

# First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ - Open and Affirming

# The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 6, 2022

"Time is but the stream I go a-fishing in. I drink at it; but while I drink I see the sandy bottom and detect how shallow it is. Its thin current slides away, but eternity remains."

-Henry David Thoreau

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

Prelude Dearest Jesus, We Are Here, BWV 731

Johann Sebastian Bach

Call to Worship

Adapted from Psalm 138

Leader: I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

People: I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

Leader: On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

People: All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

Leader: They shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

People: For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives from far away.

Leader: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

People: The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Hymn 426 (p. 5) The Voice of God Is Calling

Meirionydd

#### 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 God Be in My Head John Rutter

#### Children's Moment

Have you ever been chosen to be on a team? Maybe you were the first picked. Or maybe you were the last. People are often judged by what they can do and how they can do it. Jesus chose differently. When he called Simon, who we have come to know as Peter, he picked him to be on his team. And though Peter would show his shortcomings, Jesus told him that he, Simon, was the rock on which he would build his church. Talk about confidence in someone! Well, guess what? Jesus believes in you, indeed in each of us, just like he believed in Peter. That should mean a lot to you today, and in the future.

Hymn 322 (p. 6) Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult

Galilee

#### Scripture Lessons

*Isaiah 6:1-13.* In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." <sup>4</sup>The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup>The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" <sup>9</sup>And he said, "Go and say to this people: 'Keep listening, but do not comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand.' <sup>10</sup>Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and comprehend with their minds, and turn and be healed." <sup>11</sup>Then I said, "How long, O Lord?" And he said: "Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is utterly desolate; <sup>12</sup>until the Lord sends everyone far away, and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land. <sup>13</sup>Even if a tenth part remain in it, it will be burned again, like a terebinth or an oak whose stump remains standing when it is felled." The holy seed is its stump.

*Luke 5:1-11.* Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, <sup>2</sup>he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup>He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. <sup>4</sup>When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down

your nets for a catch." <sup>5</sup>Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." <sup>6</sup>When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. <sup>7</sup>So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup>But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" <sup>9</sup>For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; <sup>10</sup>and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." <sup>11</sup>When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Sermon

"Hook, Line, and Sinker"

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, Edith, Jan, Eileen, Jean, Michelle, Stephanie, and Paulette.

We remember today Nagendra, a colleague of Walter's who died suddenly this past week, and we hold his wife Vasanta and their daughter Priti in our prayers.

O God, we are summoned by so many, and to go in different directions. Often times, we listen not to you but to the siren calls of society, doing what might seem to be fun or fulfilling, but in reality seeking comfort in what is easy and often not helpful to our well-being. We pray that we will be like Simon, that we will drop our nets and follow you, giving up our fantasies in order to pursue your kingdom, and the healing, gracious love that is its defining, life-shaping feature.

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

Ave Verum Corpus

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

"Hail, true body, born of the Virgin Mary, having truly suffered, sacrificed on the cross for humanity, from whose pierced side flowed water and blood. Be for us a foretaste (of the Heavenly Banquet) in the trial of death."

#### 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)

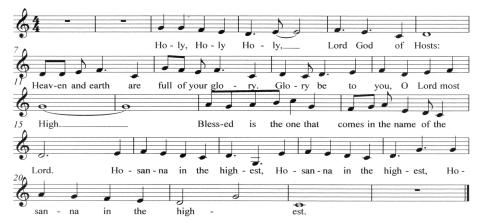
Gracious and loving God, you have called us to be your people, not caring where we came from, or who we know, but looking at each of us, seeing that we all have gifts to share with others. These gifts of ours are a sign of our desire to give of ourselves, and as we share with others, we look to the way in which you have given so much for us.

#### The Sacrament of Holy Communion

For communion, you are invited to have some bread and juice on hand. We will share in the bread and cup at the appointed time. If you would like to receive a blessing, please let the officiant know.

### **Invitation and Communion Prayer**





#### Sharing of the Bread and Cup

## Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

Because the broken bread has meant our healing, because the outpoured cup has meant our life, because our common sharing has meant the communion of our souls, and because we have here been graced by your presence, God, we give you thanks and pray that our lives may be renewed in the life and the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### Hymn 286 (p. 7) Come, Risen Lord

