



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 7, 2021

“I know as much about the afterlife as you do—nothing. I must wait and see.”

—William Ralph Inge

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 5-8.

Prelude *Passacaglia in D Minor* Dieterich Buxtehude

Introit *Oculi Omnium* Charles Wood

Translation: The eyes of all wait upon thee, and thou givest them their food in due season.

Call to Worship Adapted from Psalm 127

Leader: Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain.

People: **It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for God gives sleep to his beloved.**

Leader: Children are indeed a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.

People: **Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth.**

All: **Happy is the one who has a quiver full of them. He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.**

Hymn 291 (p. 5) *Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor* Bryn Calfaria

Prayer of Invocation

God, though we worship in places near and far today, we know your Spirit is with us, joining us together as one people. Lift up our worship, inspire our prayers, infuse them with your grace, your love, your power. We pray this 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 a story from the Book of Ruth. We are reminded of how different the world of the Bible was from ours, but we also see that God has stayed unchanged. He

loves us, just as he loved our ancestors. Though none of us can truly know how our ancestors lived, we recognize that they loved, and suffered, and could grow hungry, and found strength to deal with the challenges of life. Let us take comfort that in many ways, nothing has truly changed. That means that we, too, can persevere. And with God's help, we will overcome the obstacles and disappointments of life.

Hymn 287 (p. 6) *Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face*

Langran

Scripture Lessons

Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17. Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. ²Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. ³Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then, go and uncover his feet and lie down; and he will tell you what to do." ⁵She said to her, "All that you tell me I will do."

[...] ¹³So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the Lord made her conceive, and she bore a son. ¹⁴Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin; and may his name be renowned in Israel! ¹⁵He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him." ¹⁶Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. ¹⁷The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Mark 12:38-44. ³⁸As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, ³⁹and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

⁴¹He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴²A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Sermon "Motivation"

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 the church office to confirm or remove names on the list.

Today we offer our ongoing prayers for Pete, Lloyd, Arlene, Evelyn, Barbara, Greg, Larry, Edith, Jan, Eileen, James, Jimmy, and Jean.

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 the 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:

Lord, we ask for patience with the challenges we face, with our loved ones, with the state of current affairs, and most of all with you, for you have shown each of us and all of us tremendous patience, forgiving us, bearing with us, loving us, and bringing Jesus into our lives.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of your Son, our Savior. 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.

Offertory

Kyrie Eleison, from *Missa Secunda*

Hans Leo Hassler

Doxology (Unison)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

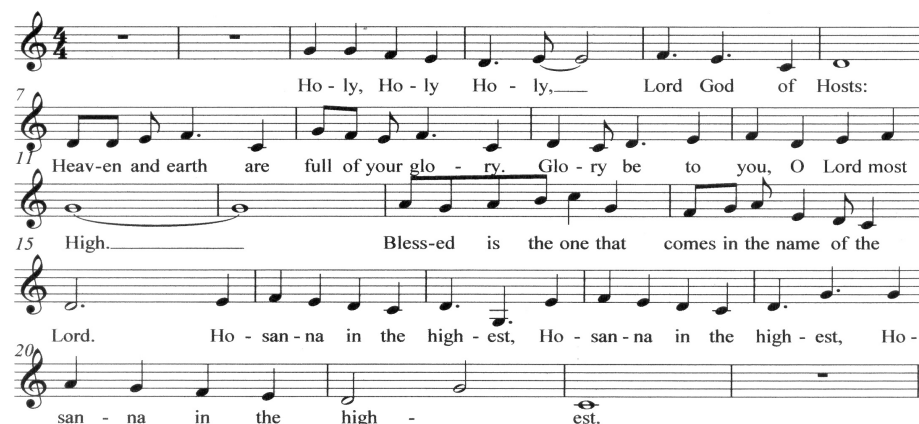
God of the widowed, of the lost, of the hungry, of those in need: we see the work to which we have been called, and we respond in faith. We seek to remember the words of Scripture and contribute to building a world in which all things are made new. Take these gifts as a sign of our commitment to hasten the arrival of your kingdom, in which we may know and celebrate your love, your grace, and your power. 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.

