



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Third Sunday of Easter

April 18, 2021

“I shall not commit the fashionable stupidity
of regarding everything I cannot explain as a fraud.”

–Carl Jung

All hymns are included after the order of worship, on pages 5-9.

Prelude “Toccatà in G” (*Douze Pièces pour Orgue*, no. 3) Théodore Dubois

Call to Worship (Unison) Adapted from Psalm 4

Answer me when I call, O God of my right! You gave me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer. Know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him. There are many who say, “O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!” You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound. I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

Hymn 263 (p. 5) *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* Regent Square

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 meeting, please contact the church office.

Children’s Moment

Part of being the church is being a community, a group of people who care for others both in the world at large and in the church itself. We can do that by praying, by

reaching out, by writing a note, by being a friend. When we do this, we will be blessed. I can't begin to tell you how much notes and cards from members of this church have meant to me over the years. Each one has been a manifestation of God's love, and I have treasured each one. So, thanks! Thanks to each and to all of you for being the church, God's church.

Hymn 320 (p. 6) *The Church of Christ in Every Age*

Wareham

Scripture Lessons

Acts 3:12-19. [...] ¹²When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

Luke 24:36b-48. ^{36b}Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things...."

Sermon "Not Another Ghost Story"

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 757 (p. 7) *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

Kingsfold

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, Barbara, Greg, Larry, Edith, Jan, Eileen, and James.

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.

Finally, we offer the following prayer:

God of the Resurrection, we give thanks this day for the community with which we have been blessed, and for all the blessings in our lives. Help us to recognize your love in these things, these manifestations of your grace, and help us not only to appreciate them but also to pass them on—to be not only recipients but channels of your limitless love.

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

“Prière” (*Sept Pièces pour Orgue*, no. 5)

T. Dubois

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 of new life, we come before you,
Filled with the hope of the resurrection,
Inspired by your selfless love,
Empowered by the presence of our risen Lord.
In the spirit of Easter possibility, we offer these gifts as a sign of our acceptance of
your transforming grace and our desire to share that grace with others.
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Hymn 308 (p. 9) *O God in Whom All Life Begins*

Noel

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 “Grand Chœur” (*Douze Pièces pour Orgue*, no. 12) T. Dubois

*Théodore Dubois (1837-1924) was an important organist, composer, and teacher in Paris. Aside
from his organ repertoire, he wrote orchestral music, oratorios, and a number of operas.*

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist • Brian Clancy, Tenor • Sue Pratt, 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, or contact the church office or the Rev. Steve Silver directly.*

*Please note that on-site, indoor worship and other events at FCC remain suspended until
Pentecost Sunday, May 23, at which point Church Council will reassess COVID-19 concerns.*

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

263

Latin: 7th century
Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.
Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

1 Christ is made the sure foun-da - tion, Christ the head and cor - ner stone,
2 To this tem - ple, where we call thee, Come, O Lord of hosts, to - day!
3 Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants What they ask of thee to gain:
4 Laud and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Laud and hon - or to the Son,

Chos - en of the Lord and prec - ious, Bind - ing all the Church in one;
With thy wont - ed lov - ing - kind - ness Hear thy peo - ple as they pray;
What they gain from thee for - ev - er With the bless - ed to re - tain,
Laud and hon - or to the Spir - it, Ev - er Three and ev - er One;

Ho - ly Zi - on's help for - ev - er, And her con - fi - dence a - lone.
And thy full - est ben - e - dic - tion Shed with - in its walls al - way.
And here - af - ter in thy glo - ry Ev - er - more with thee to reign.
One in might, and One in glo - ry, While un - end - ing a - ges run. A - men.


Introducing SHARE: Supporting and Helping Asylées and Refugees

Virtual Open Houses on April 22 and 26—Contact FCC for Registration

SHARE is a new local nonprofit dedicated to bringing asylum seekers to the Upper Valley and providing them with host families and support services—taking over work begun by UVIP which our congregation has supported for several years now. If you'd like to learn more about SHARE's plans and ways you can volunteer, visit an Open House, email sharevtnh@gmail.com, or contact Kathy Beckett (beckettkathleen7@gmail.com/860-392-9306).

Please join the local effort to welcome immigrants and refugees into our community!