Sursum Corda

#### Benediction

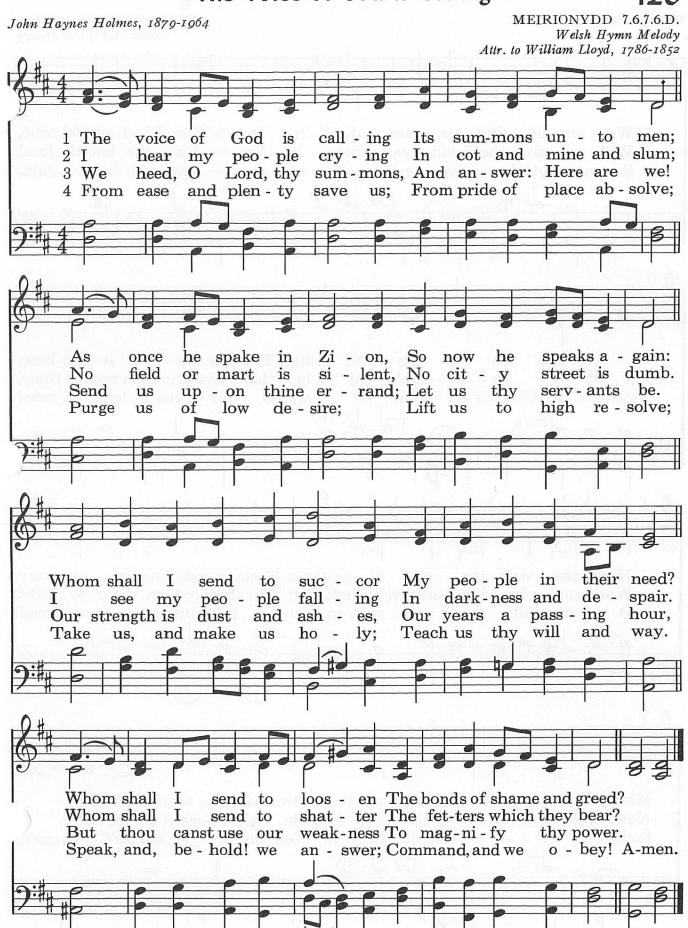
My friends, life is short. We do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So, be swift to love, and make haste to be kind.

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.

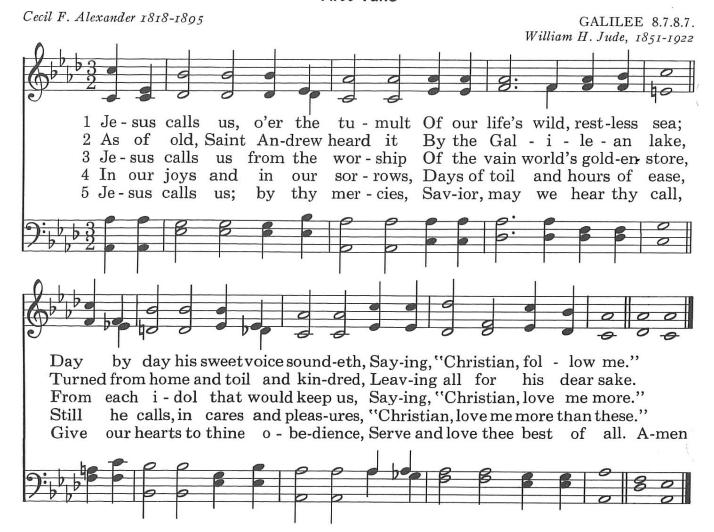
Postlude

Voluntary in C Minor/Major

Thomas Attwood Walmisley



# Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult First Tune



# 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 31 pledges we have received for 2022! As you prayerfully consider your 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 is Next Sunday, February 13, at 11:30 am (on Zoom)

Please see the meeting warrant on Page 8 of the bulletin; copies of the **2021 Annual Report** are available in the Parish Hall or electronically from the church office.



### Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Dawn Troutman, Liturgist

\* \* \*

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.

#### ONE WEEK LIEFT FOR THE SOUPER BOWIL

Bengals, Rams, and the latest championship game ever—that means we have one week left to set a new SOUPer BOWL record! We're tackling local hunger again with this collection of soup and other non-perishable items for our neighbors at Headrest, the Haven, and Listen.

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!!

# NOTICE of ANNUAL MEETING – Sunday, February 13, 11:30 am (on Zoom)

The Annual Meeting of First Congregational Church of Lebanon, NH, will be held online in Zoom format next SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2022, AT 11:30 AM, after that morning's worship service, for the following purposes:

- 1. To hear the reports of all officers, committees, and organizations, as required under the CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS of the church.
- 2. The election of all officers provided for under the CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS of the church.
- **3.** To consider and act upon any other matters relating to the general church welfare that may properly come before this meeting.

Music
at the
Meetinghouse

# **Upcoming Concerts**

Masks, distanced seating, and proof of vaccination required.

## 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.

# Classicopia: The Dancing Cello-Sunday, March 20, at 2:00

Our friend Elizabeth Borowsky brings back her mother, famed cellist Cecylia Barczyk, to usher in spring with bright, brilliant music for piano and cello. The program includes dances and rhapsodies by Ludwig van Beethoven, Frédéric Chopin, Claude Debussy, and more. *Adults* \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at www.classicopia.org/concert/1091/.



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