Hymn 93 (p. 7) Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Cwm Rhondda

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

Prélude to *Te Deum*

Marc-Antoine Charpentier

* * *

The altar flowers today are given to the glory of God by Linda and Ike Jacobs in loving memory of Linda's parents, Barbara and Maurice Sumner, to celebrate their birthdays.

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor • Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir
Laurel Stavis, Liturgist • Susan Pratt, Zoom Greeter

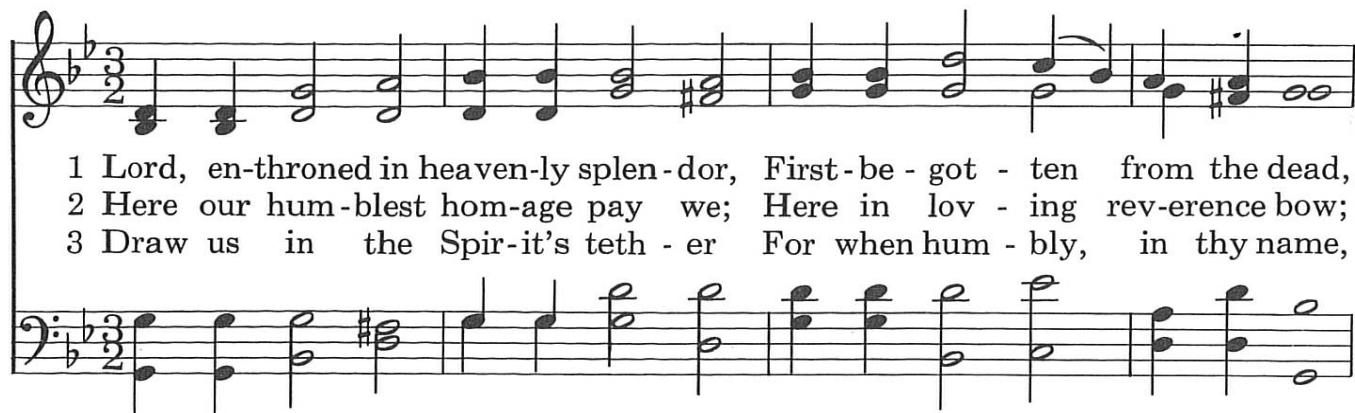
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If you wish to have a joy, concern, or prayer request lifted up in the service, or if you know of someone who may need special prayers, a card or phone call, or some other form of pastoral care, please email prayer@fccleb.org or speak with Rev. Silver directly.

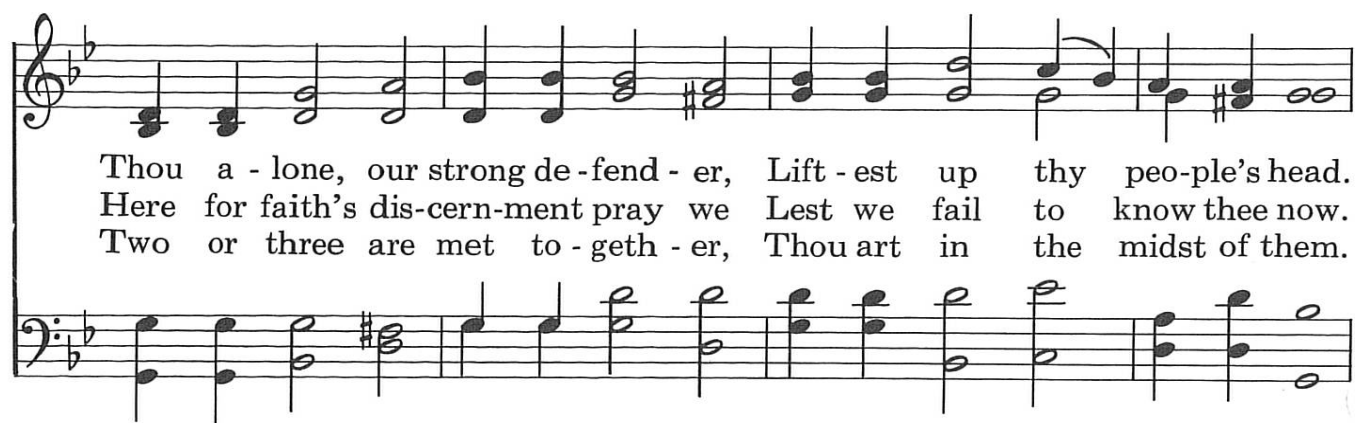
Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor

