



# First Congregational Church of Lebanon

*United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming*

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## The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 14, 2021

“When Jesus is all you have left, you realize Jesus is what you ultimately need.”

—Tim Keller

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

**Prelude**                      Larghetto and Allegro (*Sonata in F Major*)      George Frideric Handel

**Introit**                      “Forever Blessed Be Thy Holy Name” (*Jephtha*)              G. F. Handel

**Call to Worship**                                              1 Samuel 2:1-10 (“The Song of Hannah”)

**Leader:** My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in my God. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in my victory.

**People:** **There is no Holy One like the Lord, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.**

**Leader:** Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

**People:** **The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength.**

**Leader:** Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry are fat with spoil. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn.

**People:** **The Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up.**

**Leader:** The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low, he also exalts.

**People:** **He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the Lord’s, and on them he has set the world.**

**Leader:** He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness; for not by might does one prevail.

**People:** **The Lord! His adversaries shall be shattered; the Most High will thunder in heaven. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king, and exalt the power of his anointed.**

**Hymn 436** (p. 5)      *O God of Earth and Altar*

Llanglofan

**Prayer of Invocation**

## 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

One of the things you'll hear older people say is, "I can't believe how fast this year has gone!" It can be trite, but it's true. I know that because I've said this. Time is relative, and our experience of it changes as we age. As we get older, we are hopefully willing and able to give thanks for every moment we have. This day, every day, is a gift. Let us worship God by giving thanks and working for a world where everybody may enjoy a life worth giving thanks for.

**Hymn 435** (p. 6)      *Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor*

Rhuddlan

### Scripture Lessons

**1 Samuel 1:4-20.** <sup>4</sup>On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters; <sup>5</sup>but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb. <sup>6</sup>Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. <sup>7</sup>So it went on year by year; as often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. <sup>8</sup>Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?"

<sup>9</sup>After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the Lord. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. <sup>10</sup>She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord, and wept bitterly. <sup>11</sup>She made this vow: "O Lord of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head."

<sup>12</sup>As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. <sup>13</sup>Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. <sup>14</sup>So Eli said to her, "How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine." <sup>15</sup>But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord. <sup>16</sup>Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time." <sup>17</sup>Then Eli answered, "Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him." <sup>18</sup>And she said, "Let your servant find favor in your sight." Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer.

<sup>19</sup>They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. <sup>20</sup>In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, “I have asked him of the Lord.”

**Mark 13:1-8.** As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” <sup>2</sup>Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

<sup>3</sup>When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, <sup>4</sup>“Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” <sup>5</sup>Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. <sup>6</sup>Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. <sup>7</sup>When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. <sup>8</sup>For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birthpangs.”

<b>Sermon</b>	“Creative Destruction”	Stephen R. Silver
<b>Hymn 215</b> (p. 7)	<i>What Wondrous Love Is This</i>	Wondrous Love

### **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.

Holy God, to whom we give our praise, we do so knowing we are not alone. We are joined by the faithful throughout the world and in all times. We add our voices to the heavenly chorus that sings your name, to the creatures who delight in your creative work. We do not see these beings, but we can sense their presence. Your universe is beautiful, strange, wondrous, awe-inspiring and we celebrate our ability to see what you have made. Give us the strength, the courage, the faith to preserve your creation.

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

*I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes*

Leo Sowerby

## 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)

Life-giving God:

You give us eyes with which to see, ears with which to hear. You give us minds with which to comprehend, hearts with which to love, and hands with which to serve.

With gratitude and joy for these wondrous gifts, we present this morning's offering and commit to share the story of your life-changing love with others, through our work, our praise, our money, our service. In the name of Jesus, we pray, Amen.

## Hymn 82 (p. 8)

*High in the Heavens, Eternal God*

Truro

## 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

*Siciliana and Allegro (Sonata in F Major)*

G. F. Handel

\* \* \*

## *Leading Worship This Week*

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Harpsichord • Chris Rua, Recorder

