



The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme

**2 Ferry Road,
Old Lyme, Connecticut
(860) 434-8686
Website: 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 15, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Lent Worship Service

10:00 AM

Prelude

Introit: **“A Gaelic Blessing”**

by John Rutter (born 1945)

*Processional Hymn: #371 “Living God, Your Joyful Spirit”

*Call to Worship:

We gather in the presence of the Holy One—
who refuses to abandon her children.

**She is Wisdom crying out in the streets,
the Spirit moving over the waters,
the Mother who will not rest while her children suffer.**

Where there is oppression, God is stirring courage.

Where there is cruelty, God is nurturing resistance.

Where systems crush the vulnerable, God is raising up liberation.

**Let us worship the God who nurtures freedom,
who gathers us in fierce love,
and who leads us together into new life.**

*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord’s Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

*Hymn: #382 “The House of Faith”

Children’s Message:

Gary Comstock

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

(Children and youth proceed downstairs. Congregation remains seated)

Offering Invitation

Offertory Anthem: **“God So Loved the World” from *The Crucifixion***

by John Stainer (1840-1901)

*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: “Come Fill Our Hearts”

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly." and "Come and fill our hearts with your peace, al-le-lu-ia!". The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Scripture Readings: Exodus 15: 1-3, Exodus 15: 20-21

Sermon: “Discerning Voices: Miriam at the Seashore”

Rev. Dr. Steven Jungkeit

*Closing Hymn: #409 “How Can We Name a Love”

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:

Exodus 15: 1-3

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord:

I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.
The Lord is my strength and my might,[a]
and he has become my salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise him;
my father's God, and I will exalt him.
The Lord is a warrior;
the Lord is his name.

Exodus 15: 20-21

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

Choir Anthems

Introit: "A Gaelic Blessing"

by John Rutter (born 1945)

Text: Deep peace of the running wave to you. Deep peace of the flowing air to you. Deep peace of the quiet earth to you. Deep peace of the shining stars to you. Deep peace of the gentle night to you. Moon and stars pour their healing light on you. Deep peace of Christ, of Christ the light of the world to you. Deep peace of Christ to you.

Offertory Anthem: "God So Loved the World" from *The Crucifixion*

by John Stainer (1840-1901)

Text: God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoso believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.

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*The flowers this morning are given by Marianne Baez in loving memory of Samuel Baez.*

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The host for the Fellowship Hour this morning is Mary-Gardener Coppola

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*The nursery is open today!*

## Today at FCCOL

### **Adult Forum “But the Bible Says It’s Wrong:” Reflections on Biblical Strictures About Same-Sex Relations** with John Loughery.

Join John Loughery today at 11:30 am in the Sheffield Auditorium for a talk that will focus on the critical perspectives and outright prohibitions against same-sex intimacy in the Old and the New Testament.

## Upcoming This Week

**Ladies Who Stitch** *Monday, March 16th at 10:00 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Walt’s Pottery Classes** *Tuesday, March 17th at 10:00 am and 6:00 pm.*

**April Newsletter Deadline** *Wednesday, March 18th.*

**ReBbellion Rehearsal** *Wednesday, March 18th at 4:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

**TransParent Group** *Wednesday, March 18th at 5:30 pm* in the Hoag Parler.

**Handbell Ringers Rehearsal** *Wednesday, March 18th at 6:30 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Choir Rehearsal** *Wednesday, March 18th at 7:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Bible Study** *Thursday, March 19th at 11:00 am* in the Library or on Zoom.

**ARC Blood Drive** *Thursday, March 19th at 1 - 6 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Moth Stories and Potluck Dinner** *Friday, March 20th at 6:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Shoreline Food Pantry** *Saturday, March 21st at 8:30 am* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Reading the Bible in One Year** *Sunday, March 22nd at 11:15 am* in the Sheffield Aud.

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### **Weekly Bible Study**

Please join us as we continue to discuss The Book of Exodus: Stories of Exile and the Search for Freedom on Thursday, March 19th and continue every Thursday from 11:00 -12:00 pm in the Library. Call or email the church for the Zoom link.