George H. Bourne, 1840-1925, *Sts. 1 and 2*
 Percy Dearmer, 1867-1936, *St. 3*

BRYN CALFARIA 8.7.8.7.4.7.
 Melody by William Owen, 1814-1893



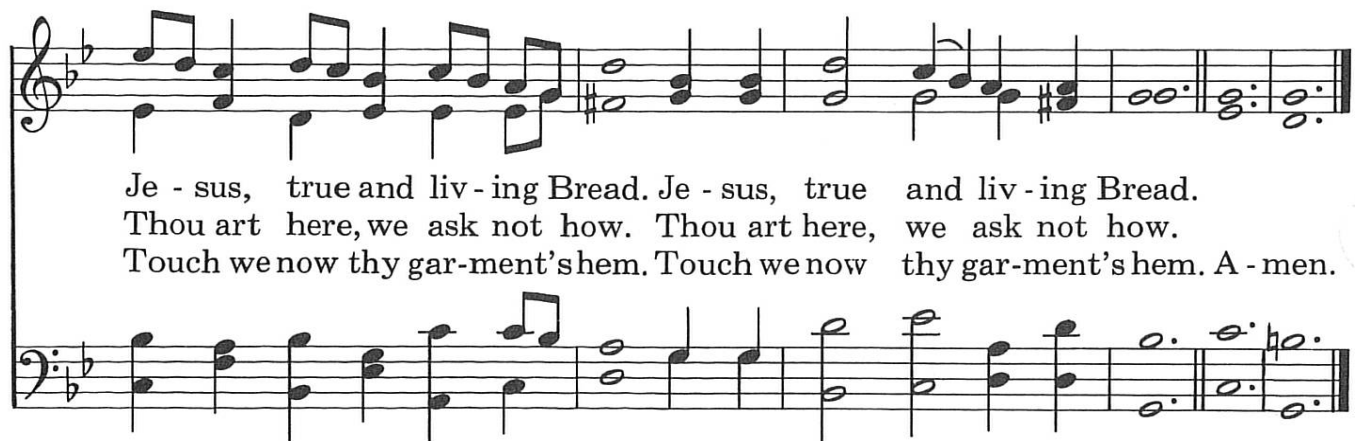
1 Lord, en-throned in heaven-ly splen-dor, First-be - got - ten from the dead,
 2 Here our hum-blest hom-age pay we; Here in lov - ing rev-erence bow;
 3 Draw us in the Spir-it's teth - er For when hum - bly, in thy name,



Thou a - lone, our strong de - fend - er, Lift - est up thy peo-ple's head.
 Here for faith's dis-cern-ment pray we Lest we fail to know thee now.
 Two or three are met to - geth - er, Thou art in the midst of them.




Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

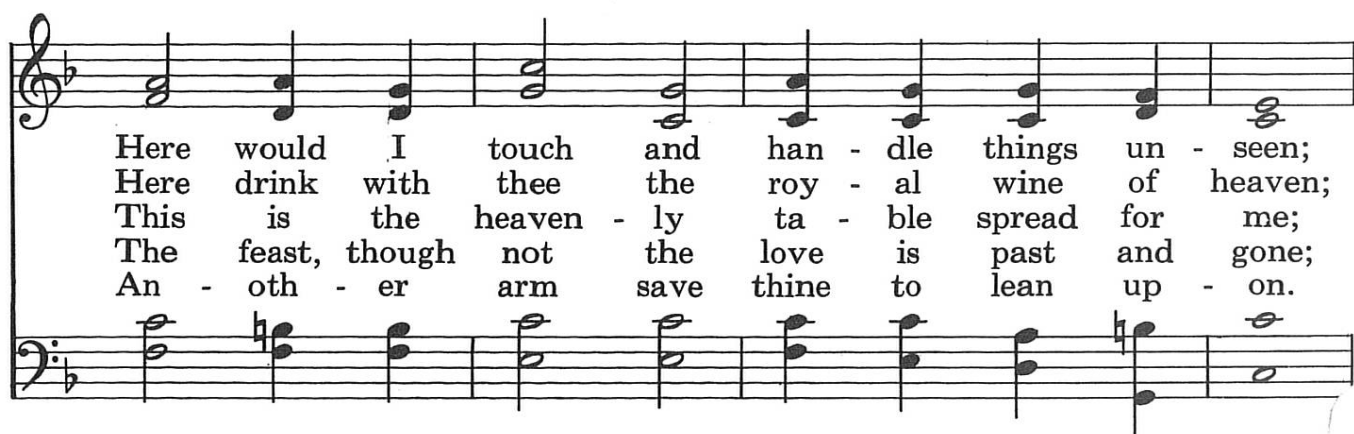


Je - sus, true and liv - ing Bread. Je - sus, true and liv - ing Bread.
 Thou art here, we ask not how. Thou art here, we ask not how.
 Touch we now thy gar-ment's hem. Touch we now thy gar-ment's hem. A - men.

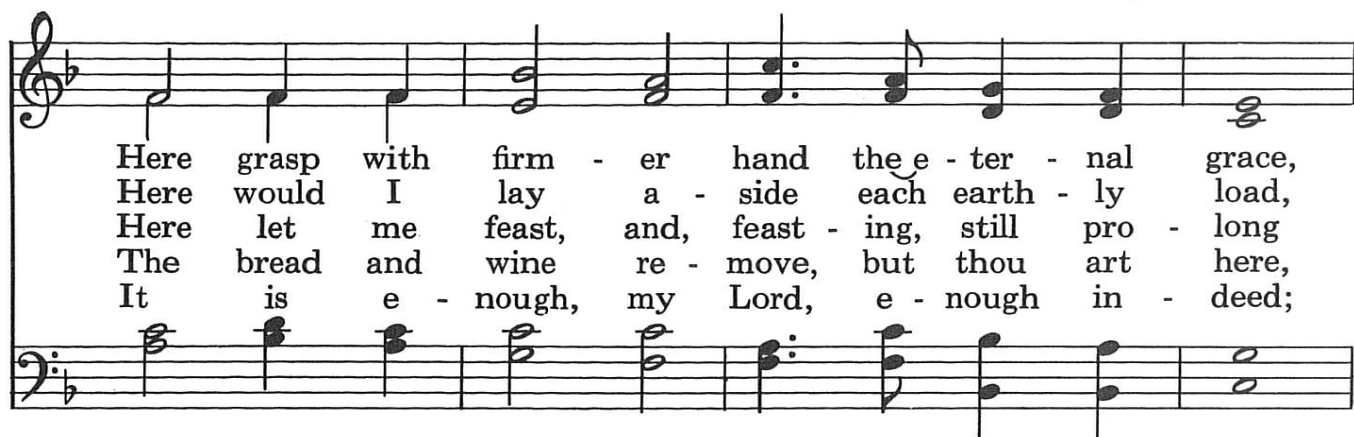
Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889