Laurel Stavits, Alto • Brian Clancy, Tenor • The FCC Choir

Linda Jacobs, Liturgist • Dawn Troutman, Zoom Greeter

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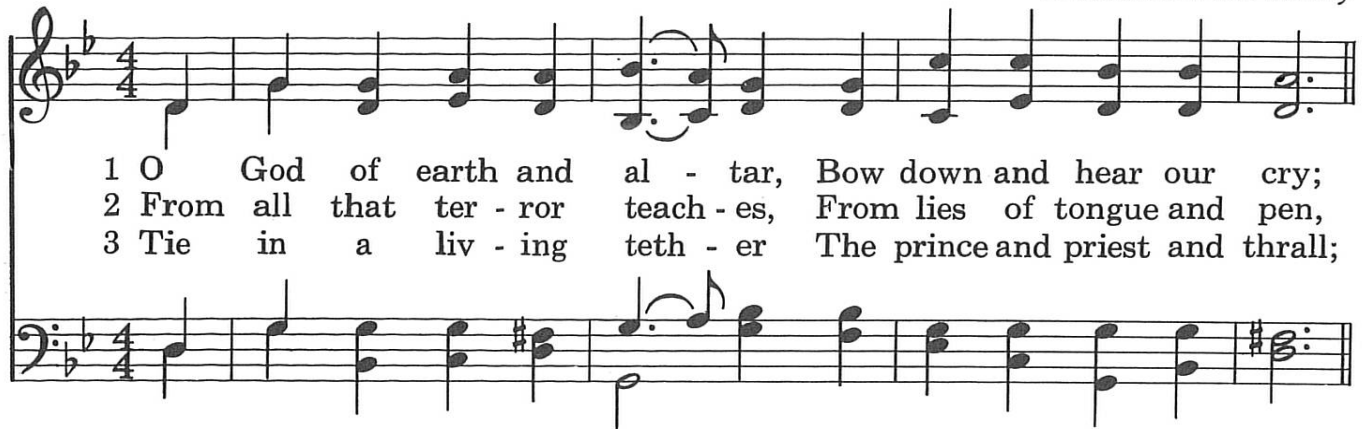
*If you wish to have a joy, concern, or prayer request lifted up in the service, or if you know of someone who may need special prayers, a card or phone call, or some other form of pastoral care, please email [prayer@fccleb.org](mailto:prayer@fccleb.org) or speak with Rev. Silver directly.*

# O God of Earth and Altar

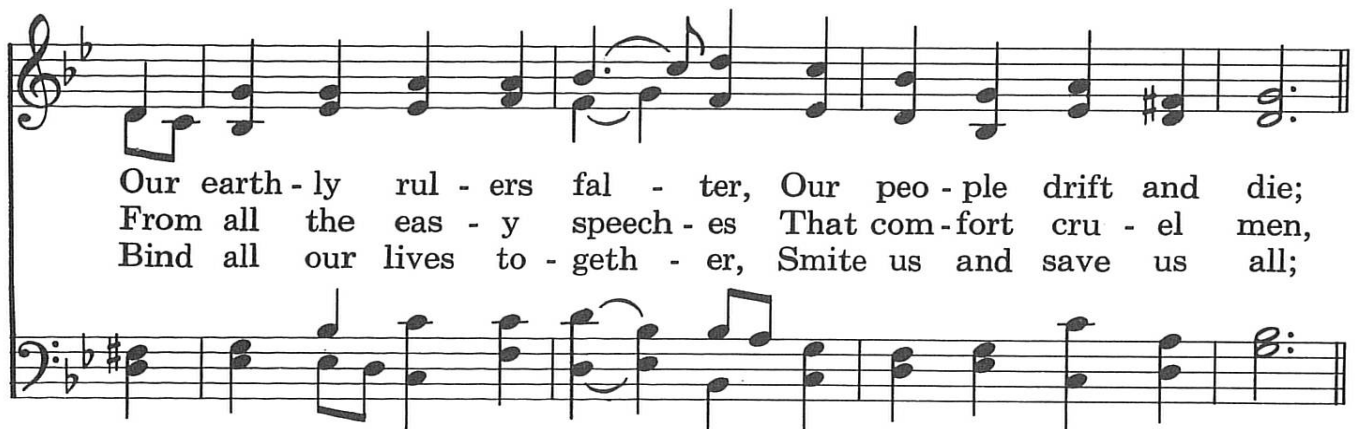
436

Gilbert K. Chesterton, 1874-1936

LLANGLOFFAN 7.6.7.6.D.  
Traditional Welsh Melody



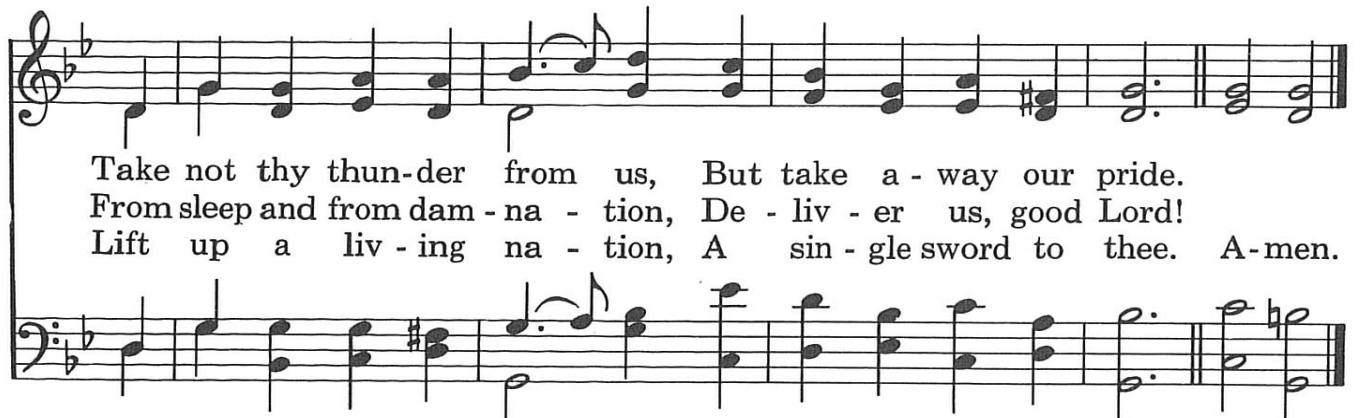
1 O God of earth and al - tar, Bow down and hear our cry;  
2 From all that ter - ror teach - es, From lies of tongue and pen,  
3 Tie in a liv - ing teth - er The prince and priest and thrall;



