



"Mango Tree in Front of the Church," by Oscar Mairena, Solentiname, Nicaragua, 1975.

The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme

**2 Ferry Road,
Old Lyme, Connecticut
(860) 434-8686
www.fccol.org**

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Steven R. Jungkeit, Senior Minister
Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager, Senior Associate Minister
Carleen R. Gerber, Associate Minister
Simon Holt, Director of Music

March 9, 2025

Sunday Worship Service

10:00 AM

Prelude

Introit: **“Blessed are They”**

by S.S. Wesley

*Processional Hymn: #448 “Lead On, O Cloud of Presence “

*Call to Worship: from Elias Chacour, *We Belong to the Land*

When I understand the Beatitudes in Aramaic, I translate them like this:

**Get up, go ahead, do something, move, you who are hungry and thirsty for justice,
for you shall be satisfied. Get up, go ahead, do something, move,
you peacemakers, for you shall be called children of God.**

We can hear Jesus say:

**“Get your hands dirty to build a human society for human beings;
otherwise, others will torture and murder the poor, the voiceless, and the powerless.”**

Christianity is not passive but active, energetic, alive, going beyond despair.

“Get up, go ahead, do something, move,” Jesus said to his disciples.

Let us worship God!

*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

*Hymn: #399 “From the Crush of Wealth and Power”

Children’s Message

Julie Martel

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

(Children proceed downstairs. Congregation remains seated.)

Offering Invitation

Offertory Anthem: **“The Lord is My Shepherd”**

by John Rutter

*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”

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "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." The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with clear lyrics.

Scripture: Mark 1: 9-13, Luke 4: 14-19

Sermon: “A Demonstration Plot for the Kingdom of God: Solentiname”

Rev. Dr. Steven Jungkeit

*Closing Hymn: #415 “When We Are Living”

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

Mark 1: 9-13

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him.

Luke 4: 14-19

Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Choir Anthems

Introit: "Blessed are They"

by S.S. Wesley

Text: Blessed are they that always keep judgment, and do righteousness. They always are blessed.

Offertory Anthem: "The Lord is My Shepherd"

by John Rutter

Text: The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing. He shall feed me in a green pasture, and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort. He shall convert my soul and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. For thou art with me: thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou shalt prepare a table for me against them that trouble me: Thou hast anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full. But thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

The flowers this morning are given in honor of all our travelers going to Cuba this week.

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*The hosts for the Fellowship Hour this morning are the Coppola Family.*

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

**Board of Adult Education Meeting** *TODAY at 11:15 am* in the Library.

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

**TBS Luncheon** *Tuesday, March 11th at 12:00pm* in the Fellowship Hall. (see back page)

**Pottery Class with Paul Nager** *Tues, March 11th from 6:00 – 8:30 pm* in the Pottery Studio.

**Board of Trustees Meeting** *Tuesday, March 11th at 7:00 pm* in the Library.

**Lenten Meditation: Praying with Art, the Stations of the Cross** *Wednesday, March 12th at 6:30 pm* in the Meetinghouse.

**Board of Missions Meeting** *Wednesday, March 12th at 4:00 pm* in the Library.

**Old Lyme Ringers Rehearsal** *Wednesday, March 12th at 6:30 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

**The Choir Rehearsal** *Wednesday, March 12th at 7:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Bible Study** *Thursday, March 13th at 11:00 am* in Hoag Parlor.

**The Kairos Document Reading** *Thursday, March 13th at 12:00 pm* in Hoag Parlor.

**ReBellion Rehearsal** *Thursday, March 13th at 4:15 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Shoreline Food Pantry** *Saturday, March 15th at 8:30 am* in Fellowship Hall.

**Transparent Group** *March 19th at 5:30 pm.*

**Lenten Meditation:** *Wednesday, March 12th, 6:30-7:30 pm in the meetinghouse. Praying with Art: The Stations of the Cross and the Solentamine Community in Nicaragua.*

Join us for quiet meditation on the paintings from the Solentamine Community in Nicaragua depicting the Stations of the Cross. We'll begin at 6:30 with "Visio Divina," (Latin for "divine seeing)," a form of meditative awareness and prayer using the paintings as a way to see with the eyes of our hearts. After a brief opening, participants are welcome to take their time with the paintings at their own pace.

**Church World Service Blanket Drive:** The heavyweight blankets are distributed to warming shelters, to people who have lost their jobs and live outside in the cold. Immigrants who arrive with nothing appreciate blankets and "welcome backpacks". Donations for blankets are urgently needed for the many disasters happening in countless areas of the country. Each blanket costs only \$10. Please make your check payable to LBS, indicating in the memo space "Blanket Drive." CWS envelopes are available in the pews and may be put in the offering plate or sent to FCCO c/o LBS.

