

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
Rebecca Crosby, Parish Associate Minister - Gary Comstock, Parish Associate Minister
Simon Holt, Director of Music

November 8, 2026 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

Prelude

Introit: **"I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord"** arranged by Herbert Grieb (1898-1973)

*Processional Hymn: "God the Sculptor of the Mountains" (on the back cover)

* Call to Worship:

Ring the bells that still can ring

Forget your perfect offering

There is a crack, a crack in everything

That's how the light gets in.

Let us worship God.

(Adapted from Hallelujah by Leonard Cohen)

Prayer of Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

Moment for Stewardship Leslie Rawlings Slezak

*Hymn: #96 "Creating God, Your Fingers Trace"

Children's Message:

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

(Children and youth proceed downstairs. Congregation remains seated)

Offertory Invitation

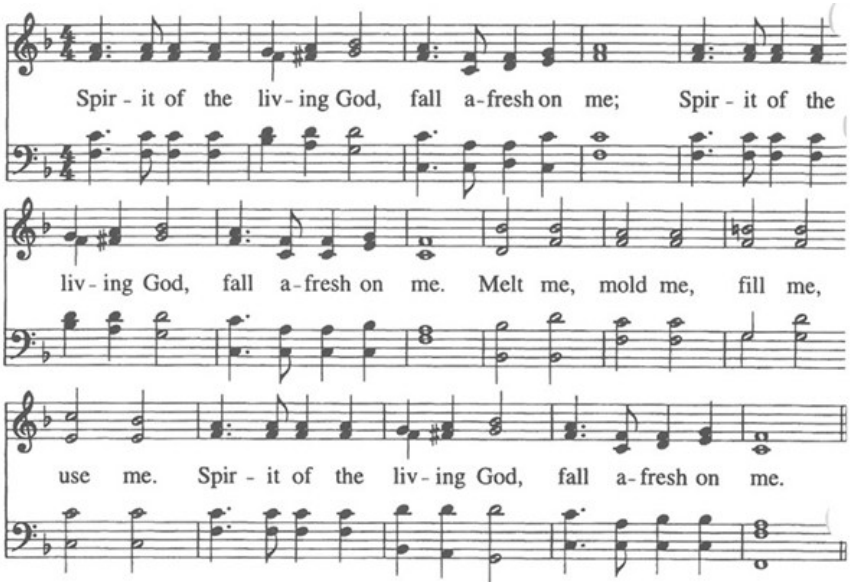
Offertory Anthem: **"The Love of God"** by Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992)

*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 Rev. Rebecca Crosby

Pastoral Prayer Response: "Spirit of the Living God"



Scriptures: Isaiah 58:12, Jeremiah 18:1-4 and 29:11

Sermon: "The Potter's House: Healing at the Broken Places" Rev. Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager

*Closing Hymn: #353 "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

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.

Scriptures:

Scripture: Isaiah 58:12

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.
(New Revised Standard Updated Edition)

Jeremiah 18:1-4 (Inclusive Bible version)

This word came to Jeremiah from YHWH: "Get up and make your way down to the potter's house. I will give you my message there." So I went down to the potter's house, and there the potter was working at the wheel. Whenever the object of clay that the potter was making turned out badly, the potter tried again, making of the clay another object, of whatever sort the potter pleased.

Jeremiah 29.11 (NRSVUE)

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

Choir Anthems:

Introit: **"I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord" arranged by Herbert Grieb (1898-1973)**

Text: I love Thy Kingdom, Lord, the house of Thine abode, the Church our blest Redeemer saved with His own precious blood. I love Thy Church, O God: her walls before Thee stand, dear as the apple of Thine eye and graven on Thy hand. For her my tears shall fall, for her my prayers ascend; to her my cares and toils be given, till toils and cares shall end. Beyond my highest joy I prize her heavenly ways, her sweet communion, solemn vows her hymns of love and praise. Sure as Thy truth shall last, to Zion shall be given the brightest glories earth can yield, and brighter bliss of heaven. Amen.