Our earth - ly rul - ers fal - ter, Our peo - ple drift and die;  
From all the eas - y speech - es That com - fort cru - el men,  
Bind all our lives to - geth - er, Smite us and save us all;



The walls of gold en - tomb us, The swords of scorn di - vide;  
From sale and prof - a - na - tion Of hon - or and the sword,  
In ire and ex - ul - ta - tion A - flame with faith, and free,



Take not thy thun - der from us, But take a - way our pride.  
From sleep and from dam - na - tion, De - liv - er us, good Lord!  
Lift up a liv - ing na - tion, A sin - gle sword to thee. A - men.

## 435

## Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor

Henry S. Holland, 1847-1918, alt.

RHUDDLAN 8.7.8.7.8.7.

Traditional Welsh Melody

1 Judge e - ter - nal, throned in splen - dor, Lord of lords and  
 2 Still the wea - ry folk are pin - ing For the hour that  
 3 Crown, O God, thine own en - deav - or; Cleave our dark - ness

King of kings, With thy liv - ing fire of judg - ment  
 brings re - lease; And the cit - y's crowd - ed clan - gor  
 with thy sword; Feed the faint and hun - gry peo - ples

Purge this land of bit - ter things; Sol - ace all its  
 Cries a - loud for sin to cease; And the home - steads  
 With the rich - ness of thy Word; Cleanse the bod - y

wide do - min - ion With the heal - ing of thy wings.  
 and the wood - lands Plead in si - lence for their peace.  
 of this na - tion Through the glo - ry of the Lord. A - men.

# What Wondrous Love Is This 215

Dm C Dm C Dm Am



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my  
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing  
 3 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will  
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing

Dm C Dm C



soul, what won - drous love is this, O my soul! What  
 down, when I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
 sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to  
 on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and

Dm Am B♭ Gm Am Em



won - drous love is this that caused the Lord of  
 I was sink - ing down be - neath God's righ - teous  
 God and to the Lamb who is the great I  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful

G Dm C Am C Dm Am



bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my  
 frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my  
 AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will  
 be, and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on, I'll sing

Em Am C Dm Am C Dm



soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!  
 soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!  
 sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!  
 on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

With its ballad-like repetitions before and after each stanza's central narrative lines, this meditative text needs performance in order to be effective. Its haunting melody proves the means of convincing us that the only adequate response to "wondrous love" is to "sing on."

# High in the Heavens, Eternal God

82

Based on Psalm 36  
Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

TRURO L.M.  
Thomas Williams' "Psalmody Evangelica," 1789

1 High in the heavens, e - ter - nal God, Thy good - ness  
2 For - ev - er firm thy jus - tice stands, As moun - tains  
3 My God, how ex - cel - lent thy grace, Whence all our  
4 Life, like a foun - tain rich and free, Springs from the

in full glo - ry shines; Thy truth shall break through  
their foun - da - tions keep; Wise are the won - ders  
hope and com - fort spring! The sons of Ad - am  
pres - ence of my Lord; And in thy light our

ev - ery cloud That veils and dark - ens thy de - signs.  
of thy hands; Thy judg - ments are a might - y deep.  
in dis - tress Fly to the shad - ow of thy wing.  
souls shall see The glo - ries prom - ised in thy word. A-men.

## 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. Next Sunday, we will gratefully dedicate our 2022 pledges in worship.



## 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 22 (*payable to FCC, memo "Listen Baskets"*).

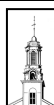
*Thanks to all for giving to local families and seniors in the true spirit of Christmas!*

## 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](http://terrafirmainternational.org)).



Music  
at the  
Meetinghouse

### Live Music at FCC!

*Masks, distanced seating, and proof of vaccination required.*

#### ***The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, November 19 and December 3, 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](http://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](http://classicopia.org).*

#### ***Cameo Baroque Concert for 19 Days of the Valley—Sunday, December 12 (time TBD)***

Ernie Drown and friends return with a new program as their annual benefit for the Upper Valley Haven's 19 Days series. *Free-will donation; program details still to come.*

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

*\*Please note that these concerts have been moved to the Norwich Congregational Church.\**

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



**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](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, 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](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)**