



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The First Sunday after Christmas

December 26, 2021

“One of the most powerful ways to show people the truth of Christianity is to serve the common good.”

–Tim Keller

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 4-6.

Prelude

A Christmas Medley

Elizabeth Borowsky

Call to Worship

Psalm 148:1-4, 13

Leader: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

People: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Leader: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

People: Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

All: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

Hymn 130 (p. 4)

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Antioch

Prayer of Invocation

God incarnate, be present with us during this time of prayer and song. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, inspiring and empowering us so that all we do in worship, fellowship, and service gives glory to your name and reflects to the wider world what you have done, and are doing, in and through Jesus. 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

Merry Christmas! I'd like all of us to remember that Christmas isn't just an evening, or a day. Liturgically, it's twelve days long, and in truth, if we look at the themes of Christmas—Joy, Peace, Love—it's something that will go on for the entire year. So, once again, a merry Christmas to you all!

Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:41-52. ⁴¹Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Reflection

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. Help us keep our prayer list current by contacting the church office to add or remove names.

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

A Christmas Affirmation of Faith (Unison)

I believe that Christmas is more than a time for parties and ornaments; it is a time for remembering Jesus, the incarnation of God's love in human flesh.

I believe that there are gifts more important than the ones beneath the tree, such as the things we teach our children, the way we share ourselves with friends, and the efforts by which we set about reshaping the world in which we live.

I believe that the finest carols are often sung by the poorest voices, from hearts made warm by the wonder of this season.

I believe in the angels' message that we should not be afraid—that the Child of Bethlehem is able to overcome all anxieties, fears, and insecurities.

I believe in prayer and quietness as a way of approaching Christmas—that if I wait in silence, I will experience the presence of the one born in the manger, for He lives today as surely as He lived then.

I believe in going away from Christmas as the Magi went, “another way.” I want to be different when these days are past—more centered, more thoughtful, more caring. And I believe that God will help me and sustain me in my belief, this night and forevermore. 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

The Virgin at the Crib

César Franck

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)

Dear God, like the shepherds, like the Magi, we come from different places and varying situations to worship the newborn king. While some of us bring skills, and some of us bring money, and some of us bring time, all of us bring deep gratitude and a commitment to honor the Christ child by serving your people. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Hymn 120 (pp. 56) Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

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

Jubilate Deo

Elizabeth Borowsky

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Elizabeth Borowsky, Piano • Betsy Alexander, Mezzo-Soprano • Brian Clancy, Tenor

Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

ANTIOCH C.M.

Attr. to Georg F. Handel, 1685-1759

Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns: Let men their
 3 He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,

And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his

And heaven and na - ture sing, And
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
 And won - ders of his love, And

sing, And heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love. A - men.

heaven and na - ture sing.
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 won - ders of his love,

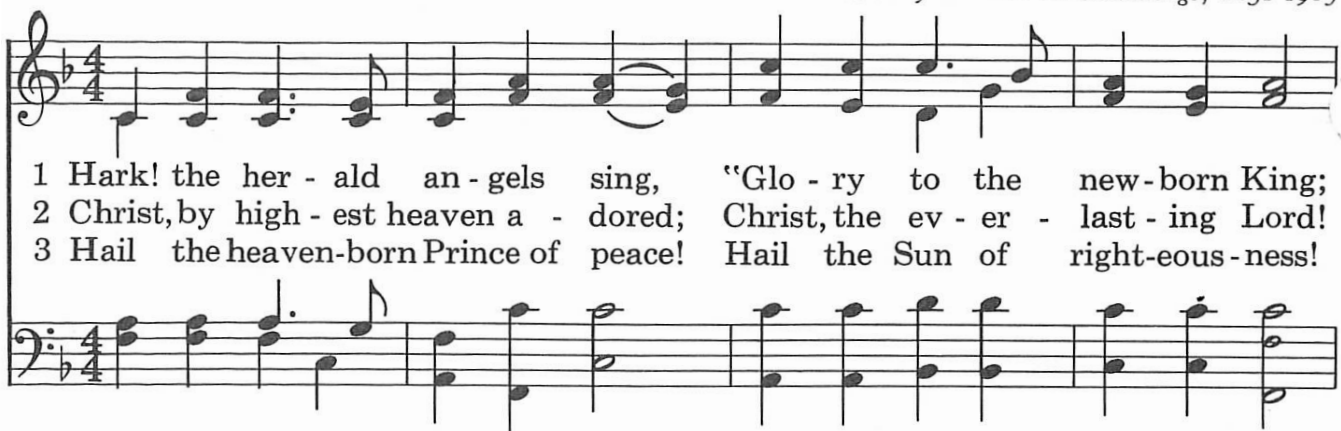
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

