



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Baptism of Christ • First Sunday after Epiphany

January 9, 2022

“Christians are made, not born.”

—St. Jerome

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

Prelude

Bon Joseph, écoute moy

Michel Corrette

Call to Worship

Adapted from Psalm 29

Leader: Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

People: Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor.

Leader: The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters.

People: The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

Leader: The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

People: The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

Leader: The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, “Glory!”

People: The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

All: May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Hymn 204 (p. 5)

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

Darwall's 148th

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

Anthem

The Father's Love

Simon Lole

Children's Moment

Imagine that you were there the day Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan. Close your eyes and imagine it. It's easy to do, but it's hard. We don't know what Jesus or John actually looked like. But we can imagine two men standing in the water of the river. We can imagine John performing the baptism. And, if we try really, really hard, we can imagine the voice of God booming out that God was pleased. Now, this is just a guess, but I think God voiced his pleasure when all of *you* were baptized, and when you were born. You are that precious to God, now and every day. Imagine that. Know that.

Hymn 391 (p. 6)

Be Thou My Vision

Slane

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 43:1-7. But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Luke 3:1-22. In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God

is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother’s wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Sermon

“Zero to Sixty”

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 167 (pp. 7-8) *Mark How the Lamb of God’s Self-Offering*

Rendez à Dieu

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, Jimmy, Jean, Michelle, Stephanie, and Paulette.

We also lift up our hopes for this new year, and while we look for things to be better, we are wary. Whether we consider politics, the enduring pandemic, fears about the economy, the ongoing climate crisis, one is tempted to despair. Help us to remember that we do not stand by ourselves, that we are not alone in facing life’s challenges. You are with us, now and always, and for that we offer our thanks and praise.

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 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* David Willcocks

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 mighty waters, God of the tiny raindrop: we come before you this day thankful for blessings great and small, seen and unseen, past, present and future. We present our gifts as a sign of our baptismal vows to be and serve your people. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Hymn 43 (p. 8) *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies* Ratisbon

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 *Tous les bourgeois de Chastres* Michel Corrette

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Amy Driscoll, 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 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.

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

DARWALL'S 148th 6.6.6.6.8.8.

John Darwall, 1731-1789

1 Re - joice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore!
 2 The Lord, our Sav - ior, reigns, The God of truth and love;
 3 His king - dom can - not fail, He rules o'er earth and heaven;

Re - joice, give thanks, and sing, And tri - umph ev - er -
 When he had purged our stains, He took his seat a -
 The keys of death and hell Are to our Je - sus

more:
 bove: Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Re -
 given:

joice, a - gain I say, re - joice! A - men.

Be Thou My Vision

Ancient Irish

Tr. by Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935

SLANE 10.10.9.10.

Traditional Irish Melody

Harm. by David Evans, 1874-1948

In unison

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,
 4 High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

Nought be all else to me save that thou art.
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 Thou mine in - her - it - ance, now and al - ways;
 May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

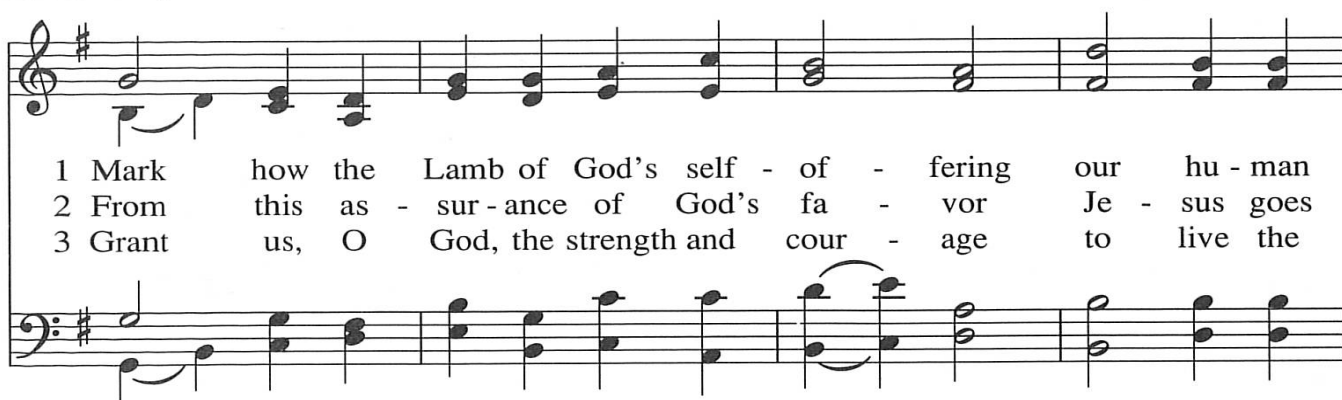
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Thou my great Fa - ther, I thy true son;
 Thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
 High King of heav - en, my treas - ure thou art.
 Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all. A - men.

