

November 20, 2022

—Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

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

Holy Is the True Light

Richard Harris

Children's Moment

Today is the end of liturgical year. That's right—for all church intents and purposes, it's December 31. Next week, we begin a new year, a new cycle of readings from Scripture. We will begin our annual observance of Advent, and we will prepare for the birth of Jesus. We'll talk more about that next week, but for now, I would encourage you to live in this moment, the day that God has made for you and for me and for all of Creation.

Hymn 263 (p. 6)

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Regent Square

Scripture Lessons

Jeremiah 23:1-6. Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. ²Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

⁵The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Luke 23:33-43. ³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

As we hold our community members in prayer, please exercise care and discretion when sharing.

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.

Mighty and merciful God, we, your people, seek leadership, but often our efforts come up short. We know that you have shown us the Way, and we see in Jesus a model of what you have in mind as we try to build a better world. We know that flash, bluster, and empty promises are the ways of the bully and the con artist, and not your Way. Let us remember the worries of Samuel, let us look to David, and never let us forget his failings. We know that no human is perfect, that we are all fallen. Inspire us as we seek redemption and lead us on your path of salvation.

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*Sacerdotes Domini*

William Byrd

The priest of the Lord offered incense and bread to the Lord, and therefore they shall be sanctified to their God, and not defile his name. Alleluia.

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)

Lord God, ruler of all, maker of Creation, you have given us everything. We offer our thanks to you, sharing some of what we have received with others, in the furtherance of the pursuit of your Way, which is made known to us in Jesus. In the name of our Savior, we pray. Amen.

Hymn 199 (p. 8)

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Diademata

Benediction

Postlude

Offertoire sur les Grands Jeux

François Couperin

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist • The FCC Choir • Bob Gerlach, Liturgist

Marcia Corkins and Pete Mason, Ushers • Stacey Steele and Dominic Watson, 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.

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

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.*)

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.

Many thanks to those who have so far offered donations of new items from our wish lists! The updated list is available in the Parish Hall and will be emailed again later in the week.

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

Last Call for Operation Christmas Child!

Operation Christmas Child ships shoe-boxes of supplies and toys to children worldwide. Gloria and Phil Hammond (802-295-3749) generously manage this at FCC; they'll accept finished shoeboxes through this Sunday, November 20. **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!

When Morning Gilds the Skies

German: anon., 1828

Tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878, alt.

LAUDES DOMINI 6.6.6.6.6.6.

Joseph Barnby, 1838-1896

1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, My heart a - wak - ing cries,
 2 The night be - comes as day, When from the heart we say,
 3 Ye na - tions of man - kind, In this your con - cord find,
 4 To God, the Word, on high, The hosts of an - gels cry,

May Je - sus Christ be praised! A - like at work and prayer,
 May Je - sus Christ be praised! The powers of dark - ness fear,
 May Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round
 May Je - sus Christ be praised! Let mor - tals, too, up - raise

To Je - sus I re - pair; May Je - sus Christ be praised!
 When this sweet chant they hear, May Je - sus Christ be praised!
 Ring joy - ous with the sound, May Je - sus Christ be praised!
 Their voice in hymns of praise, May Je - sus Christ be praised! A-men.

Advent Begins Next Sunday, November 27—Let's Decorate!

Yes, ADVENT! After worship next week we're going to decorate FCC for the season, and all are warmly invited to stay and help. We'll hang wreaths, string lights, trim our tree, and have fun as we prepare the church for the festive season of Advent. We won't have our usual potluck (*but if you happen to bring treats, people would probably eat them...*). **Celebrate the season!**

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

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Latin: 7th century
Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.
Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

1 Christ is made the sure foun-da - tion, Christ the head and cor - ner stone,
2 To this tem - ple, where we call thee, Come, O Lord of hosts, to - day!
3 Here vouch-safe to all thy serv - ants What they ask of thee to gain:
4 Laud and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Laud and hon - or to the Son,

Chos - en of the Lord and prec - ious, Bind - ing all the Church in one;
With thy wont - ed lov - ing-kind - ness Hear thy peo - ple as they pray;
What they gain from thee for - ev - er With the bless - ed to re - tain,
Laud and hon - or to the Spir - it, Ev - er Three and ev - er One;

Ho - ly Zi - on's help for - ev - er, And her con - fi - dence a - lone.
And thy full - est ben - e - dic - tion Shed with - in its walls al - way.
And here - af - ter in thy glo - ry Ev - er - more with thee to reign.
One in might, and One in glo - ry, While un - end - ing a - ges run. A - men.

Dream Big *Many Thanks for Your 2023 Stewardship Pledges*

“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)

Thanks to all for prayerfully considering a commitment to FCC’s mission and ministry in the coming year. We have so far received 12 pledges, and we gratefully continue to accept them.

Please either place your pledge form in the offering plate or return it to the church office by mail.

Offering envelopes for 2023 (in boxed sets #1-20) are available in the Parish Hall.

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

DARWALL'S 148th 6.6.6.6.8.8.