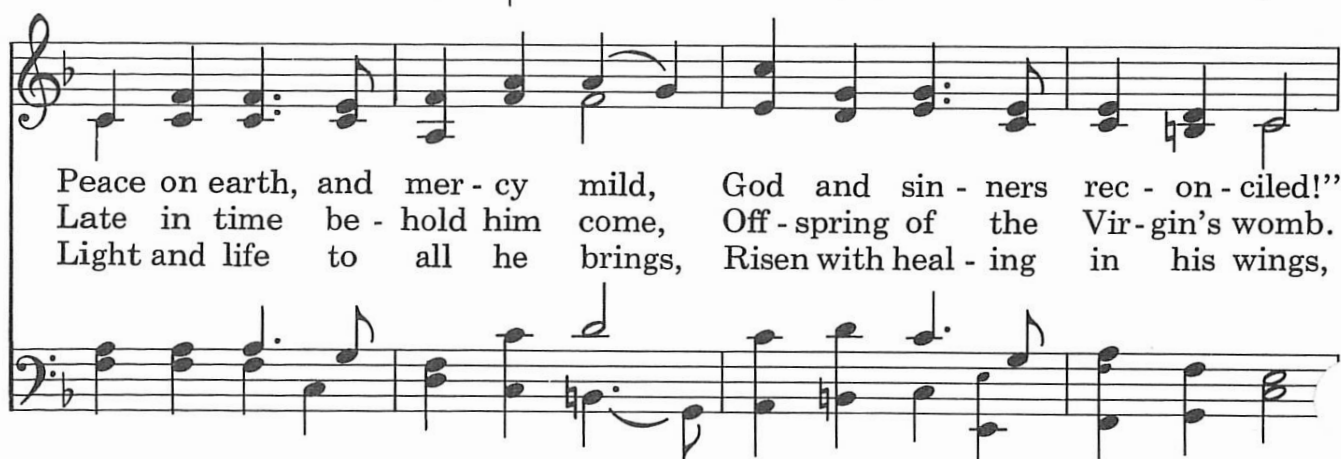
MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7.D. with Refrain

Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847

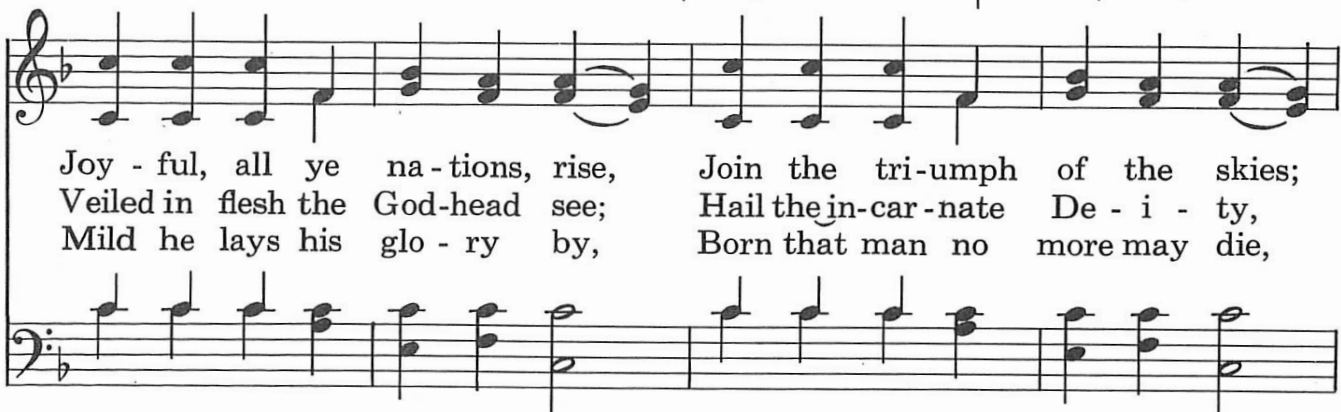
Arr. by William H. Cummings, 1831-1915



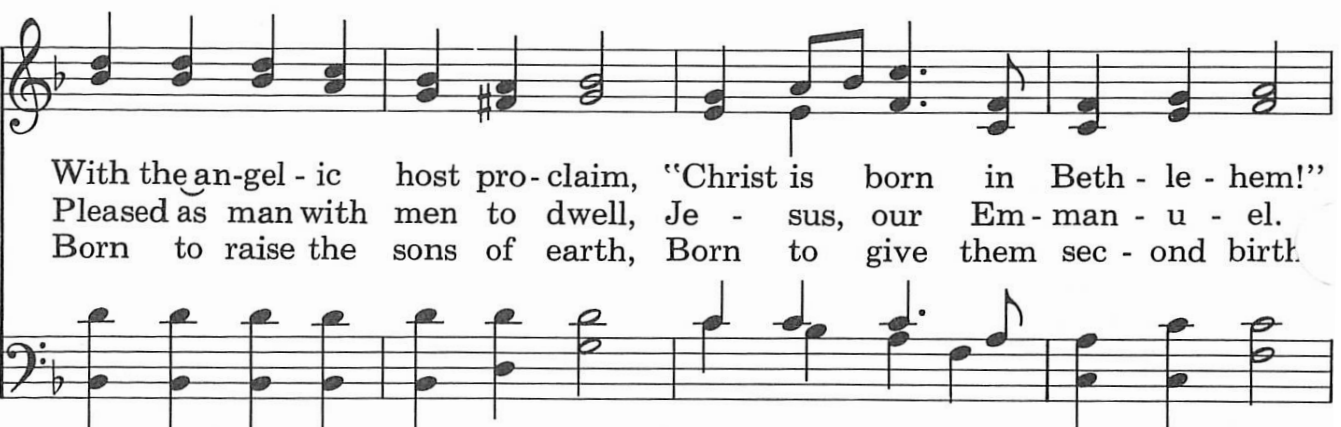
1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of right-eous-ness!



Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold him come, Off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, Risen with heal - ing in his wings,



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail the in-car-nate De - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

REFRAIN



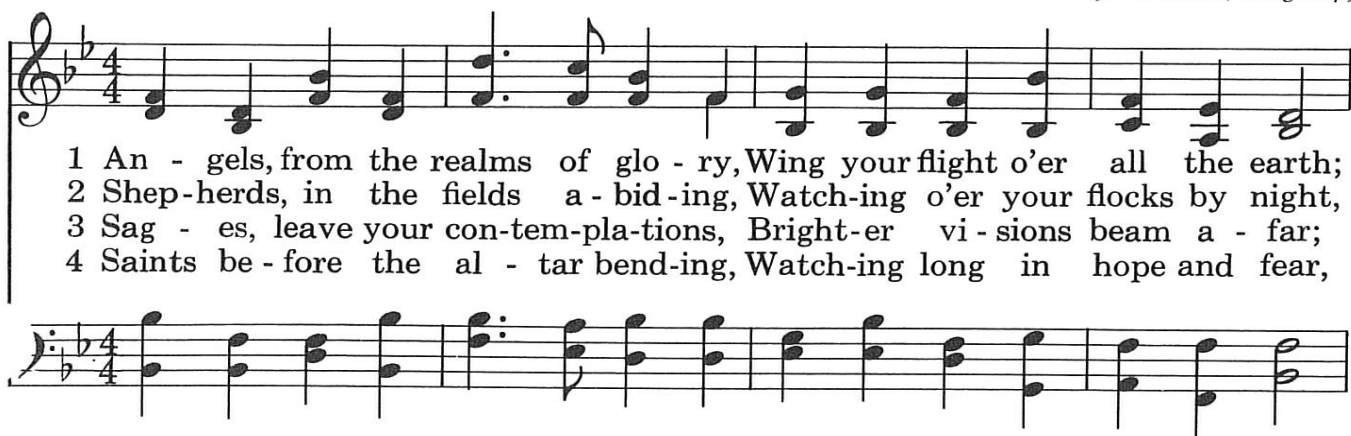
Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!" A-men.

Angels, From the Realms of Glory

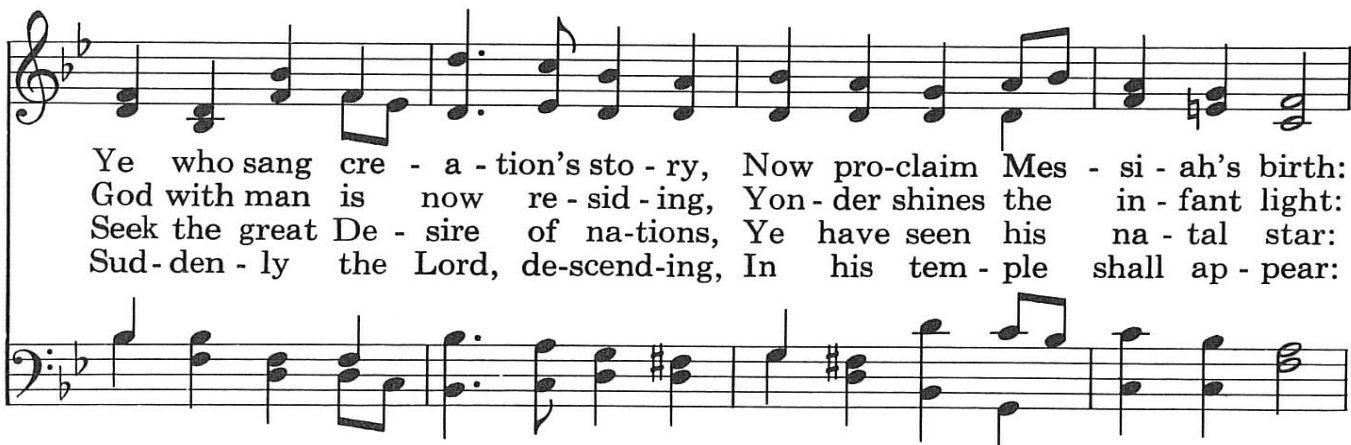
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James Montgomery, 1771-1854

