

Stewardship is also about taking care of things. The environment, for example. We need to care for the waters and the trees. And just as we do that, we need to be stewards of our church. We care for the building and all that takes place within its walls. So, if you give even a dime, thank you. Thank you on behalf of our church, and thank you, if I may be so bold, on behalf of the God who came to us in the person of Jesus.

Hymn 694 (p. 6) *Great God of Every Blessing*

Aurelia

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 65:17-25. (Responsively)

One: ¹⁷For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.

All: ¹⁸**But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.**

One: ¹⁹I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.

All: ²⁰**No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.**

One: ²¹They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²²They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

All: ²³**They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord— and their descendants as well.**

One: ²⁴Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.

All: ²⁵**The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.**

Luke 21:5-19. ⁵When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, ⁶“As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

⁷They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” ⁸And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them.

⁹“When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” ¹⁰Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹²“But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; ¹⁵for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

Sermon “*Dream Big*” Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 708 (p. 7) *We Give Thee but Thine Own* Schumann

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, Juanita, Terry, Dan, Ethan, Travis, Larry, Garrett, Penny, Sue, and Rick.

Generous God, you are the source of our blessings, those seen and those unseen. Your grace is boundless—and unearned. We, your people, all too often focus on what we don’t have, and sometimes we find it hard to understand what it means to give from a position of abundance. Help us to emulate your example, to follow the Way of Jesus, as we work together to do the work you have called this church to do.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of your Son Jesus, 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 *Deliver Us, O Lord Our God* Adrian Batten

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, we respond with joy to your call to be a people of faith that shares your Good News through word, song, and deed. We pray that this morning's offering will serve this high purpose, helping to build the blessed community here in the Upper Valley and in the wider world beyond. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Hymn 711 (p. 8) *Lord of All Good*

Toulon

Benediction

Postlude *To God Alone Be Glory*

Georg Böhm

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist • The FCC Choir • Chris Chase, 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.

Dream Big *Today is Stewardship Sunday*

“For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.” (Isaiah 65:17)

All are invited to prayerfully consider their commitment to FCC's mission and ministry in the coming year. Today we dedicate our 2023 pledges in worship, but we will gratefully continue to accept them 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 offering envelopes for 2023, you may pick up your boxed set (#1-20) in the Parish Hall today or during the week.

CHRISTMAS COMES TO ALL—LISTEN'S HOLIDAY BASKETS

For years FCC has participated in the Holiday Basket Program organized by LISTEN Community Services. Economic challenges have increased demand for this program, as families struggle to provide warm clothing for children and food for holiday meals.

LISTEN is returning to the familiar process of gathering donations of new items and gift cards, so we will again offer a “giving tree” (of a sort) by which the congregation may support this vital project. Please look for a sign-up list by email (and in print on Sundays) this month.

Thanks to all for giving to local families and seniors in the true spirit of Christmas!

550

Give Praise to the Lord

(Psalm 149)

1 Give praise to the Lord, and sing a new song;
 2 With tim-brel and harp and joy-ful ac-claim,
 3 In glo-ry ex-ult, all saints of the Lord;
 4 For this is God's word: the saints shall not fail,

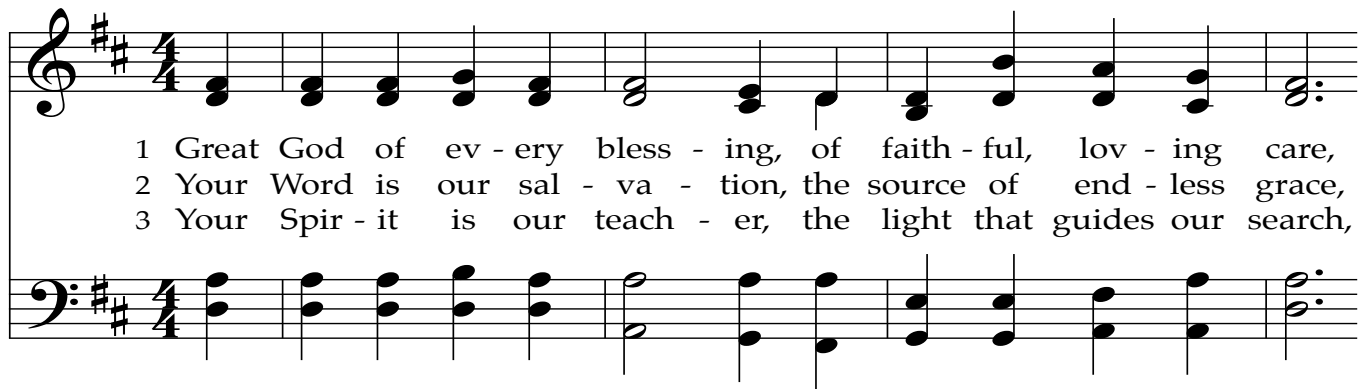
a - mid all the saints God's prais - es pro - long;
 with glad - ness, O God, we praise your great name;
 with song in the night high prais - es ac - cord;
 but o - ver the earth their power shall pre - vail;

a song to your Mak - er and Rul - er now raise,
 for now in your peo - ple good plea - sure you seek;
 go forth in God's ser - vice and strong in God's might
 all king - doms and na - tions shall yield to their sway.