John Darwall, 1731-1789

1 Re - joice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore!
 2 The Lord, our Sav - ior, reigns, The God of truth and love;
 3 His king - dom can - not fail, He rules o'er earth and heaven;

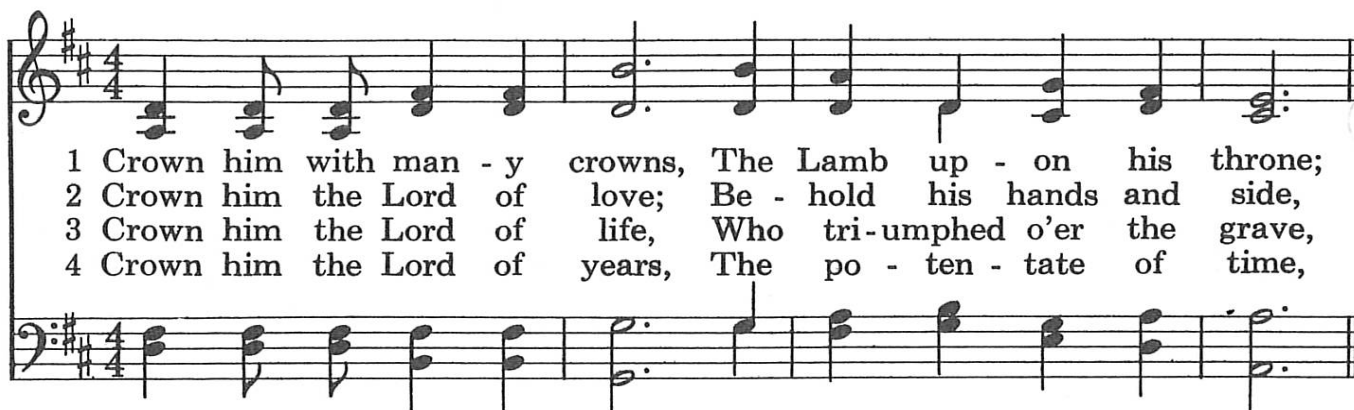
Re - joice, give thanks, and sing, And tri - umph ev - er -
 When he had purged our stains, He took his seat a -
 The keys of death and hell Are to our Je - sus

more:
 above: Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Re -
 given:

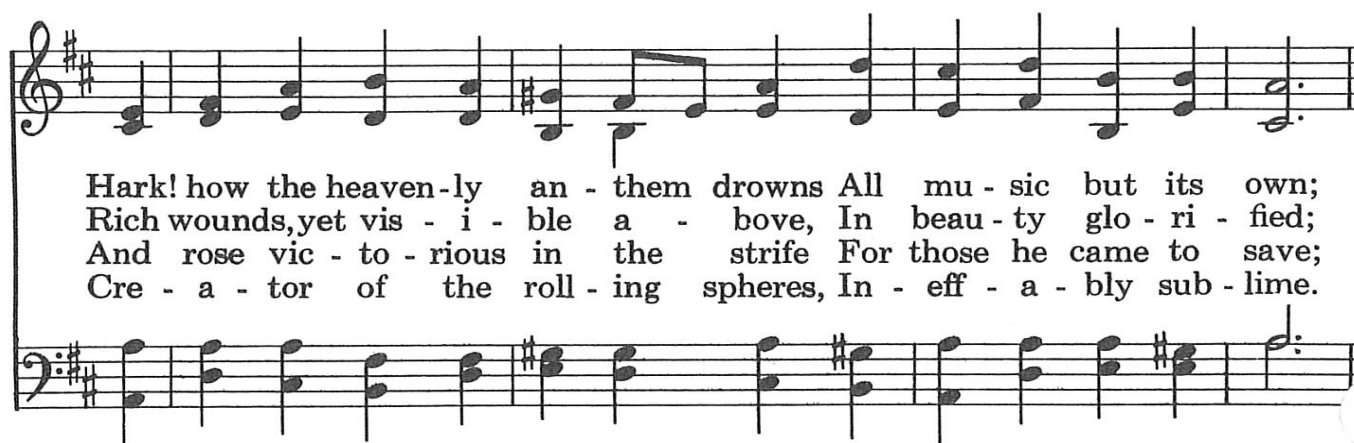
joice, a - gain I say, re - joice! A - men.

Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894
 Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, St. 3

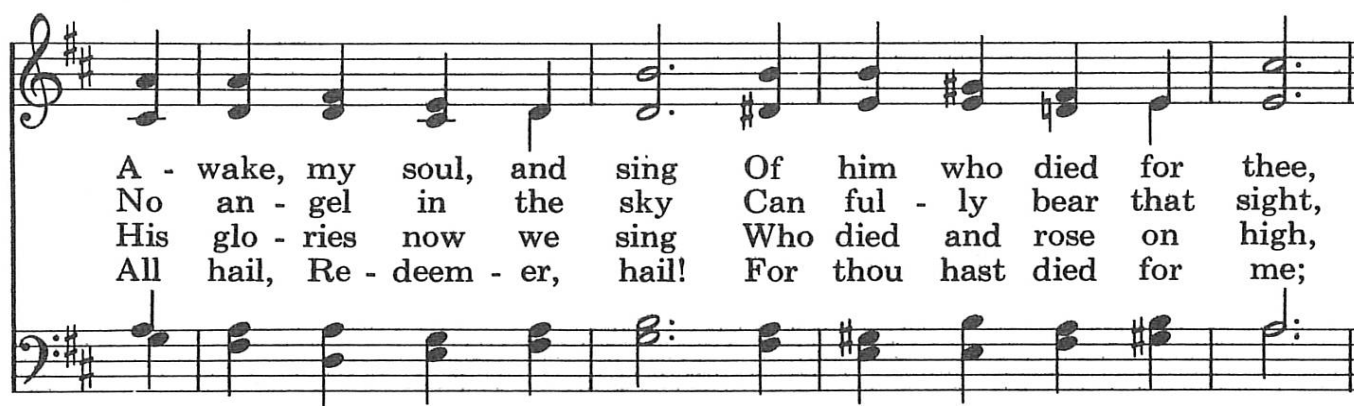
DIADEMATA S.M.D.
 George J. Elvey, 1816-1893



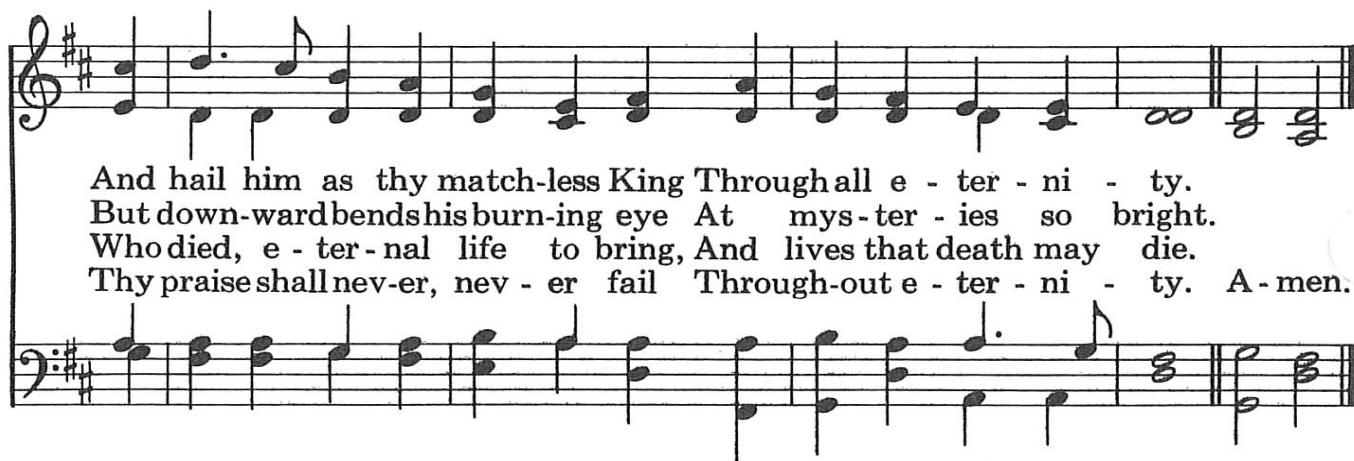
1 Crown him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the Lord of love; Be - hold his hands and side,
 3 Crown him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the grave,
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, The po - ten - tate of time,



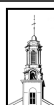
Hark! how the heaven-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own;
 Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied;
 And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those he came to save;
 Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, In - eff - a - bly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing Of him who died for thee,
 No an - gel in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His glo - ries now we sing Who died and rose on high,
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



And hail him as thy match-less King Through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 But down-ward bend his burn-ing eye At mys - ter - ies so bright.
 Who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, And lives that death may die.
 Thy praises shall nev - er, nev - er fail Through-out e - ter - ni - ty. A - men.



Upcoming Concerts

Masks, distanced seating, and proof of vaccination required.

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.*

The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, Nov. 25, Dec. 2, Jan. 6 and 20, 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.*

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.*

Mosaic Union String Ensemble (MUSE)—Friday, December 16, at 7:00 pm

Directed by the inimitable Glee Charlestream, the Hanover-based MUSE ensemble features student musicians of diverse ages and backgrounds. They share a festive holiday program in their FCC debut! *Admission and program details TBD. More at www.mosaicunionstringensemble.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.*

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

We invite you to consider a donation to the UCC's Christmas Fund, also known as the Fund for the Veterans of the Cross or Emergency Fund. This program offers compassionate, grateful support for retired clergy and their families with pension, healthcare, and emergency assistance.

Please contribute as you're able to this vital denominational offering, either by check to FCC (memo "Christmas Fund") or online at www.pbucc.org/index.php/christmas-fund-home. Thanks!



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@fcclb.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@fcclb.org • prayer@fcclb.org • music@fcclb.org • www.fcclb.org