



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

Third Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2020

“Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection,
not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.”

–Martin Luther

All hymns are included after the order of worship, on pages 5-8.

Prelude *The Son of God Is Come*, op. 28, no. 28 M. Dupré

Call to Worship (*Unison*; adapted from Psalm 116)

I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and praise the name of the LORD. Praise the LORD!

Hymn (*See below, p. 5*) *Look Who Gathers at Christ’s Table* Copeland

Prayer of Invocation

God, though we worship in different locations this day, we know your Spirit is with us, joining us together as one people. Lift up our worship, enliven our songs, inspire our prayers, and infuse them all with your grace, your love, your power. We pray these things in your Son’s name. Amen.

Gloria (*Unison*)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Words of Welcome; Our Ministry and Mission

During this time, we are not meeting in person. All are encouraged to stay in touch with one another by phone, email, or written cards. If you would like to organize a Zoom teleconference or telephone meeting, please be in touch with the Rev. Steve Silver (603-448-4281/silver@fccleb.org), and he’ll get you set up and ready to go.

Children’s Moment

When I go on a trip, there are two parts: the getting somewhere and the being there. All too often, we focus on the latter, and don’t think about the former. Getting somewhere can be a drag—but sometimes, the journey is as much fun as the destination.

Think of a family car trip you may have taken. Maybe you took an interesting route and saw lots of cool things on the way or stopped at an interesting place. Sometimes you may play games on the way. The truth is that when we look carefully and try to appreciate all the moments in our lives, we may come across some neat discoveries, just like those people on the road to Emmaus. They met a stranger, but instead of brushing him off, they talked with him—and that’s when they met the Risen Jesus! Next time you go somewhere, try to be alert to new experiences. You never know what God may reveal to you.

Hymn (*See below, p. 6*)

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

St. Flavian

Scripture Lessons

Acts 2:14a, 36-41. ^{14a}But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “[...] ³⁶Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Luke 24:13-35. ¹³Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as

the women had said; but they did not see him.”²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?”²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them.³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.³⁴ They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!”³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Sermon “A Long, Strange Trip” (*see separate document*) Stephen R. Silver

Hymn (See below, p. 7) *Let Us Break Bread Together* Let Us Break Bread

Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

On this day we offer our ongoing prayers for Pete, Lloyd, Jessica, Martha, Micah, Joanne, Max, Kelee, Tammy, Arlene, Ruth, Ryle, Emily, John, Shirley, Dan, Roger, Jim, Beth, Evelyn, Susan, Barbara, Max, and Greg.

We pray for Larry Doyle, who remains in treatment and is anticipating additional surgery in the coming weeks.

We pray for the family and friends of Bob Congdon, a beloved maintenance worker at Eastman, who lost his long battle with cancer on Tuesday morning.

We pray for all those struggling with financial challenges, reduced hours and unemployment, and fears about the future.

We pray for the healthcare workers and first responders who are on the front line dealing with this pandemic.

We pray for wisdom and humility from all our leaders.

Today we offer this prayer:

O God of the road to Emmaus, we, too, are like those ancient travelers, heading somewhere, but not all too sure of who is with us, burdened by our concerns and thus unable to see you. Open our eyes that we might see and our ears that we might hear, and not be distracted by things that lead us away from you.

Be with us, and with those with whom we work or play, that we may know through fellowship the joys of your boundless love. We pray these things, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of your Son, the Risen Christ, Jesus. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (*Unison*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering of Gifts

In times like this, it is especially fitting that we remember those who are without, those who are often ignored, those who are in need. In this spirit, we invite your support of this church, its mission, and its ministry. Please mail in your offering as you are able, in support of this church's continuing work in and for the community.

Doxology (*Unison*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures here below,
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication (*Unison*)

God, you have led us to this place and time, to this community and fellowship, to the new life we know in Jesus. In gratitude, we offer our thanks and offer these gifts as a sign of our commitment to share with others the blessings of grace, love, and hope you have shared with us. In the name of our Risen Lord, Amen.