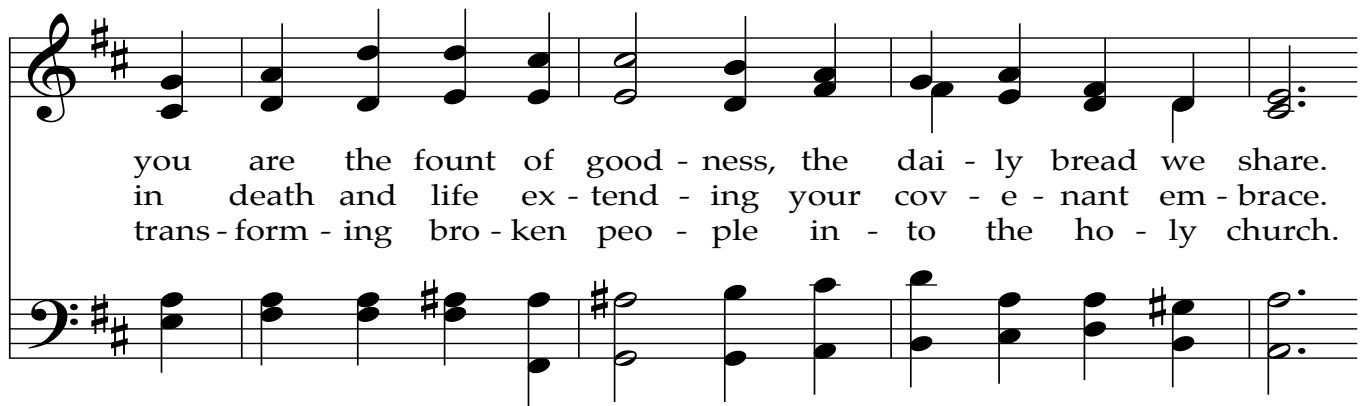
all chil - dren of Zi - on: re - joice and give praise.
 with robes of sal - va - tion you cov - er the meek.
 to con - quer all e - vil and stand for the right.
 To God give the glo - ry; sing prais - es for aye.

This adaptation of Psalm 149 is organized by themes of praise and service, with a strong implication that they are not really separable but are two aspects of the same God-centered impulse. This text is set to a jubilant tune derived from a late 19th-century English anthem.

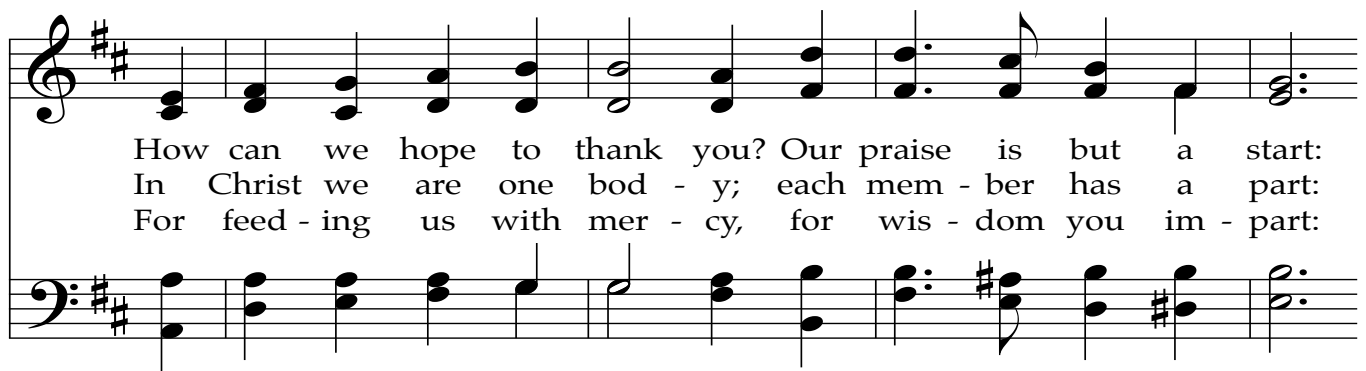
694 Great God of Every Blessing



1 Great God of ev - ery bless - ing, of faith - ful, lov - ing care,
2 Your Word is our sal - va - tion, the source of end - less grace,
3 Your Spir - it is our teach - er, the light that guides our search,



you are the fount of good - ness, the dai - ly bread we share.
in death and life ex - tend - ing your cov - e - nant em - brace.
trans - form - ing bro - ken peo - ple in - to the ho - ly church.



How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
In Christ we are one bod - y; each mem - ber has a part:
For feed - ing us with mer - cy, for wis - dom you im - part:



sin - cere - ly and com - plete - ly I of - fer you my heart.

Written for the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth, this text sums up his liturgical theology, ending each stanza with his motto: *Cor meum tibi offero, Domine, prompte et sincere*. By moving from plural to singular the stanzas show how corporate faith becomes personal piety.

We Give Thee but Thine Own 708

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'We Give Thee but Thine Own'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed between the staves. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the final four lines. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving lines.

