



The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme

**2 Ferry Road,
Old Lyme, Connecticut
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SUNDAY WORSHIP

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

December 28, 2025

Worship Service

10:00 AM

Prelude: “**The Oxen from *Hodie***” by Ralph Vaughan Williams sung by Oliver Holt
Introit: “**Of Eternal Love Begotten**” Old Lyme Ringers

*Processional Hymn: #136 “Angels, from the Realms of Glory “

*Call to Worship:

O Christ, how shall we meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, our hope, our heart's delight.
O kindle, Lord, most holy, a lamp within our breast,
To do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

**Come and worship, Come and worship,
worship Christ the newborn King.**

*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1: 18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”
which means, “God is with us.”

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

Hymn: # 138 “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

A Christmas Reading: *The Glow Heart* (Part I) by Jeanette Winterson

Offering Invitation

Offertory Anthem: “**The People That Walked in Darkness**” from *Messiah*
by G.F. Handel, sung by Oliver Holt

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.

*Offertory Prayer

A Christmas Reading: *The Glow Heart* (Part II) by Jeanette Winterson

Hymn: #141 “The First Nowell”

Pastoral Prayer

Pastoral Prayer Response: “Oh Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

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.

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

A Christmas Reading: *The Glow Heart* (Part III) by Jeanette Winterson

Hymn: #158 “Good Christians All, Rejoice”

Benediction

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.

The flowers this morning are given in honor of the Simon Holt, the Choir, and soloists, the Old Lyme Ringers under the direction of Gary Jungkeit.

The host for the Fellowship Hour this morning is Ellen Calkins.

The nursery is closed today and will reopen on January 4th.

Please join us in welcoming guest soloist Oliver Holt, son of Simon Holt. Praised for his “gentle gravity and warmth” (*New York Classical Review*), has been professionally performing since the age of seven. His career has taken him to venues across the U.S. and Europe, from Carnegie Hall to St. Peter’s Basilica in Vatican City. Notable credits include several studio albums and tours with the St. Thomas Choir of Men and Boys, and engagements with The English Consort, Voices of Ascension, and most recently as a soloist in Musica Sacra’s latest installment of their SurRound concert series. Oliver has had the privilege of working with renowned conductors such as Harry Pickett OBE, Kent Tritle, and the late John Scott OBE. He sings weekly at Holy Trinity RC Church under Dr. Andrew Yeargin and is thrilled to be singing with his father in Old Lyme this weekend.

Events and Meetings

New London Meal Center *TODAY* departing FCCOL at 3:30 pm for New London.

Newsletter Folding *Monday, December 29th.*

ARC Blood Drive *Wednesday, December 31st from 9:00 am –2:00pm*, in the Fellowship Hall.

The FCCOL Office *will be closed Thursday, January 1st.*

Epiphany Worship Service *Sunday January 4th at 10:00 am in the Meetinghouse.*

God’s Neighborhood Sunday School *resumes on Sunday, January 11th.*

Gifts for the Homeless Hospitality Center Tree is in the Meetinghouse until January 4th

We are still 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. We’ll be collecting these gifts all the way till January 4th. No need to wrap them!

Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 25, at 11:15 am, the church will hold its annual meeting, during which, among other things, we will elect officers and board members, and approve the church budget for the coming year.

The purpose of the annual meeting is to: receive the reports of the ministers, boards and committees, and church officers for the year 2025; receive and approve the report of the nominating committee; elect officers and board members for the coming year; approve the church budget for the year 2026; and conduct such other old or new business as shall properly come before the meeting.

All Board and Committee chairs, please submit your annual reports by the deadline of