Hymn (*See below, p. 8*)

Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers

Suo Gan

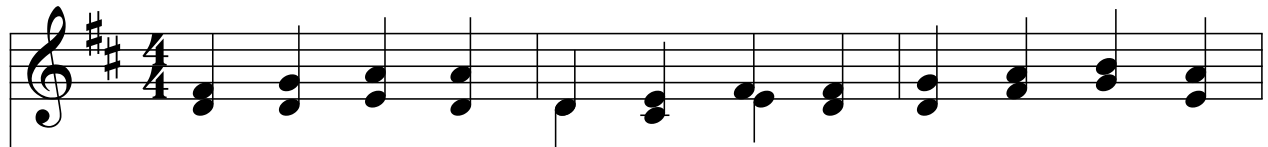
Benediction

My friends, life is short. We do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So, be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. Now go forth with the love of God, the grace of our lord Jesus Christ, and the companionship of the Holy Spirit, this day and forevermore. Amen.

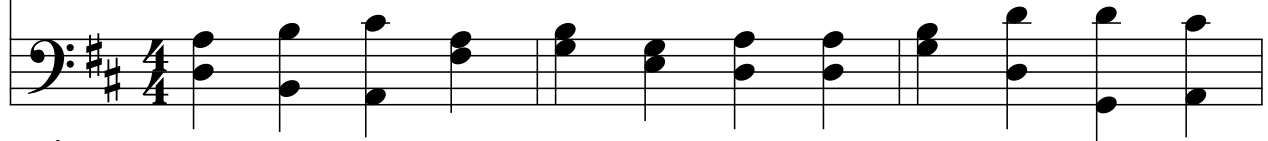
Joys, Concerns, and Prayer Requests

If you wish to have a **joy, concern, or prayer request** lifted up in the service, or if you know of anyone who may need special prayers, a card or phone call, or some other form of pastoral care, please email prayer@fccleb.org, or contact the church office or the Rev. Steve Silver directly.

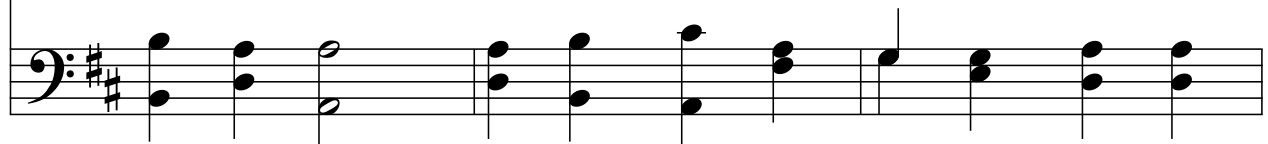
506 Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table!



1 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries
2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -
3 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand
4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to



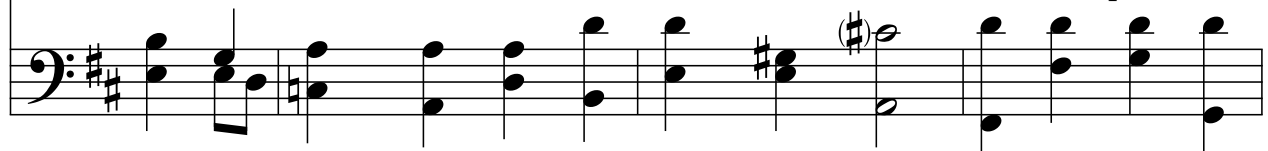
that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;
ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled
dif - ferent ways, but they share one thing in com - mon:
be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,

