



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Second Sunday in Lent

March 13, 2022

“If we knew what God knows, we would ask exactly for what he gives.”

–Tim Keller

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

Prelude

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

Felix Mendelssohn

Call to Worship

Adapted from Psalm 27

Leader: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

People: The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Leader: One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

People: For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

Leader: I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

People: Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

Hymn 15 (p. 5)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Lobe den Herren

Prayer of Invocation

God, though we worship in places near and far today, we welcome your Spirit as it joins us together as one people. Lift up our worship, inspire our prayers, infuse them with your grace, your love, your power. We pray these things in your Son's name. Amen.

Lenten Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Open our hearts to you, that we may receive your forgiveness and be redeemed by your reconciling love. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

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 “Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord” (*Elijah*) Felix Mendelssohn

Children’s Moment

Today, we’ll read a story from the Book of Genesis, in the Hebrew Bible. You may have heard that referenced as the “Old Testament,” but, frankly, that’s insulting to our Jewish neighbors and friends. Further, there’s nothing “Old” about it. Jesus certainly didn’t think that it was outdated, or that it would be superseded. The Hebrew Bible was the only Bible Jesus knew.

Now, none of this means that people have not had new interpretations or insights into the Bible, but the “new” does not mean the “old” is any less valuable or important. Remember that today, tomorrow, and throughout your lives.

Hymn 14 (p. 6) *The God of Abraham Praise* Leoni

Scripture Lessons

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18. After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”²But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”³And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.”⁴But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.”⁵He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”⁶And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.⁷Then he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.”⁸But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?”⁹He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. [...]¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.¹⁸On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, [...].”

Luke 13:31-35. ³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³²He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

Sermon “Stargazing” Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 87 (p. 7) God Moves in a Mysterious Way Dundee

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, Paulette, and Carolin.

O God of our forebears, we read today of the promise you made to Abraham, and we recall how it was fulfilled. We know that you keep your word, in all things, at all times, in every instance. We marvel at your consistency and your fidelity, and we give thanks for all you have done, are doing, and will do in the future. Although that future is unknowable, we draw strength and comfort that you will be with each of us, and with all of us, all the days of our lives.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ, 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 Grant Us Peace, O Lord Felix 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*)

Holy God, Maker of Heaven and Earth, we join with your Creation in singing your praise and glorifying your name. In this spirit, we offer these gifts, in the hope that the work and service they enable will witness to your love for all the world. In our Savior's name we pray, Amen.

Hymn 212 (p. 8) *O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns* Charterhouse

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 *Fugue No. 2 in G Major, op. 37 no. 2* Felix Mendelssohn

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Chris Chase, Liturgist

Linda and Ike Jacobs, Ushers • 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.

If you would like to receive daily devotional reflections during Lent from Rev. Steve Silver, please contact the church office or email him directly at silver@fccleb.org.

* * * HOLY WEEK IS APRIL 10-17, 2022 * * *

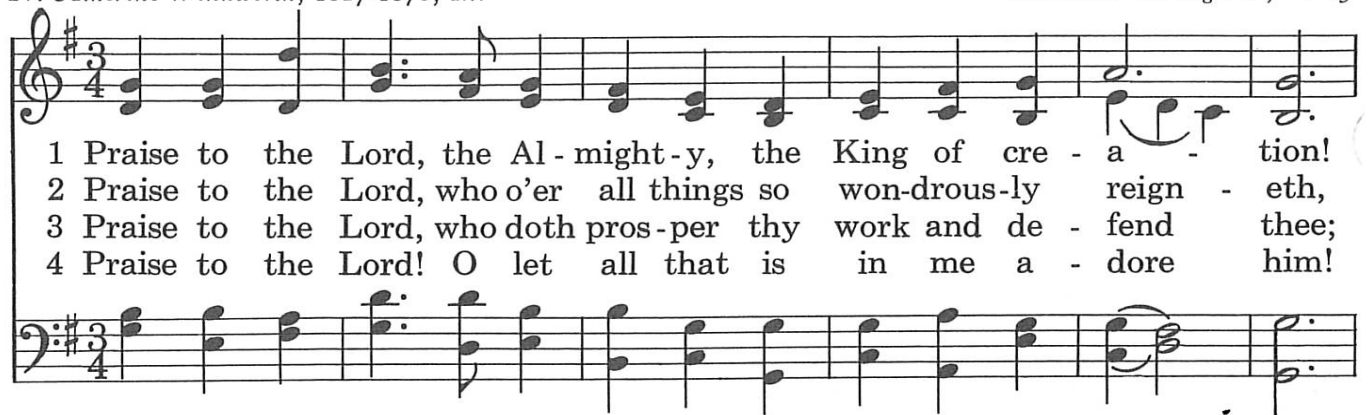
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Joachim Neander, 1650-1680

