



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 16, 2025

Sunday Worship Service

10:00 AM

Prelude

Introit: **“Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”** arr. Karen Lakey Buckwalter
Handbell Quartet: Gary and Pat Jungkeit, Annie and Sean McCarty
Rachael Jungkeit, piano

*Processional Hymn: #6 “Bring Many Names”

*Call to Worship: from T.S. Eliot’s “Four Quartets”

To arrive at where you are, to get from where you are not

You must go by a way wherein there is no ecstasy.

In order to arrive at what you do not know

You must go by a way which is the way of ignorance

In order to possess what you do not possess

You must go by the way of dispossession....

And what you do not know is the only thing you know...

The only wisdom we can hope to acquire

Is the wisdom of humility.

Humility is endless.

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

Allison Hine

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

(Children proceed downstairs. Congregation remains seated)

Offering Invitation

Offertory Anthem: **“Be Thou My Vision”** Irish folk melody arranged 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: “As We Are Gathered”

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "As We Are Gathered". It is written in G major and 4/4 time. The score consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: "As we are gathered, Je - sus is here; one with each oth - er, Je - sus is here. Joined by the Spir - it built up in love, part of the bod - y, the church of God." The first system is marked "Refrain" and ends with a "Fine" marking. The second system ends with a "to Refrain" marking. The third system is the final line of the hymn.

Scripture: Isaiah 54: 2&3, Matthew 25:31-40, *I Live My Life in Widening Circles*

Sermon: “Toward a Theology of Mission: The Big Tent, The Long Pole, and the Ever-Widening Circles”

Rev. Carleen R. Gerber

*Closing Hymn: “Draw the Circle Wide” (see the back cover)

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

Isaiah 54:2-3

Enlarge the site of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes.

For you will spread out to the right and to the left, and your descendants will possess the nations and will settle the desolate towns.

Matthew 25:31-40

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, O’ blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.’”

I Live My Life in Widening Circles

by Rainer Maria Rilke

I live my life in widening circles
that reach out across the world.
I may not ever complete the last one,
but I give myself to it.

I circle around God, that primordial tower.
I have been circling for thousands of years,
and I still don't know: am I a falcon,
a storm, or a great song?

Choir Anthems

Introit: “Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”

arr. Karen Lakey Buckwalter

Handbell Quartet: Gary and Pat Jungkeit, Annie and Sean McCarty
Rachael Jungkeit, piano

The handbell introit “Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service” is a meditation on Hymn #503 found in our hymnal.

Offertory Anthem: “Be Thou My Vision”

Irish folk melody arranged by John Rutter

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart, be all else but naught to me, save that thou art; be thou my best thought in the day and the night, both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.
Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word, be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord; be thou my great Father, and I thy true son; be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.
Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight; be thou my whole armor, be thou my true might; be

thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower: O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise: be thou mine inheritance now and always; be thou and thou only the first in my heart: O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun, O grant me its joys after victory is won; great heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

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*The flowers this morning are given in memory of Samuel Baez.*  
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The host for the Fellowship Hour this morning is Wendy Knight.
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*The nursery is open today with Miss Tiffany Goss.*  
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Events and Meetings

Postcard signing *following today's service* in the Fellowship Hall. (see note on next page)

Anglican Singers with Simon Holt *Today, March 16th at 5:00 pm*

St. James Episcopal Church, 76 Federal Street, New London.

Ladies Who Stitch *Monday, March 17th at 10:00 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Pottery Class with Paul Fitzpatrick-Nager *Tuesday and Wednesday, March 18th and 19th at 6 pm* in the Pottery Studio.

TransParent Group Meeting *Wednesday, March 19th at 7:00 pm* in the Library.

Newsletter Deadline *Wednesday, March 19th.*

Old Lyme Ringers Rehearsal *Wednesday, March 19th at 6:30 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

The Choir Rehearsal *Wednesday, March 19th at 7:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Bible Study *Thursday, March 20th at 11:00 am* in Hoag Parlor.

The Kairos Document Reading *Thursday, March 20th at 12:00 pm* in Hoag Parlor.

ReBellion Rehearsal *Thursday, March 20th at 4:15 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

Shoreline Food Pantry *Saturday, March 22nd at 8:30 am* in Fellowship Hall.

Youth Group Shared Humanity Night *Saturday, March 22nd arrive at 4:00 pm.*

Musical Masterworks Concerts *Saturday, March 22nd at 5:00 pm and Sunday and March 23rd at 3:00 pm* in the Meetinghouse.

Adult Forum Performance The Wheel Life Theater Troupe
Sunday, March 23rd at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Postcard Signing Today: A postcard writing table will be set up in Fellowship Hall after the service today. This is a National postcard writing campaign, to make your voice heard.

Church World Service Blanket Drive: The following poem speaks for itself.

What Difference Does a Blanket Make

by Sherry L. Burnes

"Being alone and wishing for security, Blanket, you are our comforter. Living hard, no home of our own, Blanket, you are our carpet, our towel, our tablecloth, and our cushion. Aching with fear and cold, Blanket, you are our warmth, our coat, our cover. Needing privacy, Blanket, you are our wall, our curtain, our shade. Knowing I can only take what I carry, Blanket you are my carrier, my travel companion, my helper. Evening time, black night, settles on our shoulders, Blanket, you are our shelter, our safety. Trusting - there are many who care, whose gifts travel far. Blanket, you are our lifeline: to the Lord and the people whose love you send." Each blanket costs only \$10. Please make checks payable to LBS. Special CWS envelopes are available in the pews and may be put in the offering plates or sent to FCCOL c/o LBS.

Saturday, March 22nd: Sharing Humanity Night (Formerly "Box Night") Arrive at 4:00 pm 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. **We are accepting donations of small toiletries, women's hygiene products, toothbrushes, floss, socks and toothpaste.**

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 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. Email: fccol@fccol.org for the zoom link.

FCCOL Moth Storytelling Night Potluck

Join us for a evening of good food, good friends, and good storytelling! We will meet in the FCCOL Fellowship Hall on Friday April 4th at 6:00 for a Potluck Dinner and to hear an assortment of short Moth-style stories. (Don't know what "Moth" is? Come and learn!)

Open to all - please bring a dish to share and a friend (no reservations necessary)!

Questions? Contact Tom Sherer: tesjr299@outlook.com

If you would like to help with the potluck setup/cleanup, please contact Deb Heminway: dheminway9@gmail.com

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 and the partnership store 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!

Caretaker Seeking Employment

Guili, who has worked with some of our families in the past, is seeking a fulltime, live-in, 24/7 caretaker position. She can be reached at 860-391-5691. References upon request .

Draw the Circle Wide

Slowly (♩ = ca. 57)

Draw the cir - cle, draw the cir - cle wide. Draw the

cir - cle, draw the cir - cle wide. No one stands a-lone, we'll stand side by

side. Draw the cir - cle, draw the cir - cle wide. Draw the

cir - cle wide, draw it wid - er still. Let this be our song: no one stands a-lone.

Stand - ing side by side, draw the cir - cle, draw the cir - cle wide.