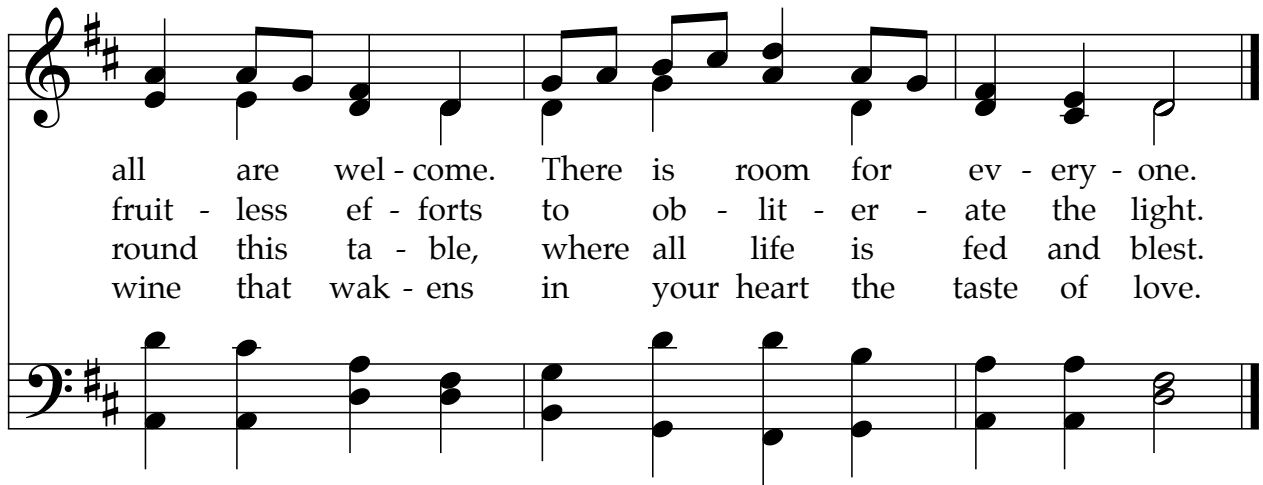


some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -
with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -
they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has in -
who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and



vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they
ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his
vit - ed north and south and east and west to con - verge a -
breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!—and then pass - es





all are wel - come. There is room for ev - ery - one.
fruit - less ef - forts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.
round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.
wine that wak - ens in your heart the taste of love.

This text celebrates the radical hospitality that characterizes Christ's welcome, which transcends time and reaches in all directions (Matthew 8:11/Luke 13:29). Saints of old are, like us, people in need of forgiveness, and the response to such pardon is "thanks and praise."

TEXT: Thomas H. Troeger, 2000
MUSIC: Michael Corzine, 2000
Text © 2002 Oxford University Press
Music © 2000 Michael Corzine

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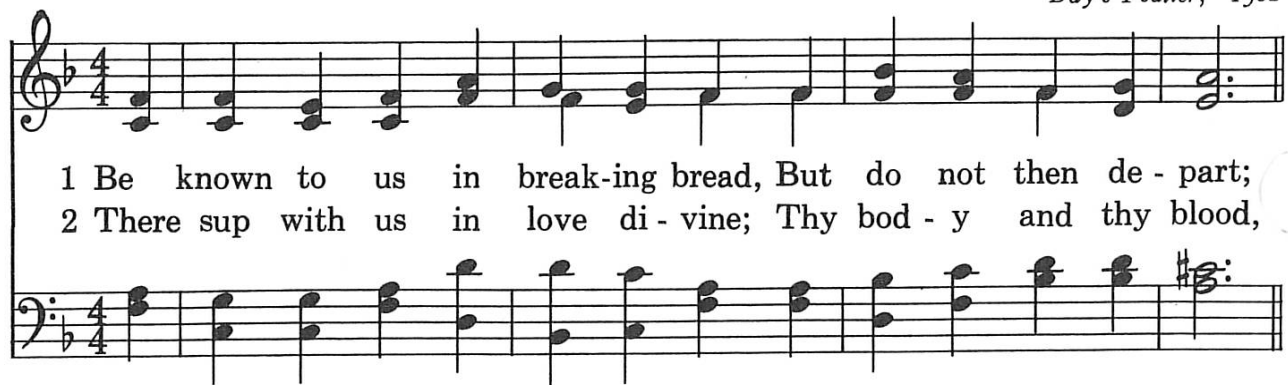
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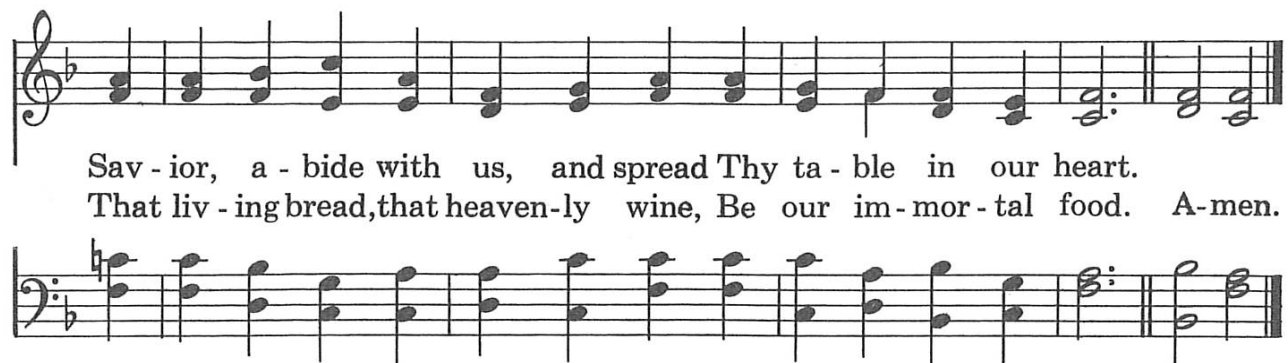
Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

