



# First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

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## The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 7, 2021

“Children see magic because they look for it.”

—Christopher Moore

*All hymns are included after the order of worship, on pages 6-8.*

### Prelude

*Aria*

Paul Manz

*Paul Manz (1919-2009) was perhaps the greatest of 20th-century American church composers. A Lutheran, he served churches and colleges in the Chicago area for most of his life. Aria, despite its vocal title, is an original organ composition from 1989.*

### Call to Worship (Unison; adapted from Psalm 147)

The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names. Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure. The LORD lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground. Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre. The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

Hymn 527 (p. 6)     *We Offer Christ*

Charterhouse

### 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

Hey, kids, it probably doesn't mean much to you now, but someday you'll be able to tell your own children what a "snow day" was. Now, you have remote learning—so, no days off—but you can recall just last year that if the weather was bad, you'd hear early in the morning that school had been canceled for the day. Well, I can remember lots of things from my childhood that seem like ancient history now: rotary-dial phones, black-and-white TV, televised moonshots. Then again, something like COVID wouldn't have a vaccine like it does today. No computers. No smartphones. Sometimes, change is difficult, but if we look hard enough we can find God present in our ever-new world. And for that, we should give thanks.

Hymn 182 (p. 7)     *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

Kingsfold

## Scripture Lessons

**Isaiah 40:21-31.** <sup>21</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

<sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in;

<sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. <sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

<sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

<sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? <sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. <sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

**Mark 1:29-39.** <sup>29</sup>As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many

who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

<sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” <sup>38</sup>He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

**Sermon**

“What Are You Looking For?”

Stephen R. Silver

### **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, and Eileen.

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

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

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

Today, we also offer the following prayer:

O Holy God, we believe we know where we are going, but in truth we are lost. We seek meaning in the ephemeral, purpose in the prosaic, transcendence in passing flights of fancy. In truth, our destination is you, but all too often we get lost or choose to head in a different direction. We ignore the signs you have put along the road for us, and for that we are sorry. Help us to see and hear the arrival of your Son, your Spirit of love, in our lives.

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

Adagio, from Organ Sonata No. 1, op. 65

Felix Mendelssohn

## 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)

Lord of Creation, we come to you with hearts grateful that you treasure your people, valuing and loving each of us. In thanks, we present this morning's offering as a sign that we will work to care for all of your children, our brothers and sisters, wherever they may be. In Jesus' name we pray, 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.

## 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

*Basse et Dessus de Trompette*

Louis-Nicolas Clérambault

## *Leading Worship This Week*

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist • Brian Clancy, Tenor • Valerie Nevel, Liturgist

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*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](mailto:prayer@fccleb.org), or contact the church office or the Rev. Steve Silver directly.*

## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING – Sunday, February 14 (on Zoom)**

The Annual Meeting of First Congregational Church of Lebanon, NH, will be held online in Zoom format on **Sunday, February 14, 2021**, after the worship service, for the following purposes:

1. To hear the reports of all officers, committees, and organizations, as required under the CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS of the church.
2. The election of all officers provided for under the CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS of the church.

**Proposal:** Due to the unusual circumstances of the past year caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, circumstances which will persist into this year, Church Council proposes that all current officers and committee memberships continue unchanged for 2021, except in specific individual circumstances as needed. The proposal will be offered for a congregational vote, in lieu of the election of a full slate of new nominations, at the Annual Meeting.

3. To consider and act upon any other matters relating to the general church welfare that may properly come before this meeting.

## **THE SOUPER BOWL ENDS THIS WEEK!**

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 THIS FRIDAY. You may also bring them directly to any of the three beneficiaries (please let us know if you do so). THANK YOU!!*

# We Offer Christ

527

Brian Wren, 1986

1 We of-fer Christ to all the world a-round us, born in-to faith,  
 2 We of-fer Christ from all our best tra-di-tions, by grace a-lone,  
 3 We of-fer Christ the bar-ri-er-be-strid-er, whose full-ness far  
 4 We of-fer Christ and, God-be-loved, our Sav-ior now of-fers us,

re-leased from pride and shame; Em-braced by love, we show how  
 a-mazed and strange-ly warmed, Cre-a-ted e-equal, stirred by  
 ex-ceeds our lo-cal view, Whose Spir-it, breath-ing deep in  
 born of the Spir-it's kiss, to love cre-a-tion and cre-

love has found us; at peace with God, we speak our Sav-ior's name.  
 free-dom-vi-sions, self-crit-i-cal, pre-pared to be re-formed.  
 ev-ery cul-ture, brings Christ to us, the same, yet strange-ly new.  
 a-tion's Lov-er, with skill, com-pas-sion, jus-tice, care and peace.

"We Offer Christ" was commissioned by St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Orangeburg, South Carolina, for its 150th anniversary. The opening phrase derives from John Wesley's advice to Thomas Coke as he departed for America: "Offer them Christ."

Tune: CHARTERHOUSE 11.10.11.10.  
 David Evans, 1927

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# 182 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;  
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;

lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."  
 the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."  
 look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad; I  
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream; my  
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and

found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.  
 thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.  
 in that light of life I'll walk till trav - eling days are done.

Each stanza here pairs an invitation from Jesus with a response from the narrator. These three invitations recall how Jesus welcomed those who were heavy laden (Matthew 11:28), offered living water (John 4:10-14), and identified himself as the light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5).

## Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Luke 10:1-9

Fred Kaan, 1975; alt.

C F G Dm G C G

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em-ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:  
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,  
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear-ing fruit in a world of doubt,

C F G Dm7 C G C

bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
 teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex-press.  
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - ery-where!

Refrain (first time *p*, second time *f*)

C C7 F Dm G C F C

Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!

*This hymn came into being when composer Doreen Potter asked poet Fred Kaan to write a text for her adaptation of a Jamaican folk melody. It was first used at the World Council of Churches Assembly in Nairobi (1975), and in Vancouver (1983).*

Tune: LINSTEAD L.M. with refrain  
 Jamaican folk song  
 Adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975





**First Congregational Church of Lebanon**

PO Box 230  
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Lebanon NH 03766

**Weekly Worship Resources Enclosed!**

*DATED MATERIAL—Please Deliver Promptly*

***Do you use email? Contact [church@fccleb.org](mailto: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](mailto:church@fccleb.org) • [prayer@fccleb.org](mailto:prayer@fccleb.org) • [music@fccleb.org](mailto:music@fccleb.org) • [www.fccleb.org](http://www.fccleb.org)**