



## **The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme**

**2 Ferry Road,  
Old Lyme, Connecticut  
(860) 434-8686  
Website: [www.fccol.org](http://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 22, 2026**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent Worship Service**

**10:00 AM**

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Prelude

Introit: **"O Lord, My God, to Thee"** by Jacques Arcadelt (c.1510-1568)

\*Processional Hymn: #18 "Praise to the Living God"

\*Call to Worship:

Come, you who have been told to be quiet—  
**our questions are welcome here.**  
Come, you who have been taught that doubt is danger—  
**our wondering is holy ground.**  
We gather not to silence our minds,  
**but to awaken them;**  
not to bow to every voice of power,  
**but to listen for the voice of truth.**  
For God is not threatened by our asking,  
**and justice is born when we refuse to accept  
what harms, excludes, or diminishes.**  
**Let us worship the One who calls us  
not just to believe,  
but to seek, to challenge, and to transform.  
Let us worship God.**

\*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

\*Hymn: #293 "Deep in the Shadows of the Past"

Children's Message:

Gavin Lodge

Children's Song: "This Little Light of Mine"

*(Children and youth proceed downstairs. Congregation remains seated)*

Offering Invitation

Offertory Anthem: **"He, Watching Over Israel"** from *Elijah*

by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

\*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: “Spirit Of the Living God”

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Spirit Of the Living God". It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me; Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me." The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving bass lines.

Scripture Readings: Numbers 12: 1-16, Numbers 20: 1

Sermon: “Discerning Voices: Miriam’s Question”

Rev. Dr. Steven Jungkeit

\*Closing Hymn: #499 “My Heart is Overflowing” (Song of Hannah)

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:

### Numbers 12: 1-16

While they were at Hazeroth, Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married (for he had indeed married a Cushite woman), and they said, “Has the Lord spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?” And the Lord heard it. Now the man Moses was very humble, more so than anyone else on the face of the earth. Suddenly the Lord said to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, “Come out, you three, to the tent of meeting.” So the three of them came out. Then the Lord came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the tent and called Aaron and Miriam, and they both came forward. And he said, “Hear my words:

When there are prophets among you,  
I the Lord make myself known to them in visions;  
I speak to them in dreams.  
Not so with my servant Moses;  
he is faithful in all my house.  
With him I speak face to face—clearly, not in riddles,  
and he beholds the form of the Lord.

“Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?” And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them, and he departed.

When the cloud went away from over the tent, Miriam’s skin had become diseased, as white as snow. And Aaron turned toward Miriam and saw that she was diseased. Then Aaron said to Moses, “Oh, my lord, do not punish us[a] for a sin that we have so foolishly committed. Do not let her be like one stillborn, whose flesh is half consumed when it comes out of its mother’s womb.” And Moses cried to the Lord, saying, “O God, please heal her.” But the Lord said to Moses, “If her father had but spit in her face, would she not bear her shame for seven days? Let her be shut out of the camp for seven days, and after that she may be brought in again.” So Miriam was shut out of the camp for seven days, and the people did not set out on the march until Miriam had been brought in again. After that the people set out from Hazeroth and camped in the wilderness of Paran.

### Numbers 20: 1

The Israelites, the whole congregation, came into the wilderness of Zin in the first month, and the people stayed in Kadesh. Miriam died there and was buried there.

## Choir Anthems

### Introit: "O Lord, My God, to Thee"

by Jacques Arcadelt (c.1510-1568)

O Lord, my God, to thee do I lift up my soul. O Lord, in thee have I trusted. Let me not be ashamed, let not my foes triumph over me. O lead me in a plain path; cast me not off, neither forsake me. Teach me thy way, Lord, lead me in a plain path. O hide not thy face far from me. Lord God, hide not thy face far from me. Amen.

**Offertory Anthem: "He, Watching Over Israel"** from *Elijah*

by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

**Text:** He, watching over Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps. Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish, He will quicken thee.