LANGRAN 10.10.10.10.
James Langran, 1835-1909


1 Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face;
 2 Here would I feed up - on the bread of God,
 3 This is the hour of ban - quet and of song;
 4 Too soon we rise; the sym - bols dis - ap - pear;
 5 I have no help but thine, nor do I need



Here would I touch and han - dle things un - seen;
 Here drink with thee the roy - al wine of heaven;
 This is the heaven - ly ta - ble spread for me;
 The feast, though not the love is past and gone;
 An - oth - er arm save thine to lean up - on.



Here grasp with firm - er hand the e - ter - nal grace,
 Here would I lay a - side each earth - ly load,
 Here let me feast, and, feast - ing, still pro - long
 The bread and wine re - move, but thou art here,
 It is e - nough, my Lord, e - nough in - deed;



And all my wea - ri - ness up - on thee lean.
 Here taste a - fresh the calm of sin for - given.
 The brief, bright hour of fel - low - ship with thee.
 Near - er than ev - er, still my shield and sun.
 My strength is in thy might, thy might a - lone. A - men.

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

William Williams, 1717-1791

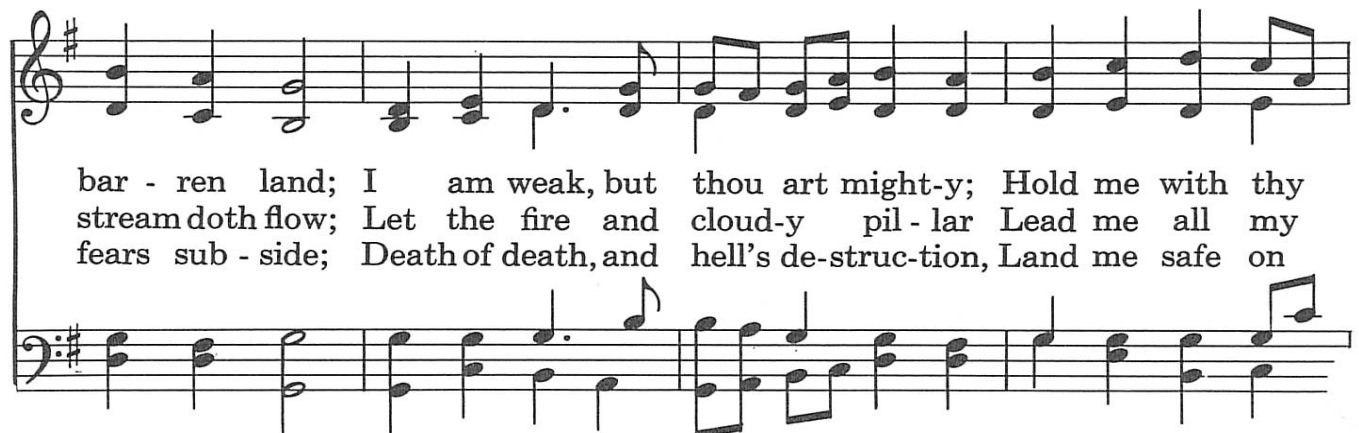
Tr. Peter Williams, 1727-1796, and others

CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

John Hughes, 1873-1932



1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, Pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, Whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might-y; Hold me with thy
 stream doth flow; Let the fire and cloud-y pil - lar Lead me all my
 fears sub - side; Death of death, and hell's de-struc-tion, Land me safe on



power - ful hand; Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 jour - ney through; Strong De - liv - erer, strong De - liv - erer,
 Ca - naan's side; Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es,



Feed me till I want no more, Feed me till I want no more.
 Be thou still my strength and shield, Be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee, I will ev - er give to thee. A-mei.

