



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 17, 2021

“The power of faith is transformative. It can be utilized in your own personal life to change your individual condition, and it can be used as a lifeline of spiritual strength to change a nation.”

–John Lewis

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

Prelude

Amazing Grace

arr. H. Colvin

Call to Worship (*Unison*; Psalm 139:1-6,13-14)

O LORD, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

Hymn 825 (p. 5) *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*

Swing Low

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

Children's Moment

Today we read two stories from Scripture about people being called by God to do his work. Each call is unique; each person who is called is unique. One doesn't have to be

a prophet or a minister or a person who speaks beautifully. God can work with anyone, make use of anybody's gifts, to do his work. Sometimes God wants those he calls to do mighty deeds, other times to do something small that will still make a difference. So, remember this: God calls all sorts of people, even people like you and me!

Hymn 415 (p. 6) *In Christ There Is No East or West*

McKee

Scripture Lessons

1 Samuel 3:1-20. Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." ¹¹Then the Lord said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." ¹⁷Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him."

¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

John 1:43-51. ⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Sermon *"Called" (Recording available)* Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 576 (p. 7) *For the Healing of the Nations* Westminster Abbey

Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

As we hold our community members in prayer, please exercise care and discretion when sharing, as what seems public for you may be private for others. Help us keep our weekly prayer list current by contacting Rev. Silver or the church office to confirm or remove names on the list.

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

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 and political tension.

We pray for wisdom and humility from all our leaders.

Today, we also offer the following prayer:

God of the Exodus, we recall this day the mighty deeds you did on behalf of our forebears who were held in bondage in Egypt. We celebrate how you led them to freedom, and we give thanks that you brought them to a new land, a place of bounty and possibility. As we remember these things, we confess that the fight for liberty and human dignity is not just something that required the work of our ancestors—it is something that needs our commitment this very day. Inspire, encourage, and motivate us to fight for equality and freedom for all of your children.

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 *There Is a Balm in Gilead* arr. W. L. Dawson

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)

Generous, Wondrous, Creator God:
In power, you call the world into being.
With grace, you take the world into your heart.
In love, you serve the world in Jesus.
Inspired, encouraged, and empowered by you, we now give joyfully and generously of ourselves. In the name of your Son we pray, Amen.

Hymn 570 (p. 8) *We Shall Overcome* (vv. 1-6) We Shall Overcome

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 *Land of Our Birth* R. Vaughan Williams

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor
Ernie Drown, Organist • Brian Clancy, Tenor • Barbara Jones, Liturgist

825 Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Refrain

Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, com - ing for to car - ry me home.

Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, com - ing for to car - ry me home. *Fine*

1 I looked o - ver Jor - dan, and what did I see com - ing for to car - ry me home?
 2 If you get there be - fore I do, com - ing for to car - ry me home,
 3 The bright - est day that ev - er I saw, com - ing for to car - ry me home,
 4 I'm some - times up and some - times down, com - ing for to car - ry me home,

to Refrain
 A band of an - gels com - ing af - ter me, com - ing for to car - ry me home. O,
 tell all my friends I'm com - ing too, com - ing for to car - ry me home. O,
 when Je - sus washed my sins a - way, com - ing for to car - ry me home. O,
 but still my soul feels heav - en - ly bound, com - ing for to car - ry me home. O,

While ostensibly based on Elijah's ascent into heaven (2 Kings 2:11), this African American spiritual also communicates the enslaved people's hope that they might find deliverance across a river (i.e. in the free states beyond the Ohio). Call-and-response singing enhances this piece.

In Christ There Is No East or West

Second Tune

John Oxenham, 1852-1941

McKEE C.M.

*Negro Melody**Adapted by Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949*

1 In Christ there is no East or West, In him no South or North;
 2 In him shall true hearts ev-ery-where Their high com-mun - ion find;
 3 Join hands, then, broth-ers of the faith, What-e'er your race may be!
 4 In Christ now meet both East and West, In him meet South and North;

But one great fel - low - ship of love Through-out the whole wide earth.
 His serv - ice is the gold-en cord Close - bind - ing all man-kind.
 Who serves my Fa - ther as a son Is sure - ly kin to me.
 All Christ-ly souls are one in him Through-out the whole wide earth.

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.

THE SOUPER BOWL IS BACK!

If the NFL can play football without fans, FCC can collect canned goods without in-person services! We are once again tackling local hunger with a collection of soup and other non-perishable items, to be split among the UV Haven, Headrest, and Listen Community Services.

Donations may be brought to the church office until February 10. You may also bring them directly to any of the three beneficiaries (please let us know if you do so). THANK YOU!!

Reminder: FCC's 2021 Annual Meeting will be Sunday, February 14 (on Zoom)

For the Healing of the Nations

Fred Kaan, 1965

1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, God, we pray with
 2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
 3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
 4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
 earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of
 all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
 dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
 bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.
 care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.
 quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.
 sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

Fred Kaan's most widely published text was first sung at Pilgrim Church in Plymouth, England, at a service of worship marking Human Rights Day in 1965. It has been used for many subsequent occasions, including the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY 8.7.8.7.8.7.
 Henry Purcell, c. 1680
 Arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1842

Words Copyright © 1968 by Hope Publishing Company

Used and reproduced under license 734395-A from OneLicense, valid 4/13/2020–4/12/2021.

We Shall Overcome

570

United States traditional

John 8:31–32; Rom. 12:21; 2 Cor. 13:11

1 We shall o - ver - come, we shall o - ver -
2 We'll go hand in hand, we'll go hand in
3 We are not a - fraid, we are not a -
4 Our God will see us through, our God will see us

come, we shall o - ver - come some day;
hand, we'll go hand in hand some day;
fraid, we are not a - fraid to - day;
through, our God will see us through some day;

(1-6) Oh, deep in my heart, I do be - lieve,

we shall o - ver - come some day.
we'll go hand in hand some day.
we are not a - fraid to - day.
our God will see us through some day.

5 The truth shall make us free . . . some day.

6 We shall live in peace . . . some day.

This anthem of the 1960s civil rights movement was frequently sung at mass meetings and marches. Several sources have been cited as its origins, including the spiritual "No more auction block for me" based on the tune known as Sicilian Mariners; an old Baptist hymn "I'll Be All Right"; and part of the text from C. A. Tindley's gospel hymn "I'll Overcome Someday."

Tune: WE SHALL OVERCOME Irr.
United States traditional
Harm. J. Jefferson Cleveland, 1981



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@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