



The First Sunday after Christmas Day

“The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. Unless a particular man made New Year resolutions, he would make no resolutions. Unless a man starts afresh about things, he will certainly do nothing effective.”

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

Larghetto and Allegro, *Sonata in C*, HWV 365

Psalm 148

One: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

All: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

One: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

All: Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

One: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

All: He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

One: Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

All: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

One: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

All: Young men and women alike, old and young together!

One: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

All: He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

In Dulci Jubilo

Prayer of Invocation

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

Children's Moment

Happy New Year! Today we begin 2023, hopefully with confidence and a bit of excitement, looking forward to all that happens in the weeks and months ahead. But what about the church? Well, the liturgical calendar, which stipulates when we observe the holidays of the Christian year, has been underway since just after Thanksgiving; New Year's is not a church holiday. Still, it's a good opportunity to look at where we've been and where we're going, and to make some resolutions for the year ahead. It's a good time to pray, to ask for God's help as you make choices. While you may not achieve all you set out to do, it's worth trying.

Hymn 117 (p. 6) *Angels, From the Realms of Glory*

Regent Square

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 63:7-9. ⁷I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior ⁹in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Matthew 2:13-23. ¹³Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰"Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus

was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

Sermon

“The Long Run”

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

A Christmas Affirmation of Faith (Unison)

I believe that Christmas is more than a time for parties and ornaments; it is a time for remembering Jesus, the incarnation of God’s love in human flesh.

I believe that there are gifts more important than the ones beneath the tree, such as the things we teach our children, the way we share ourselves with friends, and the efforts by which we set about reshaping the world in which we live.

I believe that the finest carols are often sung by the poorest voices, from hearts made warm by the wonder of this season.

I believe in the angels’ message that we should not be afraid—that the Child of Bethlehem is able to overcome all anxieties, fears, and insecurities.

I believe in prayer and quietness as a way of approaching Christmas—that if I wait in silence, I will experience the presence of the one born in the manger, for He lives today as surely as He lived then.

I believe in going away from Christmas as the Magi went, “another way.” I want to be different when these days are past—more centered, more thoughtful, more caring.

And I believe that God will help me and sustain me in my belief, this night and forevermore. 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

Larghetto, Sonata in C, HWV 365

G. F. Handel

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*)

God of the Ages, we have come together on this first day of 2023 to ask your blessing on each and all of us as we begin a new year. Help us to make good and faithful use of the time with which we have been graced, and empower us to help all our brothers and sisters, wherever they may be. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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

Sanctus

Ho - ly, Ho - ly Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts:
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo - ry be to you, O Lord most
High. Bless-ed is the one that comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho -
san - na in the high - est.

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 136 (pp. 7-8) *On This Day Earth Shall Ring*

Personent Hodie

Benediction

Postlude

Tempo di gavotta and Allegro, *Sonata in C*, HWV 365 G. F. Handel

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Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • Beth Hilgartner, Recorder

Corrine Erskine and Linda Gerlach, Ushers • Bob Gerlach, Zoom Greeter

132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

TEXT: Medieval Latin; trans. and para. John Mason Neale, 1853, alt.
 MUSIC: German folk melody, 14th cent.; harm. David Hugh Jones, 1953
 Music Harm. © 1955, ren. 1983 John Ribble (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

IN DULCI JUBILO
 6.6.7.7.7.8.5.5

Angels, From the Realms of Glory

117

James Montgomery, 1771-1854

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.

Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in hope and fear,

Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with man is now re - sid - ing, Yon - der shines the in - fant light:
Seek the great De - sire of na - tions, Ye have seen his na - tal star:
Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, In his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

REFRAIN

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King. A - men.

Please Note: CONTENT FOR THE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT DUE MONDAY, JANUARY 9

Materials for FCC's 2022 Annual Report must be submitted to the Church Administrator by January 9, in order to ensure timely distribution of the report prior to our Annual Meeting. Please note that reports should be as concise as possible, summarizing in the briefest terms only the most relevant and noteworthy items particular to your committee.

The 2023 Annual Meeting will be Sunday, February 12, 2023

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

*"Piae Cantiones," 1582**Tr. Jane M. Joseph, c. 1894-1929*

PERSONENT HODIE 6.6.6.6.6. with Refrain

*"Piae Cantiones," 1582**Arr. by Gustav T. Holst, 1874-1934*

1 On this day earth shall ring With the song
 2 His the doom, ours the mirth; When he came
 3 God's bright star, o'er his head, Wise men three
 4 On this day an-gels sing; With their song

chil-dren sing To the Lord, Christ our King, Born on earth to
 down to earth, Beth-le-hem saw his birth; Ox and ass be-
 to him led, Kneel-ing low by his bed, Lay their gifts be-
 earth shall ring, Prais-ing Christ, heav-en's King, Born on earth to

REFRAIN

save us; Him the Fa-ther gave us.
 side him From the cold would hide him. Id-e-o-o-o,
 fore him, Praise him and a-dore him.
 save us. Peace and love he gave us.

R.H.
 R.H. L.H.



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

A New Year of Concerts!

Masks, distanced seating, and proof of vaccination required.

The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, January 6 and 20, February 3 and 17, all 7:30 pm

Our popular community venue for live local music! Patrons come and go as they please; baked goods and beverages available. *Free admission. For performer info and more, visit anoncoffee.org.*

The Becker Sisters: Northern Legend—Saturday, January 21, at 7:00 pm

Immensely talented in voice, piano, and classical guitar, Kirsten and Alyssa Becker range from opera to jazz, Broadway classics to original compositions. Their warm, intimate concert is perfect for the dark nights of winter. *Adults \$10, under 12 free; more at www.kirstenbeckermusic.com.*

Cantabile Women's Chorus: All Shall Be Well—Sunday, January 22, at 3:00 pm

Kathy Sherlock-Green leads this wonderful ensemble in a warm, comforting program of Claude Debussy, Gabriel Fauré, Benjamin Britten, Felix Mendelssohn, Philip Silvey, and more. *Adults \$15, seniors \$10, students (13+) \$5, under 13 free. Advance purchase preferred; more at www.cantabilewomen.org.*

Upper Valley Baroque: The Italian Concerto—Saturday, Jan. 28, 7:00 / Sunday, Jan. 29, 3:00

Led by its incomparably energetic director Filippo Ciabatti, this acclaimed professional ensemble continues its second season with a selection of intimate, elegant, and lively concerti by six different Italian composers. *Admission starts at \$25; tickets and more at www.uppervalleybaroque.org.*

Dream Big *Many Thanks for Your 2023 Stewardship Pledges*

Many thanks for the 27 pledges we have already received for 2023! 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.

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



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