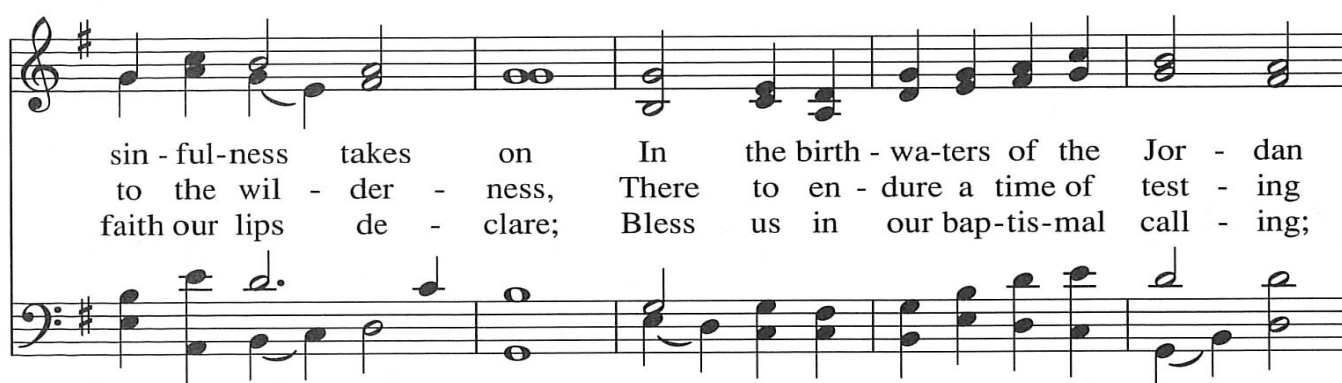
167 Mark How the Lamb of God's Self-Offering

Matt. 3:13-17; 4:1-2; Mark 1:9-13; Luke 3:21-22;
Acts 10:34-38; 2:38-42

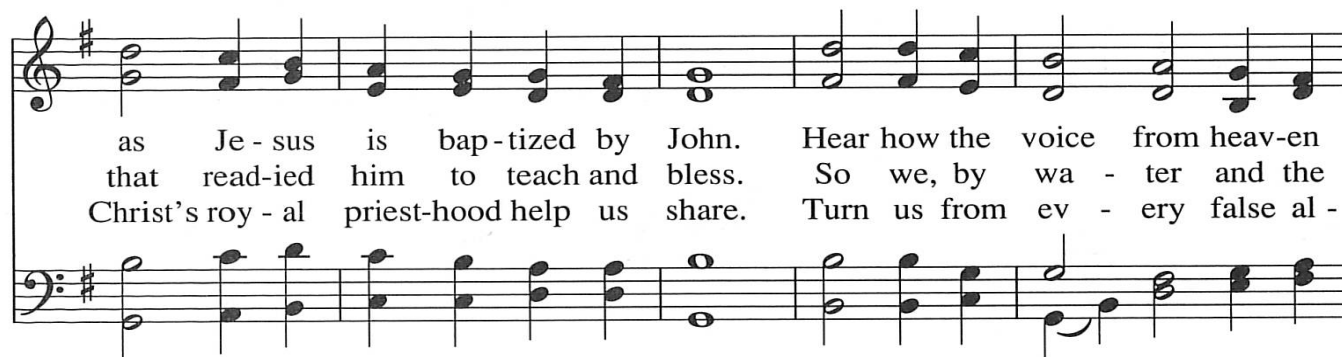
Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1990