1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be;

all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace: it is a Christ - like thing.
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

Each successive stanza here expands the implications of the familiar affirmation of the first one. Much more than a concern with money, stewardship shapes our relationship with God and with other people. Despite this tune's name, no source has been found in Schumann's works.

TEXT: William Walsham How, c. 1858
MUSIC: Mason and Webb's *Cantica Laudis*, 1850

SCHUMANN
SM

Operation Christmas Child—National Collection Week: November 14-21

You're invited to support Operation Christmas Child, by which Samaritan's Purse ships shoeboxes of supplies and toys to children worldwide. Gloria and Phil Hammond (802-295-3749) generously manage this at FCC; they'll give out as many shoeboxes as can be filled and returned to church by the collection week of November 14-21. You may also build a shoebox online.

For more information on this year's operation or to build a shoebox online, please visit www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/. Thanks!

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service—Tuesday, November 22, 7:00, at FCC

All are invited to gather in our Sanctuary for grateful worship with our friends from the Lebanon United Methodist and West Lebanon Congregational Churches, in this faithful, annual observation of Thanksgiving with our wider community. (*Zoom also available.*)

711

Lord of All Good

1 Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to you;
 2 We give our minds to un - der - stand your ways;
 3 Fa - ther, whose boun - ty all cre - a - tion shows;

use them your ho - ly pur - pose to ful - fill,
 hands, eyes, and voice to serve your great de - sign;
 Christ, by whose will - ing sac - ri - fice we live;

to - kens of love and pledg - es brought a - new,
 heart with the flame of your own love a - blaze,
 Spir - it, from whom all life in full - ness flows:

that our whole life is of - fered to your will.
 till for your glo - ry all our powers com - bine.
 to you with grate - ful hearts our - selves we give.

A pastor wrote this text for a Christmas fair, which perhaps added echoes to the words "gifts" and "give" in the first two stanzas. But no hints are needed to grasp the full meaning of this hymn's final line. The text is set to a shortened form of a widely used Genevan tune.

TEXT: Albert F. Bayly, 1962, alt.
 MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551; adapt. from GENEVAN 124
 Text © 1962 Oxford University Press

TOULON
 10.10.10.10



The Anonymous Coffeeshouse—Fridays, Nov. 11 and 25, Dec. 2, all 7:30 pm

Come enjoy our popular community venue for live local music! An informal “listening room” for emerging musicians, each show features several acoustic acts. Patrons come and go as they please; food and drink available. *Free admission. For performer info and more, visit anoncoffee.org.*

The Balourdet Quartet—Saturday, November 12, at 4:00 pm

After hosting it online in 2021, UVMC brings this superb Boston-based ensemble to Lebanon for a master class (1:00 pm, free and open to observers) and a performance of both familiar and new music (adults \$20, under-18 free). *For more, visit uvmusic.org/event/balourdet-quartet-performance.*

Classicopia: Latin Cello—Sunday, November 13, at 2:00 pm

Cellist Diego Carneiro—who has been named a Minister of Tourism for his native Ecuador—joins pianist Dan Weiser for a thrilling program by an unusual variety of Latin-American composers. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; for more, visit classicopia.org/concert/latin-cello/.*

Cameo Baroque Benefit for 19 Days: Musica Obscura—Friday, November 18, at 7:30 pm

Ernie Drown and friends share their annual program to benefit the UV Haven’s “19 Days of the Valley” effort. “Dark” music of J. S. Bach, G. P. Telemann, Michele Cabalone, Robert Valentine, Elisabeth Claude Jacques de la Guerre, and more. *Free-will donation; more at cameoarts.org.*

Classicopia: Four-Hand Holiday—Sunday, December 4, at 2:00 pm

Pianists Daniel Weiser and Elizabeth Borowsky renew this seasonal tradition with a selection of favorites in exciting, four-hand arrangements—from “Sleigh Ride” and “White Christmas” to *The Nutcracker Suite*. *Adults \$20, FCC mems \$15, children free; visit classicopia.org/concert/four-hand-holiday-3/.*

Bel Canto Chamber Singers: Winter Dreams—Saturday, Dec. 10, 7:30 / Sunday, Dec. 11, 4:00

Director Jane Woods leads Bel Canto in its ever-popular holiday program, this year featuring a cantata by Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo and music of Hans Leo Hassler, Felix Mendelssohn, Eric Whitacre, and more. *Adults \$15, students \$10, under 13 free; for more, visit www.belcantosingers.org.*

Upper Valley Music Center Messiah Sing!—Sunday, December 18, at 3:30 pm

UVMC brings back its annual performance of G. F. Handel’s beloved oratorio, with student soloists and chamber orchestra. All are welcome to join the chorus (scores available!) or just listen. *Fee \$15 choral/orchestral participants; suggested \$10 audience donation. More at uvmusic.org/event/messiah-sing.*



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

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Lebanon NH 03766

Weekly Worship Resources Enclosed!

DATED MATERIAL—Please Deliver Promptly

Do you use email? Contact church@fcclieb.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@fcclieb.org • prayer@fcclieb.org • music@fcclieb.org • www.fcclieb.org