Offertory Anthem: **"The Love of God" by Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992)**

Text: Neither death nor life nor anything at all can keep us from the love of God! Neither tears not toll nor troubles great and small can keep us from the love of God! Nothing past and nothing future, nothing now or yet to be can prevent God's love forever from surrounding you and me! Neither flame nor flood nor forces anywhere can keep us from the love of God! Neither stress nor strife nor struggles that we share can keep us from the love of God! The love of God is boundless; the love of God is sure. The love of God is steadfast, and ever shall endure. It touches every creature; it reaches every heart. God's love is everlasting and never will depart. Neither pain nor pride nor powers that oppress can keep us from the love of God! Neither dark nor doubt nor danger and distress can keep us from the love of God! Nothing past and nothing future; nothing now or yet to be can prevent God's love forever from surrounding you and me! Neither want nor war nor weariness and woe can keep us from the love of God! Neither height nor depth nor anything we know can keep us from the love of God! There's not a thing that can be found; there's nothing anywhere around to keep us from the love of God!

The flowers today are given in gratitude for our young people, helpers and teachers in God's Neighborhood.

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The host for the Fellowship hour this morning is Julie Martel.

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The nursery is open today with Miss Kristin Kennedy.

Today at FCCOL

Adult Ed Meeting at 11:30 am in the Library.
Youth Group Cooking for DINE at 4:30 pm in the kitchen.
Varsity Bells Rehearsal at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Upcoming Events this week at FCCOL

Ladies Who Stitch *Monday, November 9th at 10:00 am in* the Sheffield Auditorium.
The Benevolent Society Luncheon *Tues, Nov, 10th at 12:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.
The Board of Trustees Meeting *Tuesday, November 10th at 7:00 pm* in the Library.
Elephants-in-Winter (EIW) Set-Up *Wednesday, November 11th* in the Fellowship Hall.
ReBELLion Rehearsal *Wednesday, November 11th at 4:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.
"Loss of a Loved One" Support Group *Wed, Nov. 11th at 5:00 pm in* the Hoag Parlor.
Old Lyme Ringers Rehearsal *Wed, Nov. 11th at 7:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.
Choir Rehearsal *Wednesday, November 11th at 7:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.
EIW Set-Up *Thurs, Nov. 12th* in the Fellowship Hall, Library and Sheffield Auditorium.
Bible Study *Thursday, November 12th at 11:00 am* in the Hoag Parlor.
New Adult Bells Rehearsal *Thursday, November 12th at 5:30 pm* in the Hoag Parlor.
Essex Meadows Bible Study *Friday, November 13th at 11:00 am* at Essex Meadows.
EIW Set-Up *Friday, November 13th* in the Fellowship Hall, Library and Sheffield Aud.
Food Pantry *Saturday, November 14th at 8:30 am* Curbside Only.
Elephants-in-Winter SALE Saturday, November 14th from 9 –2 pm .
Elephants-in-Winter SALE Sunday, November 15th from 9–1 pm.
Varsity Bells Rehearsal *Sunday, November 15th at 6:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

The Benevolent Society November Luncheon

Tuesday, November 10th will be the Benevolent Society's final luncheon of 2026, and it is our "Let's get into the Holiday Spirit" celebration. Chef Rick will be serving an Autumn-inspired meal to warm your stomach, as well as your spirits. A buffet of cakes, puddings, sweets and possibly a pie or two will be "the icing on the top" of this delicious menu.

Following the luncheon and while you enjoy your sweet desserts, all are welcome to sit back and enjoy some musical selections presented by the Old Lyme High School Select Chorus. This talented group of vocalists, led by Kristine Pekar, have entertained us at our end-of-year holiday luncheon for many years with selections from well-known musical performances and some holiday tunes, and they always delight us with a professional and enjoyable performance.

We sit down to start our lunch at 12 noon, so arrive a little early to get your seat and make yourself comfortable. The musical program will begin at about 1pm and last about 45 minutes. Suggested donation for the generous luncheon is $5 plus an item or two **(remember: It's the holidays!)** for our food or diaper bank. Please call the church office at 860-434-8686 by Friday, November 6th to make a reservation so we can plan on the proper number of place settings.