CHRISTMAS COMES TO ALL—LISTEN'S HOLIDAY BASKETS

For years FCC has participated in the Holiday Basket Program organized by Listen Community Services. The economic challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic have increased demand for this program, as families struggle to provide warm clothing for children and food for holiday meals.

Listen is again doing all the shopping this year, but they need our help. While we won't be offering items from our giving tree, please consider contributing to FCC's share of the cost. Contributions gratefully accepted until November 15 (*payable to FCC, memo "Listen Baskets"*).

Thanks to all for giving to local families and seniors in the true spirit of Christmas!

Silent Auction Benefit for Afghan Refugees in the Upper Valley

Friday, November 19, 6:00 to 9:00—Live Music at 7:30 with the Anonymous Coffeehouse

All are welcome, whether bidding or not, to this auction of works by internationally renowned artists, with all proceeds supporting resettlement of Afghans arriving in the region. The auction is being organized by the **UV Neighborhood Support Group**, working in collaboration with NGOs **Seeds of Peace** and **Terra Firma International**. It will be set up in the Parish Hall, with bidding open from 6:00 to 9:00, and live entertainment will be provided by **The Anonymous Coffeehouse** in the Sanctuary starting at 7:30; guests can move freely between the two.

All auction proceeds (and any additional donations) will fund basic expenses for local Afghan refugees, and they will be processed online by Terra Firma (terrafirmainternational.org).



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Live Music at FCC!

Masks, distanced seating, and proof of vaccination required.

The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, November 5 and 19, December 3, all at 7:30

This highly popular venue for established and emerging musicians features several acoustic acts, and patrons may come and go as they please; baked goods and non-alcoholic drinks are available.

And it's all free of charge, so please come and enjoy! For more details, visit anoncoffee.org. Please see notice above for information on the Silent Auction Benefit on November 19!

Classicopia: Four-Hand Holiday—Sunday, December 5, at 1:00

Pianists Daniel Weiser and Elizabeth Borowsky collaborate on a program of seasonal favorites arranged for four-hand piano, from *Sleigh Ride* and *Jingle Bells* to Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*.

Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; for advanced tickets and more, visit classicopia.org.

Bel Canto Chamber Singers—Saturday, Dec. 11, at 7:30 / Sunday, Dec. 12, at 4:00

UVMC Messiah Sing (Abridged)—Sunday, December 19, at 2:00

Do Your Part to Fill the Cart!

Greater Lebanon continues to struggle with poverty and food insecurity. Exacerbated by the challenges of the COVID-19 shutdown, local need remains high and has persisted as pandemic benefits phase out. We have resumed the monthly collection of items in our shopping cart in the Parish Hall, with a different beneficiary designated each month.

We're now collecting non-perishable food and personal-care items for THE UV HAVEN

Direct financial contributions to any Upper Valley service organization are always needed and appreciated. Thanks for fighting local poverty and hunger!

Operation Christmas Child—National Collection Week: November 15-22

You are invited to 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. Gloria and Phil Hammond have so generously managed our collection at FCC in recent years. **This year you may build a shoebox online before the collection week of November 15-22.**

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!

Thy Will Be Done—FCC's Reading Group Starts Wednesday on Zoom

We say it every week. Many of us say it more frequently. You know, the Lord's Prayer. But how familiar are we with the text and what it means? Think about that phrase: "Thy Will Be Done."

What are we asking for when we say those words? What does this prayer mean to you, to the church, to all of us? To consider these questions we will read Stephen Cherry's *Thy Will Be Done*, an accessible, well-researched book. **The group will start this Wednesday, November 10.**

All are invited to participate! Books provided free of charge, but advance reservation is required. Please email Rev. Steve Silver (silver@fccleb.org) with questions or to RSVP.

Giving from the Heart *Stewardship Sunday is November 21*

"Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on." (Mark 12:43-44)

All are invited to prayerfully consider their commitment to FCC's mission and ministry in the coming year. In two weeks, we will gratefully dedicate our 2022 pledges in worship.



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