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

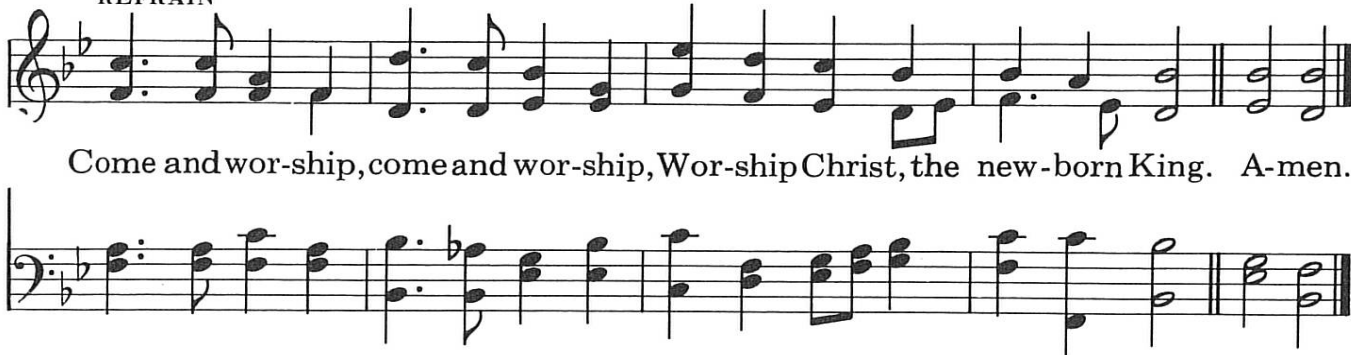


1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid-ing, Watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sag - es, leave your con-tem-pla-tions, Bright-er vi-sions beam a - far;
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend-ing, Watch-ing long in hope and fear,



Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, Now pro-claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with man is now re - sid - ing, Yon - der shines the in - fant light:
 Seek the great De - sire of na-tions, Ye have seen his na - tal star:
 Sud - den - ly the Lord, de-scend-ing, In his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

REFRAIN



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, Wor-ship Christ, the new-born King. A-men.

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@fccleeb.org or speak with Rev. Silver directly.



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Upcoming Concerts

Masks, distanced seating, and proof of vaccination required.

Cameo Baroque Concert for 19 Days of the Valley—Saturday, January 15, at 3:00

As their annual effort in the Upper Valley Haven's "19 Days of the Valley" campaign, Ernie Drown and friends offer a program featuring G. F. Handel, Henry Purcell, G. P. Telemann, William Boyce, and others. *Free-will donation; more at cameoarts.org and uppervalleyhaven.org.*

The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, February 11 and 25, all 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.*

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

We invite you to consider a donation to the UCC's Christmas Fund, also known as the Fund for the Veterans of the Cross or Emergency Fund. This program offers compassionate, grateful support for retired clergy and their families with pension, healthcare, and emergency assistance.

Please contribute as you're able to this vital denominational offering, either by check to FCC (memo "Christmas Fund") or online at www.pbucc.org/index.php/christmas-fund-home. Thanks!

Giving From the Heart *Stewardship 2022*

"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)

Many thanks for the 30 pledges we have already received for 2022! As you prayerfully consider a commitment to FCC's mission and ministry in the coming year, we will gratefully continue to accept pledges anytime in the coming weeks. Thank you for your support of our church!

Please either place your pledge form in the offering plate or return it to the church office by mail. If you'd like to use envelopes for 2022, you may pick up your boxed set (#1-25) in the Parish Hall.

Please Note: CONTENT FOR THE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT DUE MONDAY, JANUARY 10

Materials for FCC's 2021 Annual Report must be submitted to the Church Administrator by January 10, in order to ensure timely distribution of the report prior to our Annual Meeting.

The 2022 Annual Meeting will be Sunday, February 13, 2022



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