

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

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM

Prelude

Introit: **“Angel Tidings”** Old Lyme Ringers arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

*Processional Hymn: #127 “Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates”

*Call to Worship (from It Came Upon the Midnight Clear):

And we, beneath life’s crushing load whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way, with painful steps and slow,
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
We gather to rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!
Let us worship God!

*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord’s Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Wreath Lighting The Hartenstein Family

*Hymn: #131 “Creator of the Stars of Night ”
(Children and youth proceed downstairs. Congregation remains seated)

Offering Invitation

Offertory Anthem: **“And The Glory of The Lord”** from Messiah by G.F. Handel

*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

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a
shep - herd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a wise man,
I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Scripture Readings: Ezra 9: 1-4, Nehemiah 13: 1-3, Matthew 1: 1-16

Sermon: “How Newness Enters the World ”

Rev. Dr. Steven Jungkeit

*Closing Hymn: #120 “Tomorrow Christ is Coming”

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, 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

Ezra 9: 1-4

After these things had been done, the officials approached me and said, “The people of Israel, the priests, and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands with their abominations, from the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. For they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and for their sons. Thus the holy seed has mixed itself with the peoples of the lands, and in this faithlessness the officials and leaders have led the way.” When I heard this, I tore my garment and my mantle and pulled hair from my head and beard and sat appalled. Then all who trembled at the words of the God of Israel because of the faithlessness of the returned exiles gathered around me while I sat appalled until the evening sacrifice.

Nehemiah 13: 1-3

On that day they read from the book of Moses in the hearing of the people, and in it was found written that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever enter the assembly of God, because they did not meet the Israelites with bread and water but hired Balaam against them to curse them—yet our God turned the curse into a blessing. When the people heard the law, they separated from Israel all those of foreign descent.

Matthew 1: 1-16

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, who bore Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

Old Lyme Handbell Ringers

Introit: “Angel Tidings” Old Lyme Ringers arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

“Angel Tidings” is a joyous medley of two familiar Christmas carols: “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing,” found in our hymnal as Hymn #137, and “Angels We Have Heard on High,” in our hymnal as Hymn #135. Interspersed throughout the piece is original musical motifs by handbell arranger Cynthia Dobrinski (1950-2021).

Choir Anthems

Offertory Anthem: “And The Glory of The Lord” from Messiah by G.F. Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

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*The flowers this morning given by Christine Darnell in honor of Wendy Knight, who gave so much to this church and congregation. Wendy will be greatly missed by many.*

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The host for the Fellowship hour this morning is Leslie Rawlings Slezak.

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*The nursery is open today with Miss Erin Cameron.*

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**The Annual Christmas Pageant is next Sunday, December 21st,
the Fourth Sunday of Advent at 10:00 am**

Join us for creative and quirky retelling of the Christmas Story (stars, angels and sheep will delight us all!) Next Sunday December 21st is the day of the Christmas Pageant.

*(On the cover: Birth of Christ, Donald Jackson, © 2002 The Saint John’s Bible,
Saint John’s University, Collegeville, Minnesota USA)*

Upcoming Events this Week

Anglican Singers Lessons and Carols *TODAY* at 5:00 pm at St. James Church in New London.

TransParent Meeting *Wednesday, December 17th at 5:30 pm* at FCCOL.

Handbell Ringers Rehearsal *Wednesday, December 17th at 6:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

Choir Rehearsal *Wednesday, December 17th at 7:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

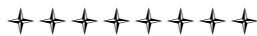
Bible Study *Thursday, December 18th, 11:00 am* in the Library. Email the church at fccol@fccol.org or call 860-434-8686 for the link to the zoom Bible Study.

January Newsletter Deadline *Friday December 19th.*

Food Pantry *Saturday, December 20th at 8:30 am* in the Fellowship Hall.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal *Saturday, Dec. 20th at 10:00 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Annual Christmas Pageant *Sunday, Dec. 21st at 10:00 am service* in the Meetinghouse.



The Homeless Hospitality Center Tree is in the Meetinghouse

We'll be gathering socks, coffee (ground), gloves and Dunkin Donuts gift cards for the folks at the Homeless Hospitality Center in New London. There are a few other more costly items that would be helpful and Anne in the office has a list of those things if you want to give her a call. No need to wrap them! We'll be collecting these gifts all the way till January 4th.

Christmas Eve Service Memorial Music and Flowers

If you would like to make a contribution towards our special Christmas Eve Music and Flowers in memory of a loved one, please leave a message at the church office, 860-434-8686 or email fccol@fccol.org by Friday, December, 19th. Your dedications will be printed in the 8 pm and 10 pm Christmas Eve bulletins.

The 2026 Stewardship Campaign

We are deeply grateful to the 232 members and friends who have come forward with commitments so far of \$552,608, or 85% 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!**

Save the Date: Faith-Based Community Organizing

If ever there is a time to work towards creating systemic change, it is now! Join members of FCCOL and other congregations in New London County on **Saturday, January 10th**, 9 - 4pm, in the Sheffield Auditorium to learn about faith-based community organizing and how we are building a power base to create change. To get a sense of this kind of organizing check out Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA cljct.org). To register for the January 10 training or to get more information, contact Susan Switzer at 917 951-6078 or sswitzer790@gmail.com.

Anglican Singers Concert

The Anglican Singers will be performing on Saturday, December 20th at 4:30 pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 53 South Main St. Westbrook, CT. Seasonal favorites and congregational carols. Cookies and cider to follow.

The South Lyme Chapel

The South Lyme Chapel is having Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 21, at 3:00 pm. The Select Singers from Lyme-Old Lyme High School will be there to lead us in the hymns we all know and love, the ones that make the Christmas season so meaningful to us. Please stay after the service and join us for snacks, hot chocolate, and fellowship!

Seeking Moth Story Tellers

We still are looking for a couple of storytellers for our Moth storytelling night. Everyone has a fun story or two... please share! If you think you can cobble together a 5-minute story, we would love to hear from you (youth group members this also means you). Contact Tom Sherer. (tesjr299@outlook.com) and we can discuss. The January date will be announced in December.

Save the Date!

Our next Confirmation Class will begin Sunday, January 25th from 4:00-5:30 pm. at FCCOL, Confirmation is the way we offer a Confirmation Series for High School students every two years. We'll hold monthly meetings and field trips from January-May and end our learning with a weekend on Cape Cod, May 29-31. Join us! For more information and to reserve a spot email Laura at lfitz.nager@gmail.com.

The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme

2 Ferry Road, Old Lyme, CT

2025 Christmas Services

OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 21st, at 10:00 AM

THREE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Wednesday, December 24th

THE LIVING MANGER

at 5:00 PM Service for families with young children

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

at 8:00 PM Service

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS WITH A MESSIAH SING

at 10:00 PM Service

Please plan to join us for this year's 10:00pm

**Christmas Eve service which will include the usual seasonal readings,
some well-known carols and the singing of several choruses from *Messiah* by Handel.**

All are welcome to join the singing of the choruses led by our choir.

Music will be provided.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday, December 25th, the church will be open for prayer and meditation.

EPIPHANY SERVICE

Sunday, January 4th, at 10:00 am in celebration of 3 Kings Day