



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 15, 2023

“When my brothers try to draw a circle to exclude me, I shall draw a larger circle to include them. Where they speak out for the privileges of a puny group, I shall shout for the rights of all mankind.”

—The Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 6-10.

Prelude *Allegro moderato, from Piano Sonata in E-flat* Franz Joseph Haydn

Call to Worship Adapted from Psalm 40

One: I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

All: **He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.**

One: I said to God, “Here I am; in the scroll of the book it is written of me.

All: **I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.”**

One: I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation. I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation.

All: **Do not, O LORD, withhold your mercy from me; let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever.**

Hymn 352 (p. 6) *My Lord, What a Morning* My Lord, What a Morning

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

Anthem “Laudamus Te,” from *Gloria* Antonio Vivaldi

“We praise Thee and bless Thee, O Lord. We worship Thee, we glorify Thy name.”

Children's Moment

Tomorrow, we observe Martin Luther King, Jr., Day. Dr. King was an activist, an author, and, most important, a minister of the Word. His fight for civil rights had nothing to do with wanting to stir up trouble; it was a strong desire to follow the Gospel's imperative to love one another. Dr. King is a reminder to all of us that being a person of faith involves not only studying the Bible and praying, but working for justice, which is another way to say walking the path blazed by Jesus.

Hymn 825 (p. 7) *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*

Swing Low

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 49:1-7. Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. ²He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. ³And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." ⁴But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God." ⁵And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength— ⁶he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

⁷Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

John 1:29-42. ²⁹The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³²And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him." ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated

means Teacher), “where are you staying?”³⁹ He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed).⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

Sermon *“Looking for Trouble”* Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 792 (p. 8) *There Is a Balm in Gilead* Balm in Gilead

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

And now I share a prayer originally offered by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:

O Thou Eternal God, out of whose absolute power and infinite intelligence the whole universe has come into being, we humbly confess that we have not loved thee with our hearts, souls and minds, and we have not loved our neighbors as Christ loved us. We have all too often lived by our own selfish impulses, rather than by the life of sacrificial love as revealed by Christ. We often give in order to receive. We love our friends and hate our enemies. We go the first mile but dare not travel the second. We forgive but dare not forget. And so as we look within ourselves, we are confronted with the appalling fact that the history of our lives is the history of an eternal revolt against you. But thou, O God, have mercy upon us. Forgive us for what we could have been but failed to be. Give us the intelligence to know your will. Give us the courage to do your will. Give us the devotion to love thy will.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name and spirit 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*Cantate Domino*

Giuseppe Pitoni

“Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful. Let Israel be glad in his Maker, let the sons of Zion rejoice in their King!” (Psalm 149)

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)

Called to be servants even before we were born, we come before you this morning, God of All People. In gratitude for this blessing, and for so many others in our lives, we respond by doing as you do: sharing openly, joyfully, faithfully with our sisters and brothers, here in the Upper Valley and around the world. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Hymn 339 (pp. 9-10) *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

Lift Every Voice

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.

PostludeFinale presto, from *Piano Sonata in E-flat*

Franz Joseph Haydn

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor • Ernie Drown, Piano • Denise Moriearty, Liturgist
 The FCC Choir • Betsy Alexander, Mezzo-Soprano • Laurel Stavis, Alto
 Barb Teeter and Dawn Troutman, Ushers • Barb Jones, Zoom Greeter

* * *

THE SOUPER BOWL IS BACK!

With pro football’s championship game happening in mid-February, we have plenty of time to support this year’s **SOUPER BOWL!** We will again tackle local hunger with a collection of soup and other non-perishable items, to be split among our neighbors at **HEADREST**, the **UPPER VALLEY HAVEN**, and **LISTEN COMMUNITY SERVICES**.

Donations may be left in the boxes in the Parish Hall until February 12. You may also bring them directly to any of the three beneficiaries (please let us know if you do so). THANK YOU!!

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.



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

A New Year of Concerts!

Masks, distanced seating, and proof of vaccination required.