Weekly Bible Study Thursday, November 12th

"Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." Psalm 90:2

Join us at 11am, Thursday, November 12th in the Library as we continue our weekly journey through the first five books of the Bible (known as the Torah). We'll resume our study of the Book of Numbers and continue from there. Whether it's your first time or you've been a regular reader with us, bring a bible and your curiosity! Fresh coffee and lots of questions await us!

Elephants-In-Winter Sale 2026

The Benevolent Society and the Partnership Committee are excited to jump start your holiday experience with their annual Elephants-in-Winter and Holiday Sale. As in the past few years, there will be two unique and different sales held at FCCOL that will help all shoppers, young and old, get everything they could possibly need for the 2026 holiday season. Seriously…….gifts and decorations, dinnerware and olive oils, mittens and wrapping paper. Two very different types of sales, held in multiple rooms, over the same two days. **Both sales will be held on Saturday, November 14th (9am-2pm) and Sunday, November 15th (9am-1pm.)**



Essex Meadows Bible Study

FCCOL/Essex Meadows Bible Study led by Laura and Gary will be on Friday, November 13th, 11:00 am at Essex Meadows, 30 Bokum Road, Essex. Park on the circle or in adjacent visitor's parking areas.

Youth Group Cape Cod Weekend! The Cape Cod Youth Retreat will be November 13th -15th. Departures from the church parking lot at 3:30 pm on Friday. We return by 4:00 pm on Sunday. We still have a few spots left! Contact Laura at lfitz.nager@gmail.com for more information.

Discover FCCOL: New Member Orientation

Are you new to our church community or curious to learn more about what we do? Please join us for our **New Member Orientation** on **Sunday, November 29th**, held in the **Sheffield Auditorium** immediately following the church service.

This informal gathering is the perfect opportunity to ask questions, learn about FCCOL's history and vision, and discover what makes this the place where love rolls up its sleeves! We'll have fresh coffee ready and plenty of time to chat and get to know one another. Whether you are ready to join or just want to see what we are all about, everyone is welcome.

SAIL has Launched! (Southeast Alliance for Interfaith Leadership)

On Wednesday, October 28, **three hundred and sixty** people, from Norwich to New London and from Groton to Old Lyme, gathered at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Waterford to ratify the organizing efforts of a dozen faith institutions and to mark the official launch of SAIL. (Southeast Alliance for Interfaith Leadership).

Over forty members and friends of FCCOL were present with Rick Strickhart bearer of FCCOL's flag and Kathy Sugland, one of the deliverers of *the Motion to Found!*

To learn more, join the next Orientation on November 17th from 6-7:30 pm at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 15 Pearl Street, Mystic, and/or join one of the issue working teams. To join FCCOL's SAIL Team, email Rev. Susan Switzer at sswitzer790@gmail.com or text her at (917) 951-6078. All are welcome!

Save this Date: Science Discussion Forum & Potluck

Please join us on Friday, November 20th at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck dinner and lively discussion on the *Mysteries of Human Consciousness.* Our November forum will discuss this topic that has bedeviled science for millenniums, and that still eludes some of our greatest thinkers. While we are at it, we can discuss the possibility that AI may be soon approaching this cryptic threshold!

Please mark your calendar and join us for what promises to be an exciting evening! Questions? Please contact Tom Sherer at: tesjr299@outlook.com.