1 Mark how the Lamb of God's self - of - fering our hu - man
2 From this as - sur - ance of God's fa - vor Je - sus goes
3 Grant us, O God, the strength and cour - age to live the



sin - ful-ness takes on In the birth - wa-ters of the Jor - dan
to the wil - der - ness, There to en - dure a time of test - ing
faith our lips de - clare; Bless us in our bap-tis-mal call - ing;



as Je - sus is bap-tized by John. Hear how the voice from heav-en
that read-ied him to teach and bless. So we, by wa - ter and the
Christ's roy - al priest-hood help us share. Turn us from ev - ery false al -

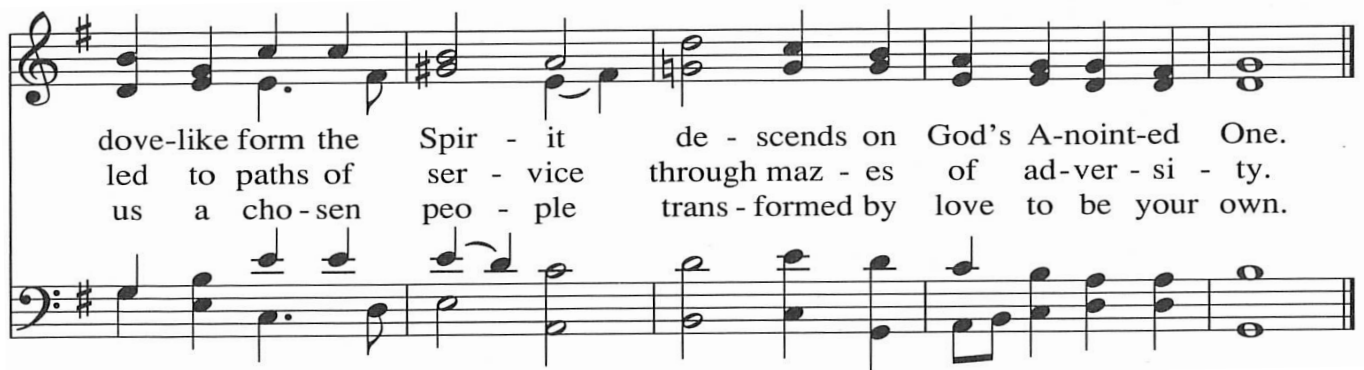


thun - ders, "Lo, this is my be - lov - ed Son." See how in
Spir - it bap - tized in - to Christ's min - is - try, Are of - ten
le - giance, that we may trust in Christ a - lone: Raise up in

Regarding this hymn for the first Sunday after the Epiphany, hymnwriter Carl P. Daw, Jr., writes that "the Baptism of Christ is one of the regular occasions for baptisms and for the making and renewing of baptismal vows."

Tune: RENDEZ À DIEU 9.8.9.8.D.
Louis Bourgeois (c. 1510–c. 1561)
Trente quatre Pseaumes, Geneva, 1551