The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, Jan. 20, Feb. 3 and 17, Mar. 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.*

Benjamin Kulp, Cello—Sunday, February 12, at 3:00 pm

The Upper Valley Music Center presents this recital by superb cellist and faculty member Ben Kulp. *Program tbd, free-will donation. More details at uvmusic.org/event/ben-kulp-solo-cello-recital.*

Classicopia: Trios by African-American Composers—Sunday, February 26, at 2:00 pm

Pianist Dan Weiser and siblings Emmanuel (violin) and Frances Borowsky (cello) offer a program to celebrate Black History Month. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at classicopia.org.*

Dream Big Many Thanks for Your 2023 Stewardship Pledges

Many thanks for the 27 pledges we have 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.

FCC's 2023 Annual Meeting will be Sunday, February 12, at 11:30 (on Zoom)

352 My Lord! What a Morning

Refrain

My Lord! what a morn - ing; my Lord! what a morn - ing;

O my Lord! what a morn - ing, when the stars be - gin to

fall, when the stars be - gin to fall. *Fine*

- 1 You will hear the trum - pet
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner
- 3 You will hear the Chris - tian

sound
cry,
shout, to wake the na - tions un - der
ground,

look - ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be - gin to fall. *to Refrain*

This spiritual reflects on Jesus' saying about the endtimes as recorded in Matthew 24:29–30/Mark 13:24–26. It belongs to the slower, less common style of spirituals with long, sustained phrases and was among those popularized in concerts by the Fisk Jubilee Singers.

TEXT: African American spiritual
MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1989
Music Arr. © 1990 Melva W. Costen

MY LORD, WHAT A MORNING
Irregular

825 Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Refrain

Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, com-ing for to car-ry me home.

Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, com-ing for to car-ry me home. *Fine*

1 I looked o-ver Jor-dan, and what did I see com-ing for to car-ry me home?
 2 If you get there be - fore I do, com-ing for to car-ry me home,
 3 The bright - est day that ev - er I saw, com-ing for to car-ry me home,
 4 I'm some-times up and some-times down, com-ing for to car-ry me home,

to Refrain
 A band of an-gels com-ing af-ter me, com-ing for to car-ry me home. O,
 tell all my friends I'm com - ing too, com-ing for to car-ry me home. O,
 when Je - sus washed my sins a - way, com-ing for to car-ry me home. O,
 but still my soul feels heaven-ly bound, com-ing for to car-ry me home. O,

While ostensibly based on Elijah's ascent into heaven (2 Kings 2:11), this African American spiritual also communicates the enslaved people's hope that they might find deliverance across a river (i.e. in the free states beyond the Ohio). Call-and-response singing enhances this piece.

TEXT: African American spiritual
 MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Robert Nathaniel Dett, 1936
 Music Arr. © 1936, ren. Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp. (admin. Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.)

SWING LOW
 Irregular

There Is a Balm in Gilead 792

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

Fine

1 Some-times I feel dis-cour-aged, and think my work's in vain, but
 2 Don't ev-er feel dis-cour-aged, for Je-sus is your friend, and
 3 If you can-not preach like Pe-ter, if you can-not pray like Paul, you can

then the Ho-ly Spir-it re-vives my soul a-gain. There is a
 if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll not re-fuse to lend. There is a
 tell the love of Je-sus and say, "He died for all." There is a

to Refrain

This African American spiritual offers a long-delayed answer to the prophet Jeremiah's question, "Is there no balm in Gilead?" (Jeremiah 8:22). No earthly remedy can compare with the healing that comes from a sense of God's presence; nothing else can heal "the sin-sick soul."

TEXT: African American spiritual
 MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1989, alt.
 Music Arr. © 1990 Melva Wilson Costen

BALM IN GILEAD
 7.6.7.6 with refrain

339 Lift Every Voice and Sing

1 Lift ev - ery voice and sing till earth and heav - en
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tening
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent

ring, ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -
 rod, felt in the days when hope un - born had
 tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the

ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - tening
 died. Yet, with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry
 way; thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the

skies; let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 feet come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
 light, keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Initially a poem for a school assembly at which Booker T. Washington spoke on Lincoln's birthday in 1900, this text and tune have gained national recognition and devotion, not only within the African American community, but also among all who seek liberation from oppression.

TEXT: James Weldon Johnson, 1900
 MUSIC: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1905

LIFT EVERY VOICE
 Irregular

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh -
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get

us. Fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be -
 tered, out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at
 thee; shad - owed be - neath thy hand may we for - ev - er

gun, let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.
 last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.



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)
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