### **Walt's Pottery at FCCOL: Two Classes Offered Seats still available**

Are you interested in throwing clay on the wheel and getting into some mud up to your elbows? Morning and evening classes begin Tuesday, **March 17th through April 14th.** Open to adults of all levels. Tuesdays from 10:00-12:00 pm or 6:00-8:00 pm. Email: [fccol@fccol.org](mailto:fccol@fccol.org) or call (860) 434-8686 to reserve a spot. Seating is limited. Cost: \$195 plus materials. The morning class will be taught by Betsey Copp and the evening class by Paul Fitzpatrick-Nager.

### **TransParent Group Meeting**

Meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday of every month 5:30-6:30. The next meeting is on **March 18th.** For Parents, Caregivers and Family Members of Trans Youth/Young Adults: Our group provides conversation, a support community and education for parents and caregivers around the issues of transgender, nonbinary, and gender-diversity. For more information email us at: [fccol@fccol.org](mailto:fccol@fccol.org).

## **FCCOL Moth Night and Potluck Dinner Friday, March 20th**

**It's Back!** Due to popular demand, another FCCOL Moth Night has been scheduled for Friday, March 20th, at 6:00 pm. Bring the whole family for heart-warming stories, grand fellowship, and a hearty potluck meal all in one!

All ages are welcome. Please bring a dish to share if you are able. If you would like to help with the set-up/clean-up, please contact Deb Heminway at: [dheminway9@gmail.com](mailto:dheminway9@gmail.com).

## **Easter Memorial Music and Flowers Fund**

We invite you to make a donation to our Easter Memorial Music and Flowers Fund before April 1st. Please call the church office at 860-434-8686 or email ([fccol@fccol.org](mailto:fccol@fccol.org)) with the names for whom you would like make a dedication Their names will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Checks may be made out to FCCOL and mailed or dropped off to the church office. Thank you!

## **A Day of Creative Assembly**

On Sunday, March 22nd from 1 – 4pm at 10 Lyme St. Join neighbors of all ages for an afternoon of art, sign-making, music, and joyful resistance as we prepare for No Kings day. Together we'll build community, raise our voices, and create the bold, beautiful tools for democracy! For more info contact: [lolpartnershipforsocialjustice@gmail.com](mailto:lolpartnershipforsocialjustice@gmail.com)

## **New London Soup Kitchen**

For several decades, our church has been serving a hot meal at the New London Community Meal Center (now known as DINE) on the fourth Sunday of every month. On weekends they struggle to serve one meal each day with the help of volunteers. Right now the number of people seeking this food assistance is rising dramatically. In January our volunteers served 200 people! We are in need of more volunteers to supplement this important work. If you can help, please leave a message in the office, or call (or text) Carleen at 860-304-2070. Thank you.

## **RSVP: April Vacation: Walking in Their Footsteps Civil Rights Trip - April 11 - 16th**

Join us for this special FCCOL Youth trip to Koinonia Farm and other civil rights sites in Georgia! We'll fly into Atlanta and stay one night, then drive to Koinonia Farm (<https://koinoniafarm.org>) in southern Georgia, which will be our home base for 4 nights. While on the Farm, we'll learn about its 80-year civil rights history, engage in service projects, see the birthplace of Habitat of Humanity, explore the Jimmy Carter National Park, and visit the Albany Civil Rights Institute among other highlights.

We have spots available and will be making plane **reservations asap**. Contact Laura for more information: [lfitz.nager@gmail.com](mailto:lfitz.nager@gmail.com). Youth scholarships available.

**Reading the First Four Chapters of *Paradise Lost* on Maundy Thursday.** The sign up to be a reader starts today. See Steve more details.

Why *Paradise Lost*? Milton had taken part in a revolt against the monarchy in his time, in an

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effort to move England toward a fledgling form of democracy. That effort failed, and so Milton wrote his massive poem about the rebellion in heaven, of the fall, and of the consequences of free will. In other words, Milton was grappling with some of the same issues that are emerging once again in our own time, though in a different form. This is a poem that we need right now, for all of its theological, moral, and aesthetic. *Paradise Lost* is divided into 12 books, we will cover the first four of those books this year, on Maundy Thursday.

We'll take breaks between books to stretch our legs, and to get snacks and coffee.

