



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

Christ the King • STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

November 22, 2020

“You don’t get to decide to worship. Everyone worships something.
The only choice you get is what to worship.”

–Timothy Keller

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

Prelude

In Thee Is Joy, BWV 615

J. S. Bach

Call to Worship (Unison; Psalm 100)

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Hymn 105 (p. 5) *Hail to the Lord’s Anointed*

Ellacombe

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@fcclb.org), and he’ll get you set up and ready to go.

Children’s Moment

This coming week we’ll celebrate Thanksgiving. This year, though, we may do things differently. However we observe the day, we should keep God at the center. The parades are nice, the football can be fun, the stories of what people did in the past are

interesting, and the food is yummy. But none of that really matters if we fail to say “thanks” to God, who has given us everything.

Hymn 195 (p. 6) *All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name*

Coronation

Scripture Lessons

Deuteronomy 8:7-18. ⁷For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, ⁸a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. ¹⁰You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.

¹¹Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today.

¹²When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, ¹³and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, ¹⁴then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, ¹⁵who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, ¹⁶and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. ¹⁷Do not say to yourself, “My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.” ¹⁸But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

Matthew 25:31-46. [Jesus continued,] ³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of

these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Sermon “By the Grace of God” (*See separate document*) Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 202 (p. 7) *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun* Duke Street

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 reconciliation and healing in this time of racial tension.

We pray for wisdom and humility from all our leaders.

Today we offer the following prayer:

Lord of all Creation, we give thanks this day for the many blessings in our lives, both those seen and those unseen. From our talents, to our families, to the world itself, your bounty has been amazing. We confess that we often take your gifts for granted, that what we have received from you is unmerited, a result of your boundless grace. We pray that we will be ever mindful of how generous you have been to us, and that we will look to our neighbors who are without, sharing with them the way you share with us.

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

Benedictus

F. Couperin

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*)

Sovereign, servant God: In Jesus you have shown us how to lead. In service comes power, in sharing comes abundance, in faith comes meaning. With these gifts we rededicate ourselves to following the way of the Risen Christ. Amen.

Hymn 199 (p. 8)

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Diademata

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

Offertoire sur les Grands Jeux

F. Couperin

François Couperin (1668-1733) was the closest France came to an equivalent of J. S. Bach. A musical prodigy born into a notable family of composers and performers, Couperin published, among other things, four volumes of harpsichord music, still ranked among the finest compositions for that instrument. His only works for organ were two "organ masses" of 1690, from which today's music is drawn.

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.

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,
To take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying, were precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
And love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go;
And righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

O'er every foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious, all-blessing and all-blest;
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever: that name to us is Love.

By the Grace of God *Today is Stewardship Sunday*

"Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today." (Deuteronomy 8:17-18)

All are invited to prayerfully consider their commitment to FCC's mission and ministry in the coming year. Today we dedicate our 2021 pledges in worship, but we will gratefully continue to accept them anytime in the coming weeks.

Please return your pledge forms to the church office by mail (or submit your pledge information by email if you'd rather). If you'd like to use offering envelopes for 2021, you may pick up your boxed set (#1-25) at the church office during the week.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service—This Tuesday, November 24, 7:00

Although the pandemic prevents us from gathering in person, all are invited to worship online with our friends from the Lebanon United Methodist and West Lebanon Congregational Churches—both of which have new pastors this fall. Please join us in this faithful, annual observation of Thanksgiving with our wider community.

The entire congregation will receive the Zoom link for the service on Tuesday afternoon.

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

First Tune

Edward Perronet, 1726-1792
 All. by John Rippon, 1751-1836

CORONATION C.M.
 Oliver Holden, 1765-1844

1 All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
 2 Crown him, ye mar - tyrs of our God, Who from his al - tar call;
 3 Ye seed of Is - ra - el's chosen race, Ye ran - somed of the fall,
 4 Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe, On this ter - res - trial ball,
 5 O that, with yon - der sa - cred throng, We at his feet may fall;

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, And crown him Lord of all.
 Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod, And crown him Lord of all.
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, And crown him Lord of all.
 To him all maj - es - ty as - crite, And crown him Lord of all.
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, And crown him Lord of all.

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, And crown him Lord of all.
 Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod, And crown him Lord of all.
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, And crown him Lord of all.
 To him all maj - es - ty as - crite; And crown him Lord of all.
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, And crown him Lord of all. A - men

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ADVENT BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Please note that Church Council has suspended on-site, indoor worship and other events at FCC until January, continuing to follow abundant caution amid COVID-19 concerns.

