center of New London. Their request for canes (used canes are just fine!) will continue. Please bring them to church and leave them with the deacons at the front door if you have one to donate; or bring it to the church office during the week. Many thanks.

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.

Bible Study Goodness, Greed and Grace: Journeys through Genesis and Exodus

Bible Study will resume on Thursday, January 16th at 11:00am. In person and on Zoom. Our companion book this fall will be “*Reading Genesis*” by Marilynne Robinson. Email: fccol@fccol for the zoom link.

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.

Stair Chair Available

A stair chair has been donated to any one in need of one. Please contact Ellen Calkins for more information at ercalkins@gmail.com.

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.

It is a privilege to have all we need; for our guests, it is a struggle. The Diaper Bank is an ever present reminder of good works in action; and also the inequities seen in towns like Old Lyme that are being met in a direct way.

Petition to State legislators supporting environmental efforts

If you are interested in information or want to sign the CT Coalition for Climate Action petition from the Inter-religious Eco-Justice Network, cut and paste the link below.

<https://irejn.org/sign-the-ct-coalition-for-climate-action-petition/>

-from Facing the Future, (aka the committee on the Environment)

Year-End Note from the Treasurer

2024 marked another year of remarkable generosity of our congregation. We have received 95% of pledge commitments. This, combined with other contributions and special gifts in addition to pledges, will allow us to close the 2024 books in balance. Contributions from our members and friends are vital. Your support permits us to continue our missions and ministries of worship, music, Christian education, pastoral care and community and mission outreach, and keeps our property in excellent shape. **THANK YOU!**

Help for Counting the Offerings Needed.

We have several money-counting teams that count and record the worship service offerings each week. This is a great help to our bookkeeper and is good financial procedure to keep the tasks separate. We now need several more volunteers so that we can have four teams, with each only having to count once per month. If you are interested please contact Jody Belluzzi (201-314-1051) or Sandy Sims (860-964-0321). Thanks!

The Many Wines

God has given us a dark wine so potent that,
drinking it, we leave the two worlds.

God has put into the form of hashish a power
to deliver the taster from self-consciousness.

God has made sleep so that
it erases every thought.

There are thousands of wines
that can take over our minds.

Don't think all ecstasies
are the same!

Jesus was lost in his love for God.
His donkey was drunk with barley.

Drink from the presence of saints,
not from those other jars.

Every object, every being,
is a jar full of delight.

Be a connoisseur,
and taste with caution.

Any wine will get you high.
Judge like a king, and choose the purest,
the ones unadulterated with fear,
or some urgency about "what's needed."

Drink the wine that moves you
as a camel moves when it's been untied,
and is just ambling about.

by Rumi (13th century)