



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

ALL SAINTS' DAY • The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

November 1, 2020

“It matters not how a man dies, but how he lives.”

–Samuel Johnson

All hymns are included after the order of worship, on pages 5-7.

Prelude

The Angel's Song

C. V. Stanford

Call to Worship (Unison; adapted from Psalm 34:1-6)

I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together. I sought the LORD, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed. This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD, and was saved from every trouble. We will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in our mouths.

Hymn 306 (p. 5)

For All the Saints

Sine Nomine

Prayer of Invocation

God, though we worship in places near and far today, we welcome your Spirit as it joins us together as one people. Lift up our worship, inspire our prayers, infuse them 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

While we are not meeting in person, all are encouraged to stay in touch with one another by phone, email, or written cards. If you wish to organize a Zoom conference or phone meeting, please contact the Rev. Steve Silver (603-448-4281/silver@fccleeb.org), and he'll get you set up and ready to go.

Children's Moment

Can you believe it's November already? This year seems to be going by fast. Except for when it's not. I know that doesn't seem to make much sense, but bear with me. Time

is funny—sometimes things speed by, and other times we may feel like we’re slogging through mud. Our experience of time varies, depending on what’s going on in our lives, but it goes by nonetheless. Time is a measurement that humans have concocted: look at your watch or a clock. But it’s also a gift from God, something we have only so much of. I hope you will join me in treasuring this blessing, trying to see each day as something special from God that we might share with the ones we love and care for.

Hymn 310 (p. 6) O *What Their Joy and Their Glory Must Be* O *Quanta Qualia*

Scripture Lesson

Revelation 7:9-17. ⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.” ¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. ¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; ¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Sermon “*Hope*” (See separate document) Stephen R. Silver

Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

As we hold our community members in prayer, please help us maintain our weekly prayer list by contacting Rev. Silver or the church office to confirm names on the list or remove them.

On this day we offer our ongoing prayers for Pete, Lloyd, Arlene, Ruth, Evelyn, Jim, Barbara, Greg, Jon, Larry, Edith, and Jan.

We pray for all those fighting the coronavirus or other illnesses, whether of mind, body, or spirit.

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 our country during this election season.

We pray for reconciliation and healing in this time of racial tension.

We pray for wisdom and humility from all our leaders.

And finally, we offer the following prayer, adapted from *A Book of Worship for Free Churches*, published in 1948:

We praise you for Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the blessedness of your saints has given us a glorious pledge of the hope of our calling; that, being compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, we may run with patience the race that is set before us, and with them receive the crown of glory that never fades away.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. 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

Remembering those who are without, who are in need, who are often ignored, we invite your support of our ongoing ministry in and for the community. Please mail in your offering as you are able.

Offertory

Dearest Jesu, We Are Here

J. S. Bach

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)

Ancient of Days, Author of Life, Eternal God: you have fashioned time, granting each of us a portion, trusting each of us to use this blessing faithfully. In gratitude for this precious gift and with renewed commitment to use it wisely on behalf of your Gospel, we present this morning's offering, praying in Jesus' name, Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

For communion, you are invited to have some bread and juice on hand. We will share in the bread and cup at the appointed time. If you would like to receive a blessing, please let the officiant know.

Invitation and Communion Prayer

Sanctus

Ho - ly, Ho - ly Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts:
 Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, Glo - ry be to you, O Lord most
 High. Bless-ed is the one that comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho -
 san - na in the high - est.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (*Unison*)

Because the broken bread has meant our healing, because the outpoured cup has meant our life, because our common sharing has meant the communion of our souls, and because we have here been graced by your presence, God, we give you thanks and pray that our lives may be renewed in the life and the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn 413 (p. 7) *By Gracious Powers*

Bonhoeffer

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 communion of the Holy Spirit, this day and forevermore. Amen.

Postlude

Salvation Now Is Come

J. S. Bach

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.

Operation Christmas Child—National Collection Week: November 16-23

We are once again supporting Operation Christmas Child, an annual campaign run by Samaritan's Purse that ships shoeboxes full of supplies and toys to children around the world. Gloria and Phil Hammond have so generously managed our collection at FCC in recent years.

This year we invite you to build a shoebox online before the week of November 16-23.

For more information on this year's virtual operation and to build your shoebox online, please visit www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/. Thanks!

For All the Saints

First Tune

William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.

SINE NOMINE 10.10.10.4.
R. Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

In unison

1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, Who thee by faith be -
 2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might: Thou, Lord, their captain
 3 O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold, Fight as the saints who
 4 O blest communion, fellowship divine! We feebly struggle,
 5 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long, Steals on the ear the

fore the world confessed, Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
 in the well-fought fight; Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
 nobly fought of old, And win with them the victor's crown of gold.
 they in glory shine; Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
 distant triumph song, And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! A-men.

O What Their Joy and Their Glory Must Be

Peter Abelard, 1079-1142
Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866

O QUANTA QUALIA 10.10.10.10.
La Feillée's "Méthode du Plain-chant," 1808

1 O what their joy and their glo - ry must be,
2 Tru - ly Je - ru - sa - lem name we that shore,
3 We, where no trou - ble dis - trac - tion can bring,
4 Low be - fore him with our prais - es we fall,

Those end - less sab - baths the bless - ed ones see:
Vi - sion of peace, that brings joy ev - er - more;
Safe - ly the an - thems of Zi - on shall sing,
Of whom, and in whom, and through whom are all:

Crown for the val - iant, to wea - ry ones rest;
Wish and ful - fill - ment can sev - ered be ne'er,
While for thy grace, Lord, their voic - es of praise
Of whom, the Fa - ther; and in whom, the Son;

God shall be all, and in all ev - er blest.
Nor the thing prayed for come short of the prayer.
Thy bless - ed peo - ple shall ev - er - more raise.
Through whom, the Spir - it, with these ev - er One. A-men.

By Gracious Powers

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1944
 Transl. Fred Pratt Green, 1972

Unison

1 By gra-cious powers so won-der-ful-ly shel-tered,
 2 Yet is this heart by its old foe tor-ment-ed,
 3 And when this cup you give is filled to brim-ming
 4 Yet when a-gain in this same world you give us

and con-fi-dent-ly wait-ing, come what may,
 still e-vil days bring bur-dens hard to bear;
 with bit-ter sor-row, hard to un-der-stand,
 the joy we had, the bright-ness of your sun,

We know that God is with us night and morn-ing,
 O give our fright-ened souls the sure sal-va-tion
 We take it thank-ful-ly and with-out trem-bling,
 We shall re-mem-ber all the days we lived through,

and nev-er fails to greet us each new day.
 for which, O God, you taught us to pre-pare.
 out of so good and so be-loved a hand.
 and our whole life shall then be yours a-lone.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, professor, and leader of the German Opposition, composed the poem on which this hymn is based, "New Year 1945," while imprisoned by the Gestapo in Berlin. Four months later, Bonhoeffer was executed by special order of Himmler.

Tune: BONHOEFFER 11.10.11.10.
 Herbert G. Hobbs, 1976
 Harm. Jan Helmut Wubbena, 1976

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First Congregational Church of Lebanon

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Weekly Worship Resources Enclosed!

DATED MATERIAL—Please Deliver Promptly

Do you use email? Contact church@fcclb.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

Ernie Drown, 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@fcclb.org • prayer@fcclb.org • music@fcclb.org • www.fcclb.org