**Saturday, March 22nd: Sharing Humanity Night** (Formerly "Box Night") **4:00 pm arrive and set up boxes/tents.** Our middle and high schoolers are invited to sleep overnight on the church lawn and also host a guest who will share their experience of being without shelter. We'll assemble toiletry kits for the Homeless Hospitality Center, share a meal and watch a movie together. The next morning, we'll have breakfast and attend church at 10:00 am to share our experience during the service. Our schedule: 4:00 pm arrive and set up boxes or tents. At 5:00 pm we will listen to a presentation by a guest who is experiencing or has experienced living without a home of their own, following that there will be time for questions and answers. At 6:30 pm help put together Blessing Bags for the Homeless Hospitality Center. Please bring donations of small toiletries, women's hygiene products, toothbrushes, floss, toothpaste, and socks. At 8:00 pm we will watch a movie, at 10:00 pm lights out. At 7:00 am wake up and wash in the bathroom, get dressed, brush teeth. At 8:00 am our youth will eat breakfast and write reflections of the experience. At the 10:00 am Church Service students will share their reflection of how it felt to walk in the footsteps of the unhoused.

**Adult Forum Presentation, Let's Get Together by the Wheel Life Theater Troupe**

From the Legacy Theater, Branford, CT. Sunday, March 23rd from 11:30-12:15. *Let's Get Together* is an original piece of devised theatre, written and performed by the Wheel Life participants. A show about the evolution of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the brave people in the '80s and '90s who brought it to pass, this entertaining and thought-provoking production boldly looks at how we can all "get together" to improve each other's quality of life -- today and always. Directed by Julie Fitzpatrick (Laura's sister).

## **Bible Study Goodness, Greed and Grace: We have started to read the book of Exodus.**

Bible Study continues every Thursday, at 11:00 am. In person and on Zoom.

Email: [fccol@fccol.org](mailto:fccol@fccol.org) for the zoom link.

## **Reading the South African Kairos Document**

Members and friends are invited to gather for a reading and study group of the South African Kairos Document with Steve. Written at the height of the apartheid struggles in South Africa in 1985, this brief theological statement remains stunningly relevant. We'll meet on Thursdays 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. Large format copies are available as well. Email: [fccol@fccol.org](mailto:fccol@fccol.org) for the zoom link.

## **Dante's *Paradiso* Reading Group**

In preparation for our Maundy Thursday ascent with Dante through the *Paradiso*, all are invited to gather on a series of Mondays leading up to Maundy Thursday. We'll read key portions of the *Paradiso* together, and discuss their significance. The adventure continues on Monday, March 24th at 6:30 PM in the Hoag Parlor. All translations are welcome, but we'll refer most often to the Hollander and the Palma translations.

The schedule is as follows: (no meetings on March 10 and 17 - Steve will be in Cuba), March 24, March 31, April 7, and April 14. No need to sign up. Just come if you're interested. There will also be a Zoom option. Call the office for the link.

**Nadine Pinede.** There are a few signed copies of her book "*When the Mapou Sings*" available in the FCCOL office for \$15.00.

**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 a room to rent for a period of time would be greatly appreciated.

**A Room to Rent** is available in the home of one of our church members. If you'd like more information, please give your contact information to Anne in the church office and she'll connect you with the home owner.

**Car Wanted:** Our caretaker, Bill Slivinski, is in need of a car. Please let us know if you can help. Call the office at 860-434-8686. Thank you!

## **The Benevolent Society Luncheon**

Stand up against the cold and icy snow of winter and come join us for some fellowship, delicious food, and an entertaining and heartwarming program at the Ladies Benevolent Society luncheon on Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> from noon to 2pm. Our chef will be serving a hearty meal of baked spiral ham, sweet potato & apple casserole and seasonal vegetable.....followed by gingerbread. What could be more perfect!

Our first luncheon program of the year begins at 1pm, and, well, here's a story for you! About ten years ago, letters were discovered here in Old Lyme and later gifted to the Old Lyme Historical Society. Based on these writings a children's book, Letters to Popa, was published in 2024. Edie Twining, who illustrated the book with computer designed watercolors and edited the text, will be speaking and presenting her illustrations. The book itself will be read aloud during the program by Mary Bradford.

Suggested donation for the luncheon and program is \$5 per person, plus a nonperishable food item for our food bank or a package of disposable diapers for our diaper bank. If you plan to join us at the luncheon, please call the FCCOL office at (860) 434-8686 to make a reservation so we can be sure to have enough food prepared for all to enjoy.

## **Walt's Pottery Class at FCCOL taught by Paul Nager**

Are you interested in throwing clay on the wheel and getting into some mud up to your elbows? Join instructor, Paul Fitzpatrick-Nager, on Tuesday evenings starting March 11<sup>th</sup> -April 8<sup>th</sup>! Open to adults of all levels. Tuesdays 6:00-8:30. Seats still available.

Cost \$175 plus materials (scholarships available)

Email [pfitz.nager@gmail.com](mailto:pfitz.nager@gmail.com) to register