Flowers for Sunday Worship Services

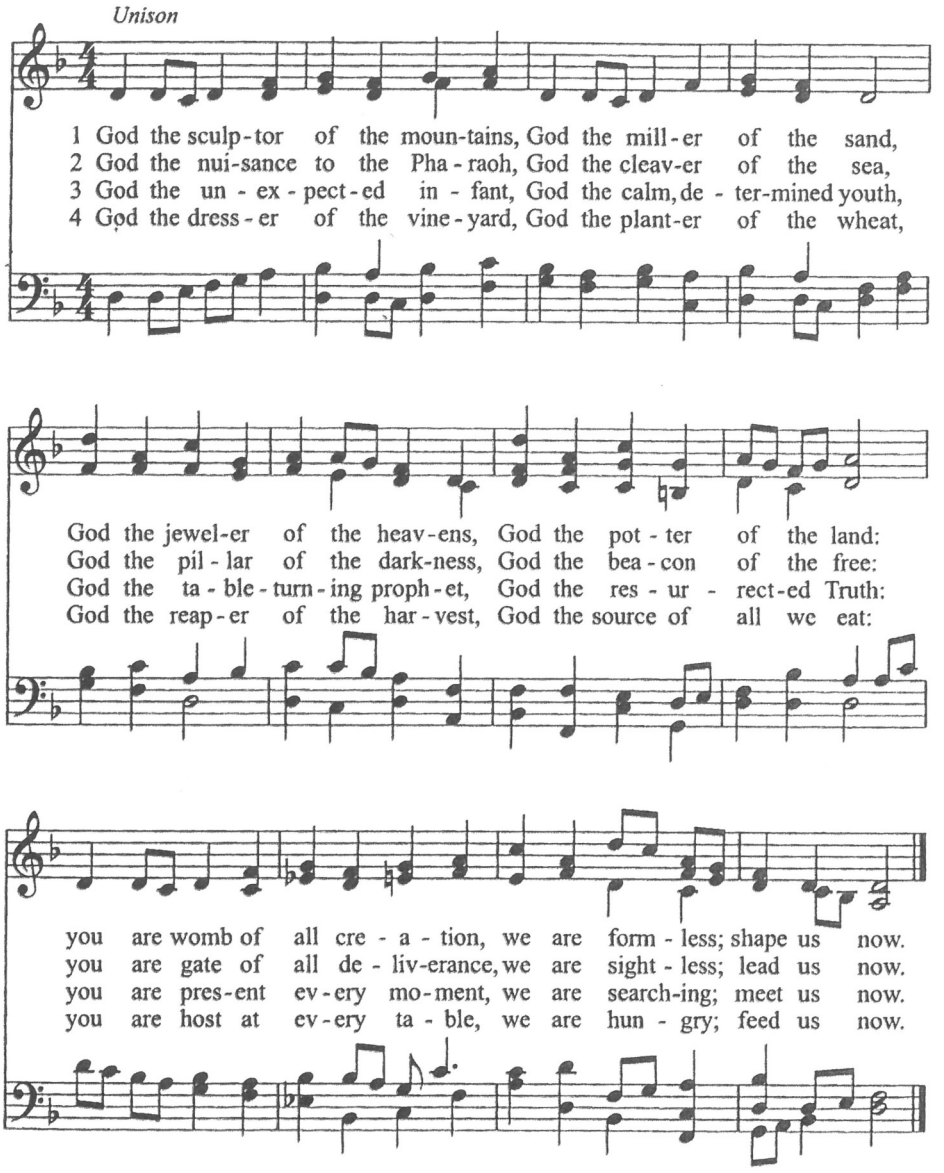
Would you like to donate flowers for the Sunday worship services? Please call Jill Harned (603) 398-9004 to reserve a date or reach out to the office at (860-434-8686) or email at fccol@fccol.org. Thank you!

Contribution Check received: We have gratefully received a check from Asset Mark for $4,100 on 11/3/2026. We do not know who sent in this gift. Kindly contact the church office at (860) 434-8686 and leave a message for Bob or Julie to let us know if you made this contribution so we can give you the proper credit. Thank you.

(On the Cover: Art by Jan Richardson, The Painted Prayerbook)

God the Sculptor of the Mountains 4

Unison



John Thornburg went through several drafts of this hymn before it was sung for the first time at graduation ceremonies at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, Texas in 1994. Two of his rejected, yet acute images were: "God, the downdraft of the eagle" and "God, the fly in Pharaoh's ointment."

WORDS: John Thornburg (1954-)
MUSIC: Keith Landis (1922-); harm. Jeffrey H. Rickard (1942-)

LATIMER
8.7.8.7.8.7.
(alternate tune: FORTUNATUS NEW)

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