



## **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

**May 24, 2026**

**Sunday Worship Service**

**10:00 AM**

Prelude

Introit: **“Blessed Are They”** by S.S. Wesley (1810-1876)

\*Processional Hymn: #532 “O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”

\*Call to Worship:

Be still and know that God is God  
Greater than we will ever know,

**Leading us where our Savior trod,  
Granting us strength in Christ to grow.**

Take courage, then, by faith to walk  
Throughout this earth we call our home.

**Christ is our teacher as we talk,  
Present to guide where'er we roam.**

May all we do reflect Christ's love  
As his Spirit lives within.

**Together we will worship God  
Pray, rejoice and sing hymns!**

\*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

\*Hymn: #531 “My Country Tis of Thee”

Offering Invitation

Offertory Anthem: **“I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”** arranged by Herbert Grieb

\*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

Dale Bernardoni

Pastoral Prayer Response: "Come Fill Our Hearts"

The image shows a musical score for a two-part setting of the hymn "Come Fill Our Hearts". It is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics under the first system are "Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly." The second system also has a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics under the second system are "Come and fill our hearts with your peace, al-le-lu-ia!". The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

Scripture Readings: Psalm 130: 1-2, 5-6, Acts 16: 16-26, Philippians 1:12-14, 18b-20, 27

Sermon: "Why Does the Caged Bird Sing?: Inspiration from Maya Angelou"

The Rev. Rebecca Crosby

\*Closing Hymn: #481 "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

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.***

*(on the cover: painting by Angie Falstrom)*

## Scripture Reading

### Psalm 130: 1-2, 5-6

Out of the depths I cry to thee, O LORD!

Lord, hear my voice!

Let thy ears be attentive

to the voice of my supplications!

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the LORD

more than watchmen for the morning,

more than watchmen for the morning.

### Acts 16: 16-26

As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.” And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, “I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, “These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice.” The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one’s fetters were unfastened.



*The flowers this morning are given in honor of all those who have served and sacrificed while serving our country.*

*The host for the Fellowship Hour this morning is Kathy Sugland*

*The nursery is open today with Miss Kristin Kennedy.*

### **Today at FCCOL**

God's Neighborhood and the Youth Group are meeting this morning at White Sands Beach for their annual beach clean-up.

### **Events at FCCOL This Coming Week**

**Ladies Who Stitch** *Monday, May 25th at 10:00 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**The Benevolent Society Meeting** *Tuesday, May 26th at 10:00 am* in the Library.

**Yoga with Isabelle** *Tuesday, May 26th at 5:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Board of Deacons Meeting** *Tuesday, May 26th at 7:00 pm* in the Library.

**Choir Rehearsal** *Wednesday, May 27th at 7:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Summer Newsletter Folding** *Wednesday, May 27th.*

**Bible Study** *Thursday, May 28th at 11:00 am* in the Library.

**Food Pantry** *Saturday, May 30th at 8:30 am* in Fellowship Hall.

**Shelby G. Schavoir Memorial** *Saturday, May 30th at 11:00 am* in the Meetinghouse.

**Alan Bradford Memorial** *Saturday, May 30th at 2:00 pm* in the Meetinghouse.

### **Weekly Bible Study**

Please join us as we continue to discuss The Book of Leviticus on Thursday, May 28th at 11:00 am and continue every Thursday in the Library. Call or email the church for the Zoom link.

### **Pastoral Care**

Please let us know if a pastoral visit would be helpful to you or to someone you know. Years ago, hospitals and nursing homes often notified the church when a patient who said they were part of our congregation was admitted. In the post-HIPPA era, this just doesn't happen. Also, hospital stays are often remarkably short. So if you know of someone who needs our pastoral care, please call Anne in the office or one of our ministers directly.

**Confirmation, High School Graduates and the end of the year Sunday School Classes:** will be celebrated on Sunday, June 14th at the 10:00 am service.

**White Elephant Sale—Volunteers Needed!**

In prior years more than 200 folks have helped in some way or another..... sorting, organizing, outside setup, selling or cleanup after the sale. Even a few hours of your time will be greatly appreciated. You will have a great time, meet new friends and have a rewarding experience.

For those of you that would like to help, please call one of the department heads listed below and volunteer to work in an area that interests you, or just show up during intake days and give us a few hours in any area you would like.

Thank you in advance.

Jane Marolda	860-608-0257	Jayne Brundage	860-918-1321
Mike Gentry	860-608-3223	Rick Strickhart	860-304-4132
Scott Mahon	860-949-5422	Marianne Baez	860-608-8321
Deb Heminway	860-625-3144		

**Ladies Who Stitch**

Thank you for thinking of us but....

We cannot accept any further donations. We are amply supplied with fabric, yarn, notions etc... And now we are storing everything to make room for the White Elephant Sale.

Our creations will be available in the Partnership Store during the White Elephant Sale and most Sundays following church services. We also have a number of things consigned at Woman’s Exchange/The Lyme Tree gift store in the Big Y plaza. The Partnership Store treasures from Haiti, Palestine, Tribal Crafts and Ladies Who Stitch can also be accessed by contacting the church office during working hours (860-434-8686) to ask office manager Anne or sexton Sean to assist.

**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 “IRIS.” With on going heartfelt gratitude for your continued generosity and kindness to our neighbors.

## 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).