

First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ - Open and Affirming

The Second Sunday after Epiphany January 16, 2022

"Our goal is to create a beloved community, and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives."

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 4-7.

Prelude

God's Time Is Best, from BWV 106

Johann Sebastian Bach

Call to Worship Psalm 36:5-10

Leader: Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

People: Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgments are like the great deep; you save humans and animals alike, O LORD.

Leader: How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

People: They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

Leader: For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

People: O continue your steadfast love to those who know you, and your salvation to the upright of heart!

Hymn 352 (p. 4) My Lord, What a Morning

My Lord, What a Morning

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

This weekend we remember and celebrate the life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King was a great leader in the fight for civil rights, for the ability for all people to be treated fairly by the law, for men and women to be equals. Dr. King saw the fight for civil rights and equality as part of his calling. He saw this work as an integral part of being a good Christian. He did a lot for his country, and he has set an example of what we can do for our brothers and sisters today.

Hymn 415 (p. 5)

In Christ There Is No East or West

McKee

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 62:1-5. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

⁴You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. ⁵For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

John 2:1-11. On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Sermon

"Do Whatever He Tells You"

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 825 (p. 6)

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Swing Low

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.

Holy God, as we gather this day, we remember the life and legacy of a modern prophet, Martin Luther King, Jr. We welcome the inspiration that comes to us from his example. Help us to remember the courage and the faith he brought to his struggle, and imbue us with similar convictions today and in the days ahead.

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

There Is a Balm in Gilead

arr. William L. Dawson

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 grace, God of love, God of all people: we give you thanks for the gifts we have received, for our freedom, for our lives, knowing that we will find new life in ensuring that others are able to live fully and freely. Use our offerings as we work to improve our community, here in Lebanon and around the world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Hymn 339 (p. 7)

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift Every Voice

Benediction

Postlude

Trumpet Tune in D Major

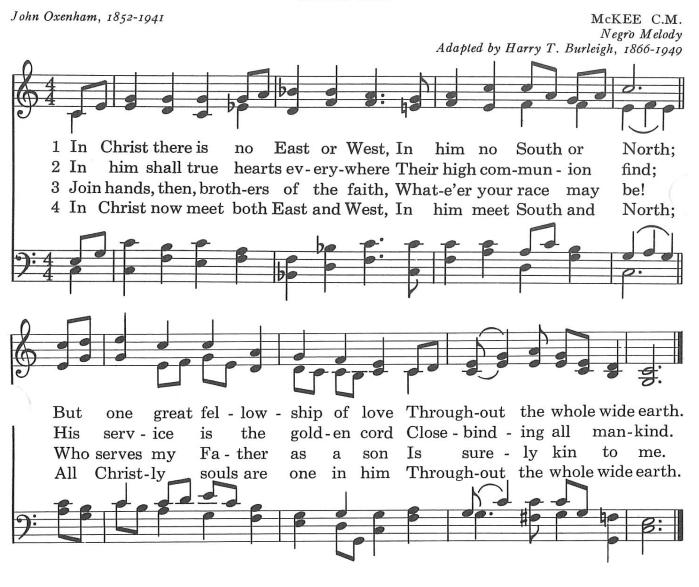
David Johnson



This spiritual reflects on Jesus' saying about the endtimes as recorded in Matthew 24:29–30/Mark 13:24–26. It belongs to the slower, less common style of spirituals with long, sustained phrases and was among those popularized in concerts by the Fisk Jubilee Singers.

In Christ There Is No East or West

Second Tune



Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor
Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Betsy Alexander, Liturgist
Phil Hammond and Dawn Troutman, Zoom Greeters

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.

825 Swing Low, Sweet Chariot



While ostensibly based on Elijah's ascent into heaven (2 Kings 2:11), this African American spiritual also communicates the enslaved people's hope that they might find deliverance across a river (i.e. in the free states beyond the Ohio). Call-and-response singing enhances this piece.

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James Weldon Johnson, 1921; alt.



Poet James Weldon Johnson was the first African-American to pass the bar examination in the state of Florida, and served as U.S. consul in Venezuela and Nicaragua. He collaborated with his composer brother, John Rosamond Johnson, to write Broadway operettas and edit song collections. John appeared in vaudeville, directed London musicals, and headed the Music School Settlement in New York.

Tune: LIFT EVERY VOICE Irr. J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921



THE SOUPER BOWL IS BACK!

A longer season, two more playoff teams, and the latest championship game ever—all that means we have more time to set a new SOUPer BOWL record! We're tackling local hunger again with a collection of soup and other non-perishable items, to be split among our neighbors at Headrest, the Upper Valley Haven, and Listen Community Services.

Donations may be left in the boxes in the Parish Hall until February 13. You may also bring them directly to any of the three beneficiaries (please let us know if you do so). THANK YOU!!



Upcoming Concerts

Masks, distanced seating, and proof of vaccination required.

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. Adults \$20, 18-and-under free; 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.

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.

Giving From the Heart Stewardship 2022

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.

FCC's 2022 Annual Meeting will be Sunday, February 13 (on Zoom)



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