James Montgomery, 1771-1854

ST. FLAVIAN C.M.
"Day's Psalter," 1562



1 Be known to us in break-ing bread, But do not then de - part;
2 There sup with us in love di - vine; Thy bod - y and thy blood,



Sav - ior, a - bide with us, and spread Thy ta - ble in our heart.
That liv - ing bread, that heav - en - ly wine, Be our im - mor - tal food. A - men.

Let Us Break Bread Together 525

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees)
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees)
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees)

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees)
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees)
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees)

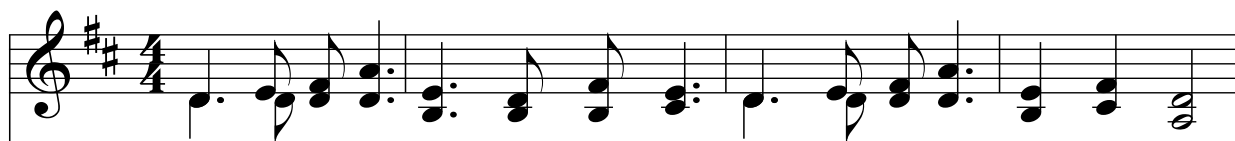
Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mer - cy on me. (on me)

This African American spiritual quite possibly reflects the circumstances of slaves attending early morning communion services in colonial Anglican churches, but its combination of hope (“rising sun”) and supplication (“Lord, have mercy”) speaks to many worshipers’ experience.

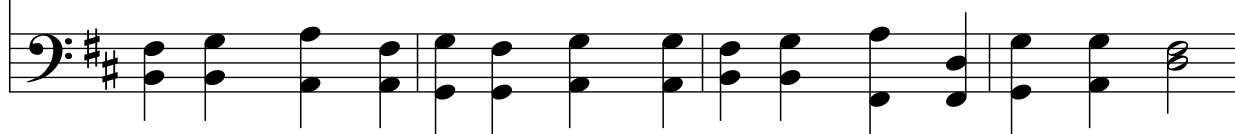
Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers 231



1 Christ has ris-en while earth slum-bers; Christ has ris-en where hope died,
2 Christ has ris-en for the peo - ple whom he died to love and save;
3 Christ has ris-en and for ev - er lives to chal-enge and to change



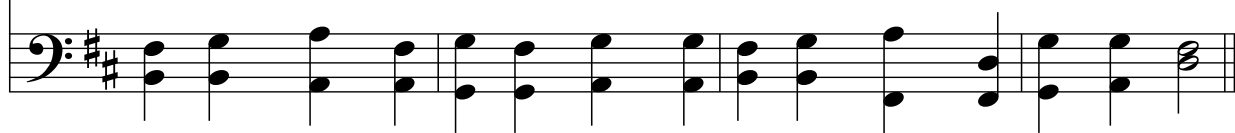
as he said and as he prom-ised, as we doubt-ed and de - nied.
Christ has ris-en for the wom-en bring-ing flowers to grace his grave.
all whose lives are messed or man-gled, all who find re - li - gion strange.