We are going to read it throughout the day of April 2nd. We'll start promptly at 10 AM. We should finish by 5 or 6 PM. Throughout, we hope to have selections of music sung from Haydn's *Creation*, much of which was inspired by *Paradise Lost*. Then, when we're finished, we'll gather for a simple dinner of soup and bread, followed by the sharing of communion.

### **Flowers Needed for the Sunday Worship Services**

We are in need of people to donate flowers for the Sundays worship services. It can be flowers that you have arranged yourself, or you could order flowers and have them delivered, or a plant that you could take home after the service. Please call **Jill Harned (603) 398-9004** to reserve a date and then call the office (860-434-8686) or email at [fccol@fccol.org](mailto:fccol@fccol.org), to let us know the dedication you would like to be printed in the bulletin on the date you picked. Thank you!

### **IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services)**

**IRIS** is helping the homeless and is especially in need of warm adult clothing and twin-sized bedding. LWS will help by accepting new and gently-used donations for IRIS and for the New London Homeless Hospitality Center. Please leave donations on the Sheffield Stage clearly marked "LWS." (<https://irisct.org>.)

### **Church World Service Blanket Drive**

CWS is a highly rated charity and merits a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator for its international relief services. Your generous donations will be appreciated by many. Please make checks payable to TBS, indicating on the memo line "Blanket Drive." CWS envelopes are available in the pews and may be placed in the offering plate or sent to FCCOL, 2 Ferry Road, c/o TBS. Thank you for remembering those in their time of need.

### **White Elephant Sale**

It's that time of year again and the White Elephant Sale committee is hard at work preparing for the 88th sale, being held this year on July 10th and 11th. This is the beginning of the committee's annual request for volunteers to tackle multiple tasks; including a coordinator of the operation, people to receive, sort, price and sell donations, someone to run the food court, and more people with the time and interest in being a part of an incredibly effective team.

Please contact Jane Marolda at (860) 608-0257 or Deb Heminway at (860) 625-3144 to let us know how you would like to contribute. In the meantime, keep cleaning out your closets and filling boxes with your donations. Many thanks and we look forward to hearing from you.

## All This Sainted Difference: A Spiritual Pilgrimage to Brazil, August 10-20, 2026

In her poetry collection *The Cachoeira Tales*, Marilyn Nelson writes of a contemporary group of



pilgrims, each with a story to tell, traveling together not to Canterbury, but to Cachoeira, Brazil. There, the pilgrims encounter the Sisters of Our Lady of the Good Death, who blend African, Indigenous, and Catholic ritual elements. Founded by those who had been enslaved during the 19th century, the sisterhood was established to serve the poor, while keeping alive the sacred traditions of Africa, handed down as a precious inheritance from one generation to the next. Every year in Cachoeira, the Sisters offer a three-day celebration of music and of dance, where the Orixas (African divinities who bear a striking resemblance to Christian saints) come in order to bless, heal, chasten, and encourage contemporary people. It is in Cachoeira that the pilgrims in Marilyn's poems converge. And it is in Cachoeira that pilgrims from FCCOL shall converge this coming August.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to explore the African ritual traditions of Brazil. Visiting not only Cachoeira, but locating ourselves in and around the city of Salvador, we'll encounter the rituals, music, dance, foodways, and visual art that have sheltered and protected human lives through generations of hardship. We'll visit *terreiros* (house temples) around the city and throughout the surrounding countryside. And we'll discover how these dynamic and aesthetically charged spiritual systems (Candomblé and Umbanda) have evolved across time. The centerpiece of our journey will be the Feast of Our Lady of the Good Death, where we shall witness how the Sisters become a living bridge between this world and the other.

Designed to resonate and to link with our travels to Haiti, Cuba, New Orleans, and West Africa, our pilgrimage to Cachoeira and Salvador will be organized with the help of our friend Ned Sublette, and his vast network of contacts in Brazil. It is a fabulous opportunity to explore a beautiful part of Latin America (it will be winter in Salvador, meaning we can expect temperatures in the 70's and 80's), together with the history and spirituality of the African descended peoples of Bahia.

Contact Steve Jungkeit for more information, at [steven@jungkeit.net](mailto:steven@jungkeit.net).