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun Doth his suc -
 2 For him shall end - less prayer be made, And prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue Dwell on his

ces - sive jour - neys run; His king - dom stretch from
 throng to crown his head; His name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song, And in - fant voic - es

shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise With ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on his name. A-men.

Operation Christmas Child—Build a Box Online TODAY!

You may still support Operation Christmas Child, an annual campaign run by Samaritan's Purse that ships shoeboxes full of supplies and toys to children around the world.

Please visit www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/. Thank you!

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

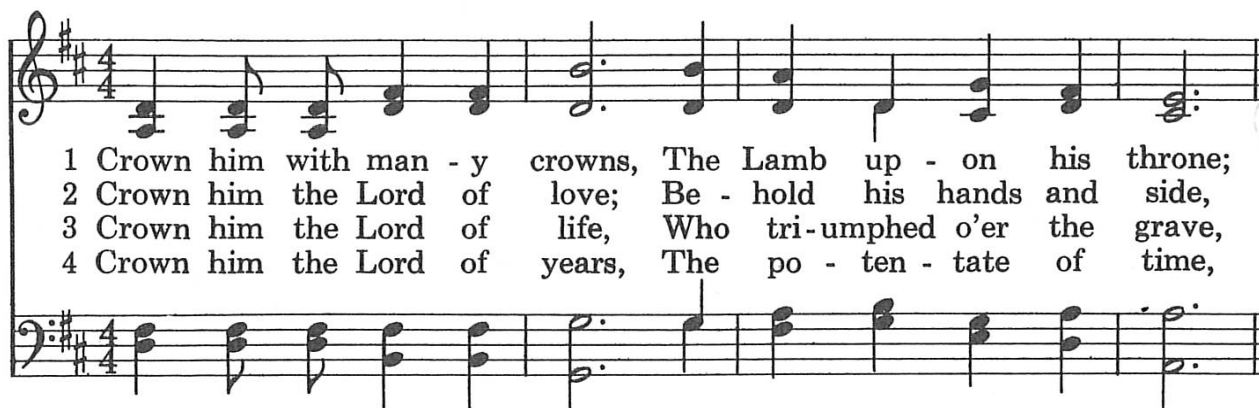
In December we will accept donations to the UCC's Christmas Fund, also known as the Fund for the Veterans of the Cross or Emergency Fund. This program offers compassionate, grateful support for retired clergy and their families with pension, healthcare, and emergency assistance.

Please contribute as you're able to this vital denominational offering, either by check to FCC (memo "Christmas Fund") or online at www.pbucc.org/index.php/christmas-fund-home. Thanks!

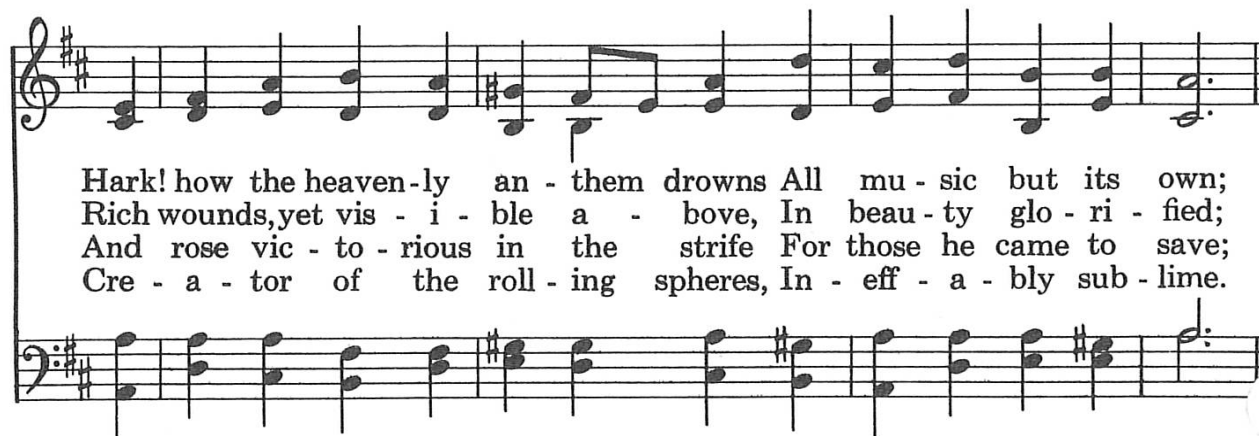
Crown Him With Many Crowns

Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894
 Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, St. 3