Let the moon em-brace the bless-ing; let the sun sus-tain the cheer;
Christ has ris - en for dis - ci - ples hud - dled in an up - stairs room.
Christ is ris - en, Christ is pres - ent mak - ing us what he has been:



let the world con-firm the ru-mor: Christ is ris - en, God is here!
He whose word in-spired cre-a-tion can't be si-lenced by the tomb.
ev - i - dence of trans-for-mation in which God is known and seen.



Beginning with rather conventional Easter imagery, this text moves into unexpected territory by declaring that Christ's Resurrection is for "all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange." The name of this traditional Welsh melody simply means "lullaby."

TEXT: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1988
MUSIC: Welsh melody; arr. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011
Text © 1988 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)
Music Arr. © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

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Mother's Day Is Blanket Sunday

We are pleased once again to participate in Church World Service's CWS BLANKETS, a special mission project that provides blankets and essential supplies to people in crisis worldwide. (For more information on this program, please visit www.cwsblankets.org.)

If you'd like to honor or remember the mother(s) in your life with a contribution to CWS Blankets, please contact the church (603-448-4281 or church@fccleeb.org) with your dedication information. The suggested minimum is \$10, but any amount is welcome! (*Payable to FCC, memo "Blanket Sunday"*)

All dedications must be received by noon on WEDNESDAY, MAY 6 in order to be included in the worship bulletin on MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 10.

Thanks to your generous contributions, CWS is able to "blanket the world with love."

One Great Hour of Sharing: "Invest in Futures"—Special UCC Mission Offering

This nationwide offering funds vital mission initiatives around the world. It supports healthcare, education, agriculture, refugee assistance, and emergency relief in over 130 countries. OGHS funds are leveraged with local, national, and global partners to maximize their impact.

We will continue to collect this offering throughout the coming weeks. Please consider a contribution as you are able, and thanks! (Payable to FCC, with "OGHS" in the memo line.)

Do Your Part to "Fill the Cart"—From Home!

We are no longer collecting items for our shopping cart, but local need is as urgent as ever.

Listen's food pantry on Hanover Street (next to Sacred Heart Church) continues to accept non-perishable donations, and they are serving to-go meals during the week in White River. However, the closure of the Listen Store is a huge financial loss. The Haven, too, has seen rising demand at their food pantry and would greatly appreciate financial donations as well.

In lieu of filling our cart, please consider making a contribution directly to Listen, the Haven, the UV Humane Society, or another local organization that serves the needs of our community. Thanks to everyone for fighting local poverty and food insecurity!

LISTEN: listencs.org • THE HAVEN: uppervalleyhaven.org • UV HUMANE SOCIETY: uvhs.org

Please note that we have suspended on-site worship services and other events through at least Sunday, May 3, following state recommendations. Contact the church office for information about particular events or assistance using the Zoom teleconferencing application.



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

PO Box 230
10 South Park St
Lebanon NH 03766

Weekly Worship Resources Enclosed!

DATED MATERIAL—Please Deliver Promptly

Do you use email? Contact church@fccleb.org to receive this and other communication by email.

Welcome!

We are a Christ-centered community that celebrates the love of God. Although we are of varied minds, with varying measures of belief and unbelief, we are one body, bound together in Christ. We recognize the uniqueness of every individual as God's beloved child. We seek to respond faithfully to God's call for justice for all creation. We strive in word and deed to be faithful to Jesus' model of loving acceptance. We seek to create a sanctuary where all will know they are welcome and included.

No matter your age, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, race or ethnicity, physical or mental ability, or economic circumstance, you are invited into the full life and ministry of First Congregational Church of Lebanon, including its worship, sacraments, and rites.

Join us as we grow together in God's love.

First Congregational Church of Lebanon

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Susan Sorensen, Interim Organist and Choir Director • Nancy Parsons, Church School Superintendent

Barbara Teeter, Chair of Deacons • Linda Jacobs, Chair of Church Council • Barbara Jones, Moderator

Brian Clancy, Church Administrator

Church Office Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9:00-12:00 (or by appointment as needed)

603-448-4281 • church@fccleb.org • prayer@fccleb.org • music@fccleb.org • www.fccleb.org