Rev. Rebecca Crosby
The First Congregational Church of old Lyme
Pastoral Prayer November 8, 2026

To quote Robert F. Kennedy, *"Each time a person stands up for an idea, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he (or she) sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."*

Let us pray:

Gracious God author of justice and peace, we come before you with gratitude and hope in our hearts that the majority of the people in this country stood up and made their voices heard. They took a stand toward justice, compassion, diversity and common decency. As the prophet Amos declared, "let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." We pray that the spirit of resistance and change that we witnessed this past week will continue to bear fruit and will bring about much needed revisions in immigration policies, peace-making, reinstatements of crucial humanitarian programs, critical summits on global warming, uniting and reestablishing our friendships with Canada, Mexico, British Isles, and the European Union. Grant that we do all that we can to make positive changes in our country and around the world and continue the work for basic human rights and social justice and not get distracted by revenge, distrust, and division, but rather work for positive change to improve the lives of millions.

We give thanks for the gift of fellowship that we experience each Sunday – each one of you contributes to the fabric of the whole church, some are old friends, who have known each other for years, some new friends who met recently through a church program, some are here for the first time this morning, some are old, and some are children squirming in the seats. Some are teenagers full of enthusiasm and ideas as they ponder their future; some are of different nationalities, race, and sexual orientation; some have once practiced a different faith, and some are not sure what they believe, but they like the way they feel when they are here sharing their hopes and dreams for a world where all people feel valued and supported. Grant that we all strive to project this sense of community and love to the far corners of our battered nation and world.

As a united community we continue our prayers for the people of our country who cannot pay their rent or mortgage, who have trouble feeding their families adequately, cannot afford the utility payment and fear for the winter, for the distraught person who finds himself or herself living on the streets for the first time, or the person whose life depends on much needed medication and cannot afford it for lack of insurance. Grant our leaders to see each person as a human being with the same rights as theirs – to see them with new eyes as a mother, father, sister, brother, son or daughter. We pray for new legislation that helps those in need and not the pockets of those in power.

We also pray for peace in this world, for renewed talks with Iran, fair and honest negotiations between Ukraine and Russia, a reevaluation of our partnership with Israel and our role on the

world stage. Let us be a nation that once again is on the right side of justice. Let there be a time of healing and peace.

So many of us carry many burdens in our heart and so we come to you now with our prayers in silence….

We lift these prayers to you with faith that you have heard them. Through all these trials and despair, we know there is always hope – your presence brings hope to the gravest of situations. Give us strength and courage to live each day in the glory of your love... to live each day with confidence and faith that in you and through you all things are possible. Help us when we feel discouraged, help us to know we are loved beyond measure, and that we have a church community that is strong and supportive and ready to help if the need arises. We are not alone. We are never alone we have you in our midst and we have each other.

We pray this morning in the name of Jesus Christ, our friend. Amen

Rev. Rebecca Crosby