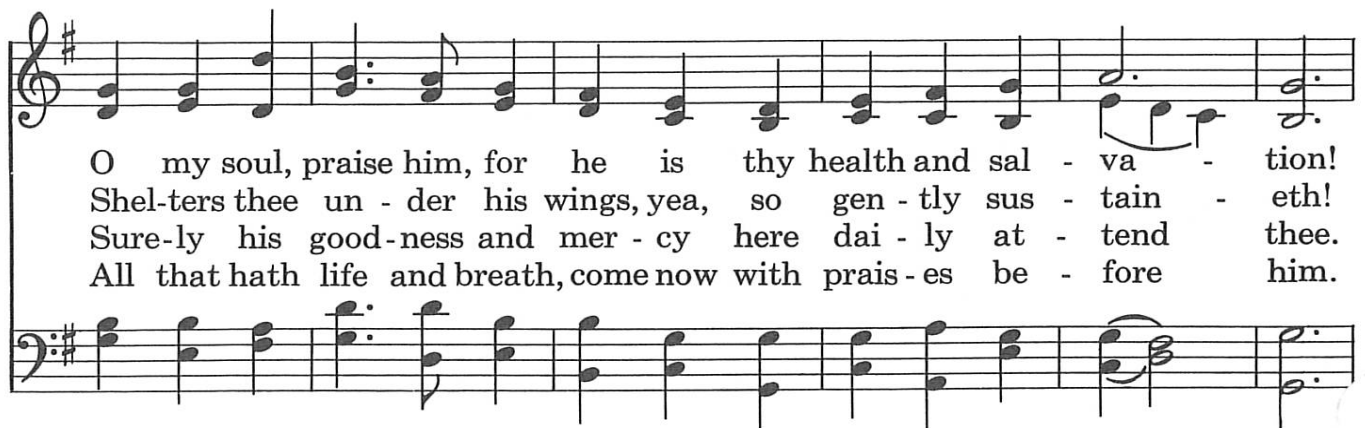
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8.

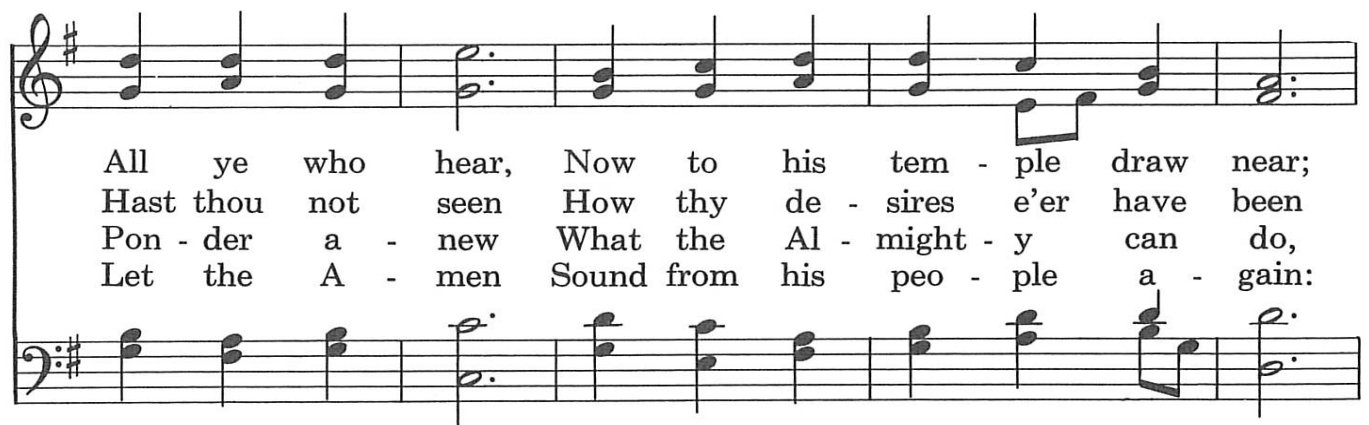
"Stralsund Gesangbuch," 1665




1 Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre-a-tion!
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign-eth,
 3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy work and de-fend thee;
 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a-dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal-va-tion!
 Shel-ters thee un-der his wings, yea, so gen-tly sus-tain-eth!
 Sure-ly his good-ness and mer-cy here dai-ly at-tend thee.
 All that hath life and breath, come now with prais-es be-fore him.