320 The Church of Christ in Every Age



1 The church of Christ in ev - ery age, be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
4 For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
be - dience to our Lord: to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
out re - serve, and spread Christ's lib - er - at - ing word.

In this challenging text by a British Methodist minister, the odd-numbered stanzas develop the image of "the servant church," while the second surveys the many needs and the fourth describes the true source of strength for the task.

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1969

MUSIC: William Knapp, 1738

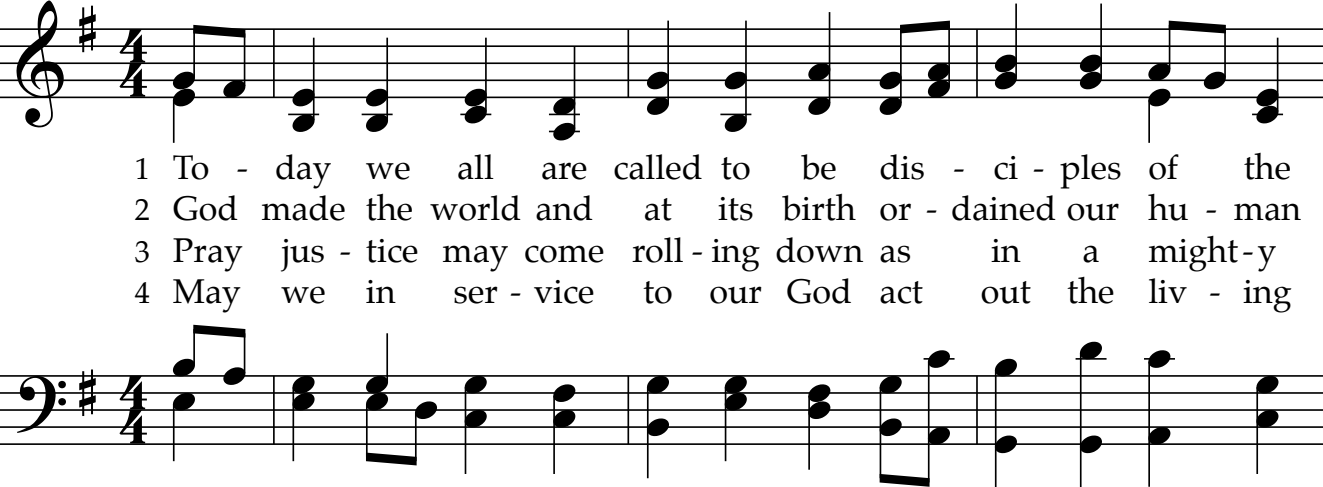
Text © 1971 Hope Publishing Company

WAREHAM

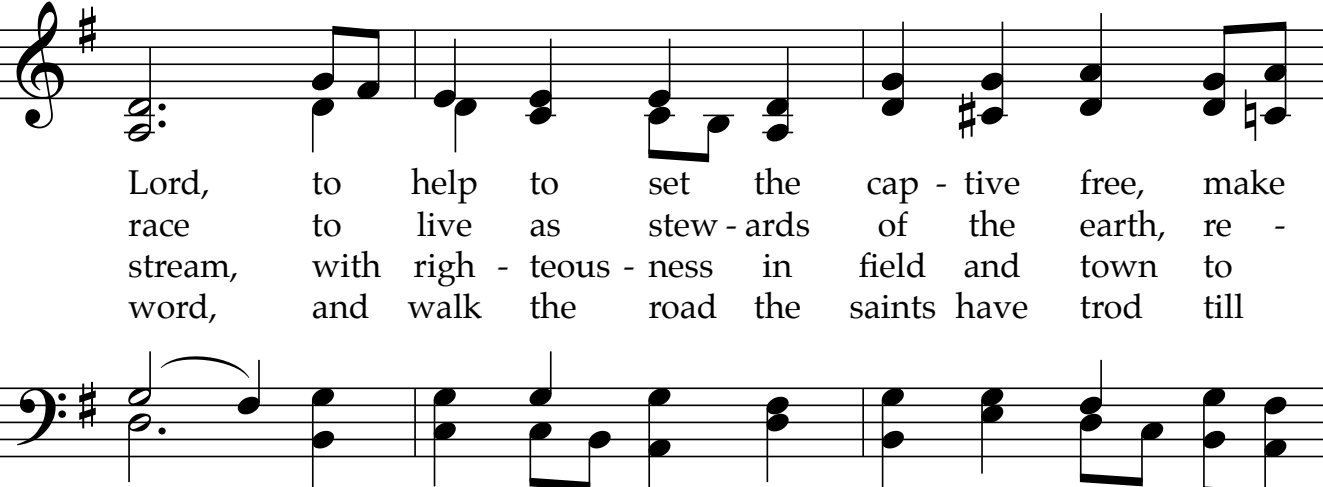
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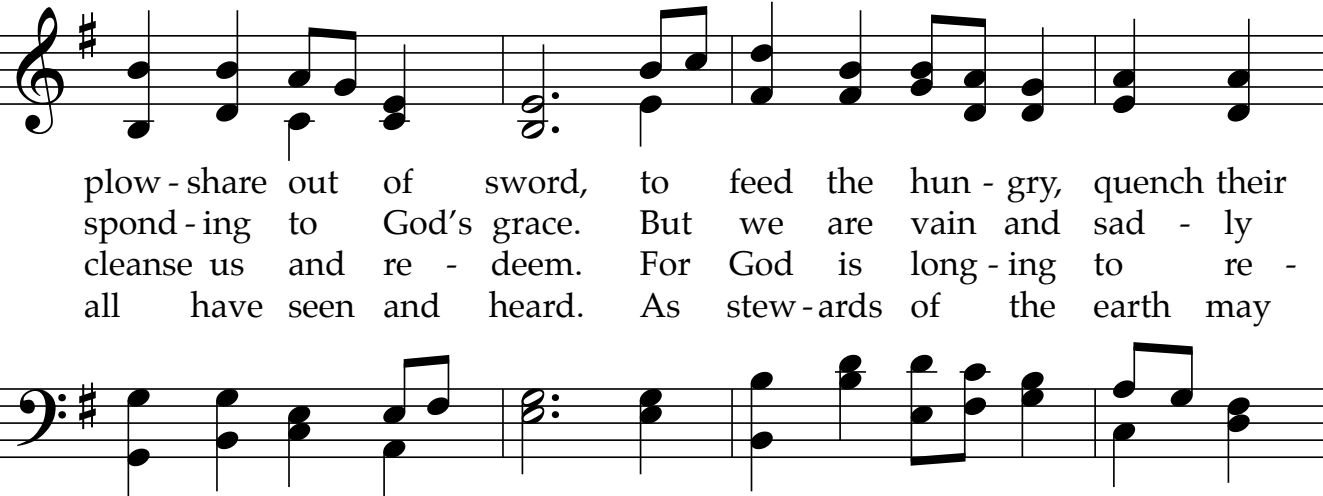
757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples



1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the
 2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man
 3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y
 4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing



Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make
 race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -
 stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to
 word, and walk the road the saints have trod till



plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their
 spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly
 cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -
 all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may

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thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the
proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our dis - cord
store an earth where con - flicts cease, a world that
we give thanks in one ac - cord to God who

poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.
spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.
was cre - at - ed for a har - mo - ny of peace.
calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.

This text placing stewardship in the context of faithful witness was written by a retired Presbyterian minister to be part of the 1986 stewardship campaign titled "Called to Be Disciples." The tune name recalls the Sussex village where the arranger first heard the melody.

TEXT: H. Kenn Carmichael, 1985
MUSIC: *English County Songs*, 1893; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
Text © 1989 H. Kenn Carmichael