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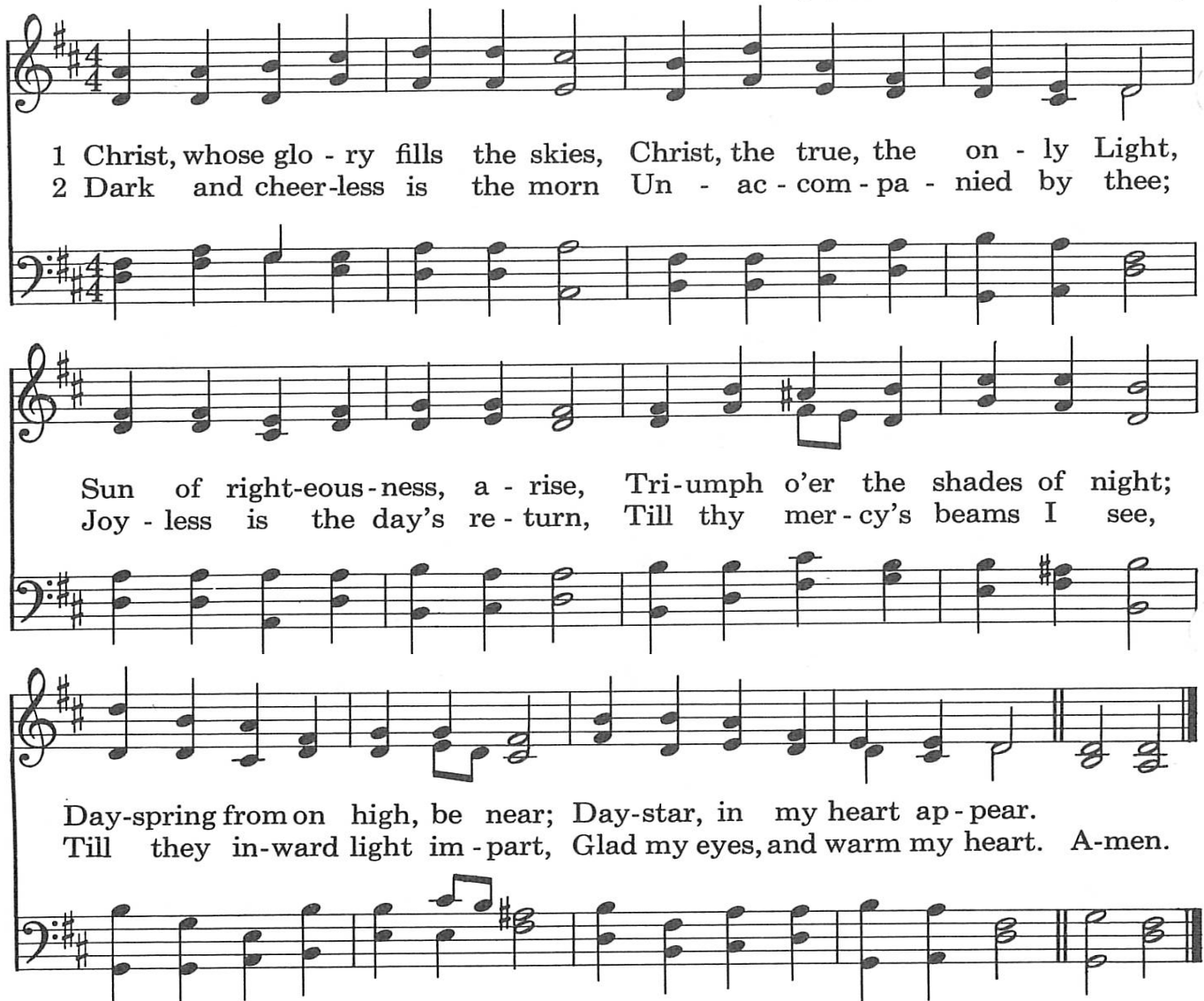
dove-like form the Spir - it de - scends on God's A-noint-ed One.
led to paths of ser - vice through maz - es of ad-ver - si - ty.
us a cho - sen peo - ple trans - formed by love to be your own.

43

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

RATISBON 7.7.7.7.7.
Johann Werner's "Choralbuch," 1815



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the on - ly Light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn Un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;
Sun of right-eous-ness, a - rise, Tri-umph o'er the shades of night;
Joy - less is the day's re - turn, Till thy mer - cy's beams I see,
Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
Till they in-ward light im - part, Glad my eyes, and warm my heart. A-men.

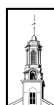
- 3 Visit, then, this soul of mine;
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, Radiancy divine,
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.

UCC Opportunities for Supporting Tornado Relief Efforts

The devastating tornadoes that hit Kentucky and other states in December require a massive recovery effort. The NH Conference of the UCC has suggested two ways to support this effort:

Give directly to the Indiana-Kentucky Conference and its Disaster Preparedness and Ministry Response Team, with an online debit- or credit-card donation at ikcucc.org/connect/donate.

Give through the NH Conference either by mailing a check to the NHC office in Pembroke (memo "Kentucky Tornado Recovery") or online at nhcucc.org/donate-now.



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Upcoming Concerts

Masks, distanced seating, and proof of vaccination required.

A Joyful Offering: Cameo Baroque Benefit Concert—Saturday, January 15, at 3:00

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

Relax Your Ears: Tristan Bellerive and Ben Kulp—Sunday, January 23, at 3:00

Guitarist Tristan Bellerive and cellist Ben Kulp, two of the superb faculty teaching next door at UVMC, offer a reflective afternoon program of duets composed by acclaimed folk and film composer Joel Styzens. *Free-will donation; more at uvmusic.org/event/relax-your-ears.*

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

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 FRIDAY, JANUARY 14

Materials for FCC's 2021 Annual Report must be submitted to the Church Administrator by this Friday, 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