All ye who hear, Now to his tem-ple draw near;
 Hast thou not seen How thy de-sires e'er have been
 Pon-der a-new What the Al-might-y can do,
 Let the A-men Sound from his peo-ple a-gain:



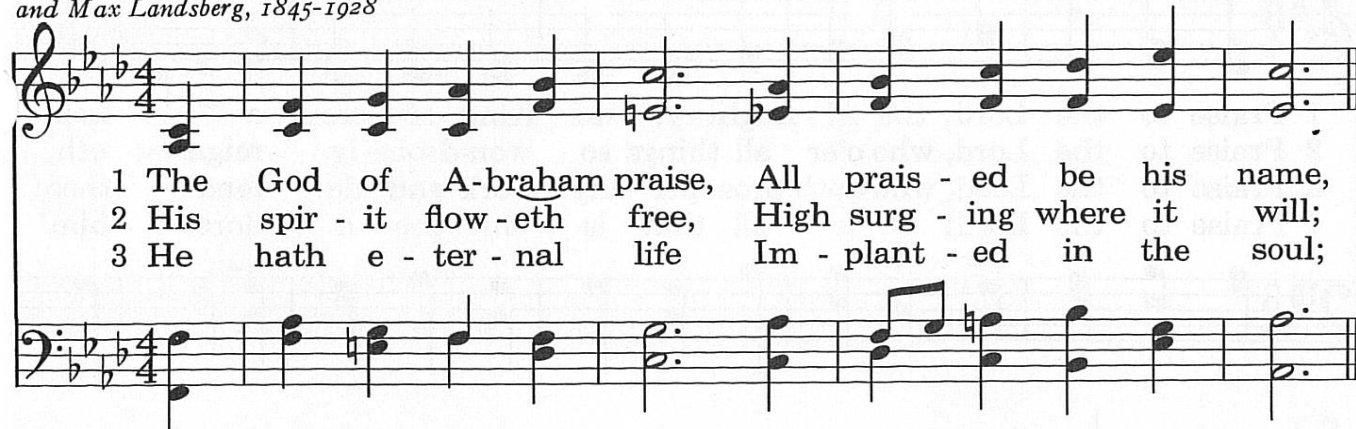
Join me in glad ad-o-ra-tion!
 Grant-ed in what he or-dain-eth?
 If with his love he be-friend thee.
 Glad-ly for aye we a-dore him. A-men.

The God of Abraham Praise

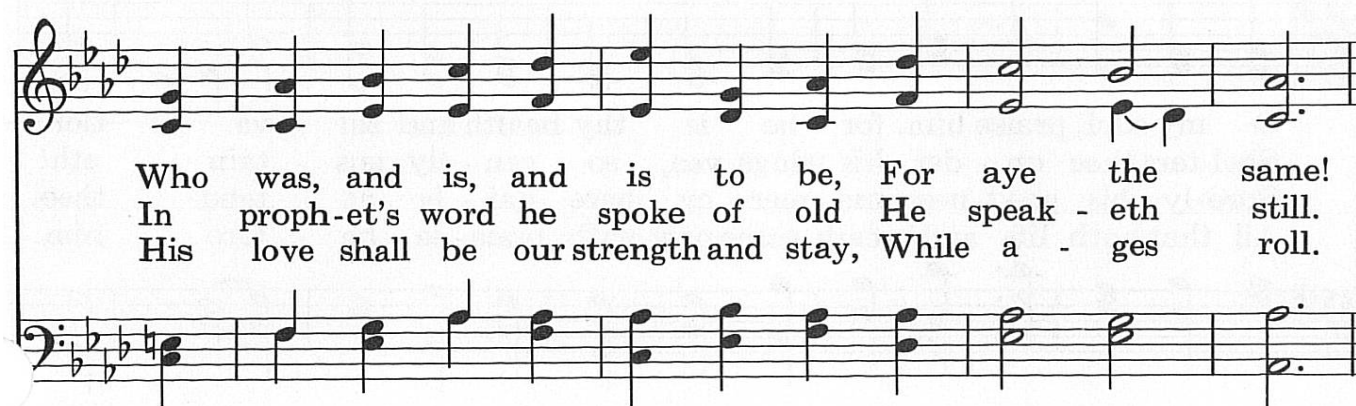
14

Revised Version of the "Yigdal"
Daniel ben Judah, c.1400
Tr. Newton Mann, 1836-1926,
and Max Landsberg, 1845-1928


LEONI 6.6.8.4.D.
Traditional Hebrew Melody
Adapted by Meyer Lyon, 1751-1797



1 The God of A-bra-ham praise, All prais - ed be his name,
 2 His spir - it flow - eth free, High surg - ing where it will;
 3 He hath e - ter - nal life Im - plant - ed in the soul;



Who was, and is, and is to be, For aye the same!
 In proph-et's word he spoke of old He speak - eth still.
 His love shall be our strength and stay, While a - ges roll.



The one e - ter - nal God, Ere aught that now ap - pears;
 Es - tab - lished is his law, And change-less it shall stand,
 Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - ed be his name



The First, the Last: be - yond all thought His time - less years!
 Deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, On sea, or land.
 Who was, and is, and is to be, For aye the same! A-men.