KINGSFOLD
CMD

Mother's Day Is Blanket Sunday

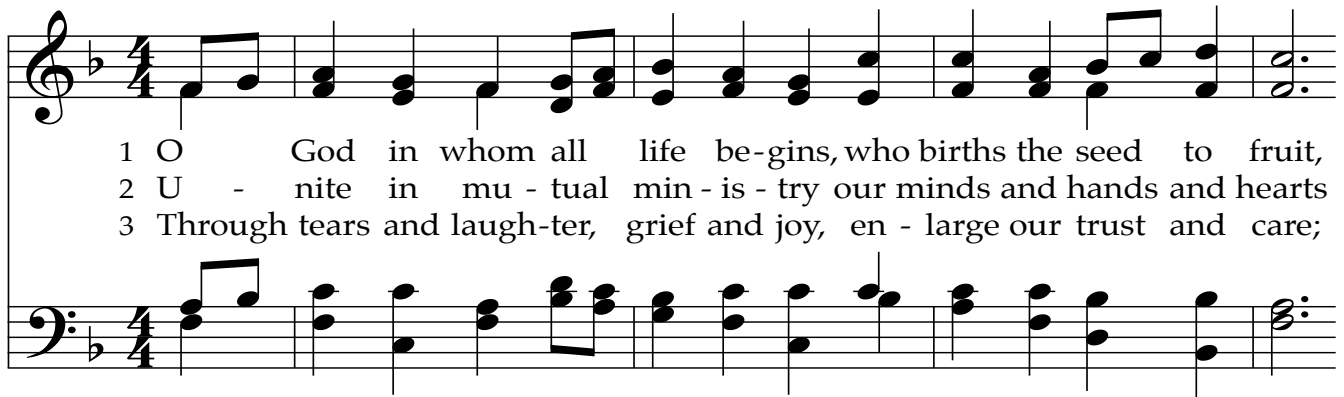
We are pleased to participate once again in Church World Service's CWS BLANKETS program, a special mission project that provides blankets and other essential supplies to people in crisis worldwide. (For more information on this program, please visit www.cwsblankets.org.)

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

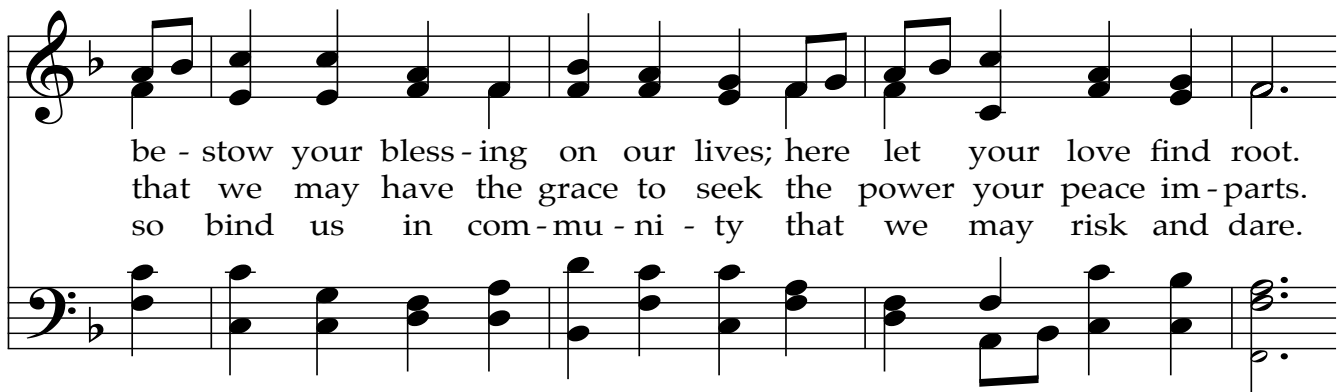
All dedications must be received by noon on THURSDAY, MAY 6, in order to be included in the worship bulletin on MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 9. (Contributions may be sent in after that date.)

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

O God in Whom All Life Begins 308



1 O God in whom all life be-gins, who births the seed to fruit,
2 U - nite in mu - tual min - is - try our minds and hands and hearts
3 Through tears and laugh-ter, grief and joy, en - large our trust and care;



be - stow your bless - ing on our lives; here let your love find root.
that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace im - parts.
so bind us in com - mu - ni - ty that we may risk and dare.



Bring forth in us the Spir - it's gifts of pa - tience, joy, and peace;
So let our var - ied gifts com - bine to glo - ri - fy your Name
Be with us when we gath - er here to wor - ship, sing, and pray;



de - liv - er us from numb - ing fear, and grant our faith in - crease.
that in all things by word and deed we may your love pro - claim.
then send us forth in power and faith to live the words we say.

Although it was written for the installation of a pastor, this text is really about the mutual ministry shared by all members of a worshiping community, both when they are gathered and when they go forth into the world. The tune used here may have Christmas associations for some.



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, Children's Community Corner
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