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*The flowers this morning are given by Stephanie Webster in honor of all our  
craftspeople and artists who keep our Partnership Store filled  
with beautiful handmade items which help support our ministries!*  
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*The host for the Fellowship Hour this morning is Lee Whitaker*  
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*The nursery is open today!*

### **Today at FCCOL**

**“Reading The Bible in One Year” Discussion** at 11:15 am in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Civil Right’s Trip Meeting** at 11:15 am in the Library.

**We The People: A Day of Creative Assembly** from 1:00 - 4:00 pm at 10 Lyme St.

*(Inclement weather location at FCCOL).*

**DINE New London** departing FCCOL at 3:30 pm.

### **Upcoming This Week**

**Ladies Who Stitch** *Monday, March 23rd at 10:00 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Walt’s Pottery Classes** *Tuesday, March 24th at 10:00 am and 6:00 pm.*

**ReBbellion Rehearsal** *Wednesday, March 25th at 4:00 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Handbell Ringers Rehearsal** *Wed, March 25th at 6:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Choir Rehearsal** *Wednesday, March 25th at 7:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Bible Study** *Thursday, March 26th at 11:00 am* in the Library or on Zoom.

**Shoreline Food Pantry** *Saturday, March 28th at 8:30 am* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Palm Sunday**, *March 29th at 10:00 am* in the Meetinghouse.

**Adult Forum: Excerpts from *The Belle of Amherst* with Julie Fitzpatrick**

*Sunday, March 29th at 11:30 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Confirmation Class and Mentors** *Sunday, March 29th at 4:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

## **TODAY! A Day of Creative Assembly**

Today 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). If it's bad weather we are meeting at FCCOL.

## **Weekly Bible Study**

Please join us as we continue to discuss The Book of Leviticus on Thursday, March 26th and continue every Thursday from 11:00 -12:00 pm in the Library. Call or email the church for the Zoom link.

## **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 of to the church office. Thank you!

## **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.

## **Adult Forum: A Morning with Emily Dickinson: Excerpts from *The Belle of Amherst* and discussion about the craft of acting with Julie Fitzpatrick**

Join us on March 29, 2026 11:15am for as Julie Fitzpatrick delves into the art of acting through scenes from *The Belle of Amherst*, a play based on the life and words of Emily Dickinson by playwright William Luce.

## **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 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.

## **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.

**Reading the First Four Chapters of *Paradise Lost* on Maundy Thursday.** To sign up to be a reader, see Steve.

Why *Paradise Lost*? Milton had taken part in a revolt against the monarchy in his time, in an 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 twin-sized bedding, personal care items, kitchen items (including dishes, glassware, baking pans, cookware) and diapers. Gift cards (e.g. to Walmart) are also welcome. A FCCOL volunteer regularly travels to New Haven to deliver collected items. 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>) With ongoing heartfelt gratitude for your continued generosity and kindness to our neighbors.

### **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. The Benevolent Society's 2026 collection for this worthy organization concludes at the end of March. Blankets and other items are distributed to the homeless and to those adversely affected by snowstorms, tornados, hurricanes, fires, earthquakes and floods. 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.

### **Lyme Pollinator Pathway's 5th Anniversary Celebration**

You are invited to celebrate our 5th anniversary on Saturday, March 28th from 6-8 pm at Ballek's Garden Center Greenhouse (90 Maple Ave, East Haddam). Wine, Appetizers, and cake will be served! 1st Annual Habitat Hero Award will be presented. RSVP to [lymepollinator@gmail.com](mailto:lymepollinator@gmail.com). \$25 suggested donation (cash or check) at the door.

## No Kings Day 3 -- Be a Part of History!

Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> will be the biggest peaceful protest in US History. Make a sign (optional)! Bring a friend!

Below are some times and locations of currently scheduled **No Kings** protests in our area. And if none of the spots work for you, go to <https://www.nokings.org>. to find a locale closer to home.

- 10 a.m.: Hartford, CT Capitol, 210 Capitol Ave.
- 10 a.m.: New London, Parade Plaza, S. Water St.
- 11:30 a.m.: Middletown, 14 Old Church St.
- 3 p.m.: New Haven, New Haven Green, 250 Temple St.
- 4 p.m.: East Lyme, Liberty Green, 231 Main St.

## 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).