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

87

William Cowper, 1731-1800

DUNDEE C.M.
"Scottish Psalter," 1615

1 God moves in a mys - te - rious way His won - ders to per - form;
2 Ye fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take; The clouds ye so much dread
3 Judge not the Lord by fee - ble sense, But trust him for his grace;
4 Blind un - be - lief is sure to err, And scan his work in vain;

He plants his foot-steps in the sea And rides up - on the storm.
Are big with mer - cy, and shall break In bless - ings on your head.
Be - hind a frown - ing prov - i - dence He hides a smil - ing face.
God is his own in - ter - pret - er, And he will make it plain. A - men.

UCC Emergency Appeal for Ukrainian Refugee Assistance

The UCC is working both as a member of the ACT Alliance and through the relief agency of the Reformed Church in Hungary. Visit www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal/.

It's Time for the Lenten Lunch Bag Offering

The arrival of Lent brings the **Children's Community Corner** Lunch Bag Offering! We once again ask for your participation in this annual collection of savings from a regular sacrifice during Lent. The total collection on Palm Sunday (April 10) will be split between **Epilogos Charities** and **WISE of the Upper Valley**. (*Decorated paper bags are available, but not required to participate.*)

The Children's Community Corner thanks you for supporting this stewardship project!

One Great Hour of Sharing: "Love Remains"—Special UCC Mission Offering

And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love. —1 Cor 13:13

This annual, nationwide offering funds a range of mission initiatives around the world. It supports healthcare, education, agriculture, refugee assistance, and disaster relief in over 130 countries. OGHS funds are leveraged with local, national, and global partners to maximize their impact.

Please consider a contribution as you are able, and thank you for SHARING!

(Payable to FCC, with "OGHS" in the memo line. Contributions gratefully accepted until Easter.)

*Matt. 23:37-39; Luke 13:34-35**Bradford Gray Webster, 1954; alt.*

1 O Je-sus Christ, may grate-ful hymns be ris-ing, in ev-ery
 2 Grant us new cour-age, nev-er proud, but hum-ble, strong in your
 3 Show us your Spir-it, brood-ing o'er each cit-y, as you once

cit-y for your love and care; In-spire our wor-ship, grant the
 strength to ven-ture and to dare; To lift the fall-en, guide the
 wept a-bove Je-ru-sa-lem, Seek-ing to gath-er all in

glad sur-pris-ing that your blessed Spir-it rous-es ev-ery-where.
 ones who stum-ble, seek out the lone-ly and God's mer-cy share.
 love and pit-y, and heal-ing those who touch your gar-ment's hem.

This text, written for a Convocation of Urban Life in America, was chosen by The Hymn Society for publication in Five New Hymns on the City. Bradford Webster, a Methodist minister, served churches in his native New York state for forty years.

Tune: CHARTERHOUSE 11.10.11.10.
David Evans, 1927

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The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, March 11, 25, April 8, and Sat., April 23, 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 rhapsodies and dances by Ludwig van Beethoven, Frédéric Chopin, Claude Debussy, and more. *Adults \$20,*

FCC members \$15, children free; advance tickets and more at www.classicopia.org/concert/1091/.

Muskeg Music Presents Atlantic Crossing—Saturday, March 26, at 7:30

Enchanting contra-dance halls throughout New England for over two decades, Vermont-based Atlantic Crossing draws from both Celtic traditions of the British Isles and the music of Maritime and French Canada. Join us for this special concert rooted in a rich heritage of music and dance.

(Rescheduled from March 12.) Adults \$15, under 18 free; for more details, visit atlanticcrossingvt.com.

Upper Valley Music Center Faculty Showcase—Saturday, April 2, at 4:00

Come enjoy a diverse program featuring the vocal and instrumental excellence of the faculty next door at UVMC. *Free-will donation; all proceeds benefit tuition assistance fund. More at www.uvmusic.org.*

Classicopia: Violin and Piano—Friday, April 22, at 7:30

Hanover's own virtuoso violinist Roseminna Watson joins pianist Dan Weiser for another lovely evening with Classicopia. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at www.classicopia.org.*

Cameo Arts Presents Stroud, Zay, and Odell—Sunday, April 24, at 2:00

Flautist Leslie Stroud joins cellist Peter Zay and pianist Matthew Odell for a benefit program featuring J. S. Bach, Felix Mendelssohn, and Michel Merlet. *Free-will donation; beneficiary TBD.*

Bel Canto Chamber Singers—Saturday, April 30, at 7:30 / Sunday, May 1, at 4:00

We're delighted by the prospect of Bel Canto returning to our Sanctuary under the direction of Jane Woods! *Program details TBA. Adults \$15, students \$10, under 13 free; more at www.belcantosingers.org.*



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
Jon Scott, Chair of Church Council • Linda Gerlach, Chair of Deacons • 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