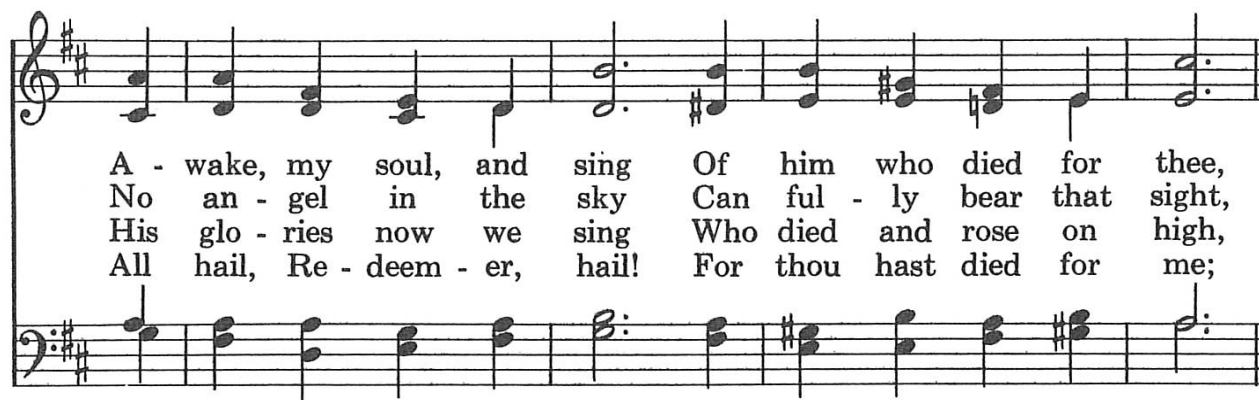
DIADEMATA S.M.D.
 George J. Elvey, 1816-1893



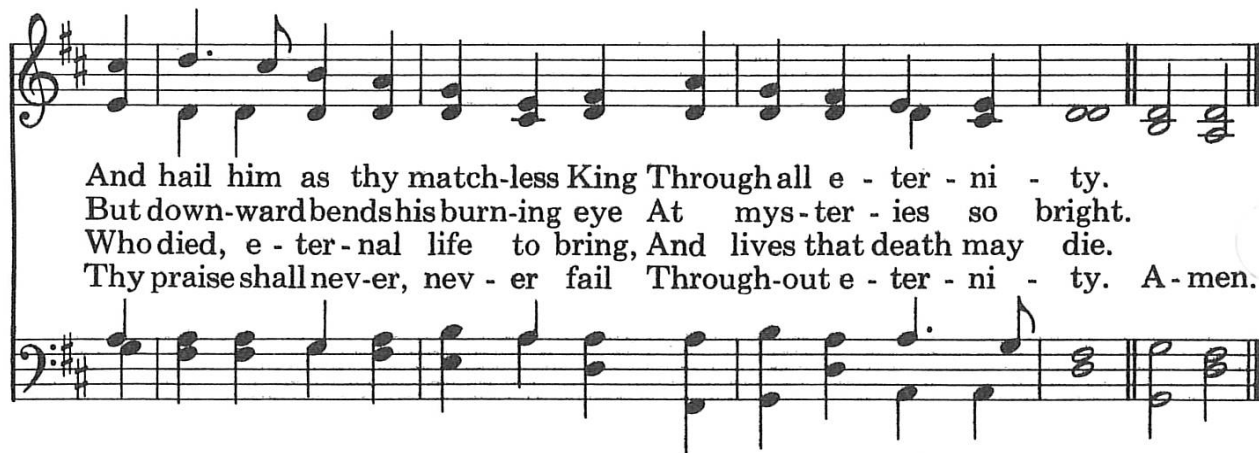
1 Crown him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the Lord of love; Be - hold his hands and side,
 3 Crown him the Lord of life, Who tri-umphed o'er the grave,
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, The po - ten - tate of time,



Hark! how the heaven-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own;
 Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied;
 And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those he came to save;
 Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, In - eff - a - bly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing Of him who died for thee,
 No an - gel in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His glo - ries now we sing Who died and rose on high,
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



And hail him as thy match-less King Through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 But down-ward bends his burn-ing eye At mys - ter - ies so bright.
 Who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, And lives that death may die.
 Thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail Through-out e - ter - ni - ty. A - men.



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

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@fccleb.org • prayer@fccleb.org • music@fccleb.org • www.fccleb.org