



The Third Sunday after Epiphany

“The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me;
it has hands, it lays hold on me.”

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

Prelude No. 2 in G Major, op. 37 no. 2

Call to Worship

Leader: The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

People: The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;

Leader: The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

People: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

All: Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Hymn 70 (p. 5)

God Is Here! As We Your People Meet

Abbot's Leigh

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

Sing to the Lord

Dunlap's Creek, arr. Alice Parker

Children's Moment

In today's lesson from Paul, we learn that each part of the body has a purpose, a use, for which it should be valued. Hands, feet, backs, eyes, noses—they all play a role in making the whole body able to do what it does. So, too, the spleen, the kidney, and, of course, the heart and the brain. Now, the brain may strike us as more important than the liver, but Paul says, "No! Each body part is important!" And he uses these images to make a point about members of the church in Corinth, and by extension, our church. We all play a role. We all are important. We all need to be here.

Hymn 218 (p. 6) *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

Angel's Story

Scripture Lessons

Nehemiah 8:1-10. [A]ll the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁴The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hash-baddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁷Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the law, while the people remained in their places. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law.

¹⁰Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Luke 4:14-21. ¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the

prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Sermon “Everybody Is Needed” Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 418 (p. 7) O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee Maryton

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.

Redeemer God, we hear in Scripture today of how the people of Jerusalem listened as your word, your Scripture was read to them. They responded with joy, delighting in this reminder that you were with them, that you would be present as they rebuilt their lives. Help us to receive similar assurance from your word in this day, being ever-present as we strive to endure, as we look to build, as we nurture our dreams and hopes, doing so with the promised that you are ever faithful to us, and to our community.

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 “How Lovely Are the Messengers,” from St. Paul F. Mendelssohn

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)

Bountiful God, we offer our gifts this morning, grateful for all we have. We remember that while we are blessed, not all people are. Help us never to forget what we have been given, help us to work to share the bounty not only of our own lives but also of our nation, with those in need. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Hymn 260 (p. 8) *The Church's One Foundation*

Aurelia

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 Finale from *Sonata No. 6 in D Minor*, op. 65 no. 6 F. Mendelssohn

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Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor • Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir
Betsy Alexander, Liturgist • Bob Gerlach, Zoom Greeter

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.

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!!

Giving From the Heart *Stewardship 2022*

Many thanks for the 31 pledges we have already received for 2022! 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, at 11:30 am (on Zoom)

God Is Here! As We Your People Meet

Fred Pratt Green, 1978; alt.

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer praise and prayer,
 2 Here are sym-bols to re - mind us of our life - long need of grace;
 3 Here our chil-dren find a wel-come in the Shep - herd's flock and fold;
 4 Sov - ereign God, of earth and heav-en, in an age of change and doubt

May we find in full - er mea-sure what it is in Christ we share.
 Here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit, here the cross has cen - tral place.
 Here as bread and wine are tak - en, Christ sus - tains us as of old.
 Keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel, help us work your pur - pose out.

Here, as in the world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 Here in hon - es - ty of preach-ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
 Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant seek in wor-ship to ex - plore
 Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com-ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 here, in new-ness and re - new-al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 we, who can - not live with-out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Though he retired in 1969, this distinguished British poet has continued to write hymns. In addition to administering several circuits and local congregations, Fred Pratt Green published plays, translations, and poems. Emory University in Atlanta awarded him an honorary doctorate.

Tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH 8.7.8.7.D.
Cyril V. Taylor, 1941

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O Jesus, I Have Promised

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John E. Bode, 1816-1874

ANGEL'S STORY 7.6.7.6.D.
Arthur H. Mann, 1850-1929



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised To serve thee to the end;
2 O let me hear thee speak - ing In ac - cents clear and still,
3 O Je - sus, thou hast prom - ised To all who fol - low thee



Be thou for - ev - er near me, My mas - ter and my friend;
A - bove the storms of pas - sion, The mur - murs of self - will;
That where thou art in glo - ry There shall thy serv ant be;



I shall not fear the bat - tle If thou art by my side,
O speak to re - as - sure me, To has - ten or con - trol;
And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised To serve thee to the end;



Nor wan - der from the path - way If thou wilt be my guide.
O speak, and make me lis - ten, Thou guard - ian of my soul.
O give me grace to fol - low, My mas - ter and my friend. A - men.



O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee

418

Washington Gladden, 1836-1918

MARYTON L.M.
H. Percy Smith, 1825-1898

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with thee In low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move By some clear,
3 Teach me thy pa - tience; still with thee In clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray Far down the

paths of serv - ice free; Tell me thy se - cret, help me
win - ning word of love; Teach me the way - ward feet to
dear - er com - pa - ny, In work that keeps faith sweet and
fu - ture's broad - ening way, In peace that on - ly thou canst

bear The strain of toil, the fret of care.
stay, And guide them in the home - ward way.
strong, In trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.
give, With thee, O Mas - ter, let me live. A - men.



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Upcoming Concerts

Masks, distanced seating, and proof of vaccination required.

Relax Your Ears: Tristan Bellerive and Ben Kulp—Today, 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.

The Church's One Foundation

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Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900

AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.
Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-1876



1 The Church 's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth,
3 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, And tu - mult of her war,
4 Yet she on earth hath un - ion With God, the Three in One,



She is his new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the word;
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion, One Lord, one faith, one birth,
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for ev - er - more;
And mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion With those whose rest is won.



From heaven he came and sought her To be his ho - ly bride;
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious, Her long - ing eyes are blest,
O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we



With his own blood he bought her, And for her life he died.
And to one hope she press - es, With ev - ery grace en - dued.
And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.
Like them, the meek and low - ly, On high may dwell with thee. A-men.





First Congregational Church of Lebanon

PO Box 230

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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