



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

November 30, 2025 First Sunday of Advent and Communion Sunday 10:00 AM

Prelude

Introit: **“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”** words by Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
music by W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)

*Processional Hymn: #116 “People, Look East”

*Call to Worship:

Praise God, who deep within us sings

A song of hope for unseen things

‘Til every creature feels its worth

And justice reigns in all the earth.

Come let us seek the God who waits for us.

*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord’s Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Wreath Lighting: The Dawn Chorus The Brant Family

*Hymn: #115 “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

(Children and youth proceed downstairs. Congregation remains seated)

Moment for Stewardship Ross Higgins

Offering Invitation

Offertory Anthem: **“Praise God in Highest Heaven”** by Eugene Butler (1935-2024)

*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: “Eat This Bread”

Music notation for the hymn "Eat This Bread". The score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. 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 music features a simple, hymn-like melody with a clear harmonic structure.

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 40:4, Luke 15:11-32

Sermon: “Estrangement and Grace: Lessons from the Prodigal One”

Rev. Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager

*Hymn: #294 Break Thou the Bread of Life

Sacrament of Communion

(see page 5)

*Closing Hymn: #114 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (use the lyrics on the back cover)

Benediction

Benediction Response **“Your Voice, My God, Calls Me By Name”**

by Erik Routley (1917-1982)

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, her or their 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 40:4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low; the uneven ground will become smooth, and the rugged land a plain.

Luke 15:11-32 Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.” ’ So he set off and went to his father.

But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the man said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this child of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets... you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Child, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this sibling of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

Choir Anthems

Introit: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” words by Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
music by W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown. Breathe, O breathe thy loving spirit into every troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit, let us find thy promised rest. Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us all thy grace receive; suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above. Let us see thy

great salvation perfectly restored in thee; changed from glory into glory, pure and spotless let us be. Love divine, all loves excelling, love divine, pure unbounded love thou art. O love divine; enter every willing heart, O love divine.

Offertory Anthem: “Praise God in Highest Heaven” by Eugene Butler (1935-2024)

Praise God in highest heaven! And on earth His Son Jesus Christ who lived and dwelt among us His Son Jesus Christ! We praise Thee O Holy Spirit! Which abides with us! We on earth have built Thee a house a house of Worship, of stone and mortar of wood and steel and within this Sanctuary dwells peace. And within His walls dwells love. We praise Thee O Risen Christ! Who died for us and rose again that we might live! Praise God!

Benediction Response: “Your Voice, My God, Calls Me By Name”

by Erik Routley (1917-1982)

Your voice, my God, calls me by name; your joy awaits me in your home. Dearest Lord, your kindly word fails me never, stands for ever. Your death, my Jesus, sets me free, your life has risen again in me. Dearest Lord, your vital Word activates me, captivates me. Spirit of love, repeat that sign which makes anew this heart of mine: dearest Lord, now is your Word shining o'er me, praying for me.

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 judgment 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

SHARING OF PEACE

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.

The flowers this morning are given in memory of the Twining Clan: Cinny, Bud, Emay & Allen

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*The hosts for the Fellowship hour this morning are Susan and Wayne Mountz.*

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The nursery is open today. Please welcome our new staff member, Erin Cameron.

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## **Today at FCCOL**

**Homeless Hospitality Center Concert and Fundraiser at FCCOL, TODAY, November 30th at 4:00 pm.** Join the Community Benefit Concert with the **Yale Whiffenpoofs** and a wine reception in support of the New London Homeless Hospitality Center at FCCOL. Tickets are \$50. Join us to celebrate music, community and compassion in helping HHC continue its important work helping our neighbors get a home. Tickets can be purchased at: [givebutter.com/whiffs](https://givebutter.com/whiffs).

## **Upcoming Events this Week**

**Ladies Who Stitch** *Monday, December 1st at 10:00 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Board of Music and Arts Meeting** *Monday, December 1st at 4:00 pm* in the Library.

**Grief Group** *Wednesday, December 3rd at 5:00 pm* in the Hoag Parlor.

**Handbell Ringers Rehearsal** *Wednesday, December 3rd at 6:30 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Choir Rehearsal** *Wednesday, December 3rd at 7:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Bible Study** *Thursday, December 4th, 11:00 am* in the Hoag Parlor. Email the church at [fccol@fccol.org](mailto:fccol@fccol.org) or call 860-434-8686 for the link to the zoom Bible Study.

**Diaper Bank and Food Pantry** *Saturday, December 6th at 8:30 am* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Cup-A-Joe Youth Group** *Saturday, December 6th at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hallway or outside, depending on the weather!*

**Musical Masterworks Concerts** *Saturday, December 6th at 5:00 pm and Sunday, December 7th at 3:00 pm* in the Meetinghouse.

**Adult Forum with Sarah Lufler: Partnering with Habitat for Humanity on Plans with Old Lyme** *Sunday, December 7th following the 10:00 am service* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

## **Immigration Ministry Giving Tree**

This year's Giving Tree will be in honor of our neighbors who are, or have loved ones who

are, struggling with the immigration process. All who would like to purchase Christmas gifts for these families should take a tag from the Giving Tree located in the pulpit.

Many tags have 3 gift requests from one child. We would like to get all 3 gifts for the children who have asked for them. It might be a nice idea to work together with an FCCOL friend; each of you purchasing one gift. The maximum for each gift should be \$25.00.

Please do NOT wrap any gifts. All gifts should be placed in a bag with the identifying tag securely affixed to the bag. **All unwrapped gifts must be returned to the church no later than Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you for your generosity and kindness to the immigration community.

**The 2026 Stewardship Campaign** We are deeply grateful to the 203 members and friends who have come forward with commitments so far with \$512,903, or 79% of the 2026 goal of \$650,000. Without the continuing generosity of our congregation we could not support the missions and ministries of our church year to year. Contributions from individual members and friends provide funding for over 75% of our annual needs. We hope that those who have not yet responded will do so generously. If you have not received our letter and commitment card, please call the church office (860-434-8686) and we will remedy that! **THANK YOU!**

### **December Events to Save on your Calendar**

#### **A Service to Light Up the Darkness, Music, Prayer and Candle Lighting with the Elm City Winds and Our Choir**

*Wednesday, December 10th at 6:30 pm in the Meetinghouse,  
Church Potluck Dinner*

*Friday, December 12th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share.*

#### **Memorial Service for Mary Broughton**

*Saturday, December 13th at 2:30 pm in the Meetinghouse.*

#### **God's Neighborhood Annual Christmas Pageant**

*Sunday, December 21st at 10:00 am in the Meetinghouse.*

#### **Christmas Eve Services**

**The Living Manger** *Wednesday, December 24th at 5:00 pm*

#### **A Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols**

*Wednesday, December 24th at 8:00 pm and 10:00 pm in the Meetinghouse.*

*(on the cover: Guy Carleton Wiggins)*

## **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

music from Hymn # 114  
words by Juanita L. Austin

### 1. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Refresh us at your life-giving well.  
All people long to feel your grace,  
Pour out your Spirit on every place.

*refrain*

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to thee wherever you may dwell.

### 2. O come to us, our Everlasting Home,

Your people lost and broken, roam,  
And seek a place of welcome and peace,  
From war and violence, may they know release.

*refrain*

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to thee wherever you may dwell.

### 3. O come Beloved, hear your peoples' plea

The wounded soul, the homeless refugee.  
May 'Welcome' be our own heart's call,  
'Till there be room and justice for us all.

*refrain*

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to thee wherever you may dwell.