



# First Congregational Church of Lebanon

*United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming*

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## The Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 22, 2023

“God’s wise, redemptive love in your life is perfectly compatible with terrible suffering in your life—just look at Jesus.”

—Timothy Keller

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

### Prelude

*Romanze, op. 28, no. 2*

Robert Schumann

### Call to Worship

Adapted from Psalm 27:1, 4-9

One: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**All: One thing I asked of the LORD, that I will 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.**

One: 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.

**All: Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

One: Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me! “Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, LORD, do I seek. Do not hide it from me.

**All: Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!**

### Hymn 744 (p. 5)

*Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

Festal Song

### 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

*Not unto Us, O Lord*

Thomas Attwood Walmisley

## Children's Moment

Have you ever been picked for a team or a job? It can feel really good—and being left out can make us feel bad. Well, I'd like to tell you about a team that really wants you: Team Jesus.

Jesus chooses people who aren't sports stars or celebrities or geniuses. He chooses people just like you and me. And he sticks with them, just like he did Peter and the other disciples. He placed a lot of trust in them, believing them capable of greatness that they themselves never imagined.

So please remember: you've been recruited by Jesus, and Jesus believes in you. Fully. And each and every day.

Hymn 733 (p. 6)      *We All Are One in Mission*

Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein

## Scripture Lessons

*Isaiah 9:1-4.* But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. <sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

*Matthew 4:12-23.* <sup>12</sup>Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup>He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup>so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: <sup>15</sup>“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—<sup>16</sup>the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.”

<sup>17</sup>From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

<sup>18</sup>As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup>And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” <sup>20</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup>As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup>Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

<sup>23</sup>Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

**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.

This morning, we have been called by you, O God. Give us the strength of character to accept your call, to become fishers of people, just like the first disciples. Help us to welcome people into our midst, to share the work of the vineyard with newcomers, to recognize that there is more than enough to be done in your church. Help us to set aside our desire for recognition and position, and bless us with the wit to work with those you have placed beside us, remembering that you would not have us make the perfect the enemy of the good. We know, we confess, that we are not Jesus, that we have never been perfect, but that we are your people. Have us do our best, and do not let us stray from your Way.

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**                      *Jesu, the Very Thought of Thee*

Simon Lole

**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, you have called us to give ourselves wholly to your service. In response, we offer these gifts as a sign of our commitment to share in faith and joy the Good News you have made known to us and all Creation through Jesus Christ. In his name we pray, Amen.

## 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*, op. 68, no. 44

Robert Schumann

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## *Leading Worship This Week*

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Piano • The FCC Choir • Stacey Steele, Liturgist

Corrine Erskine and Ike Jacobs, Ushers • Linda Jacobs, 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@fccleeb.org](mailto:prayer@fccleeb.org) or speak with Rev. Silver directly.*

\* \* \*

## 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!!*

## **Dream Big** *Many Thanks for Your 2023 Stewardship Pledges*

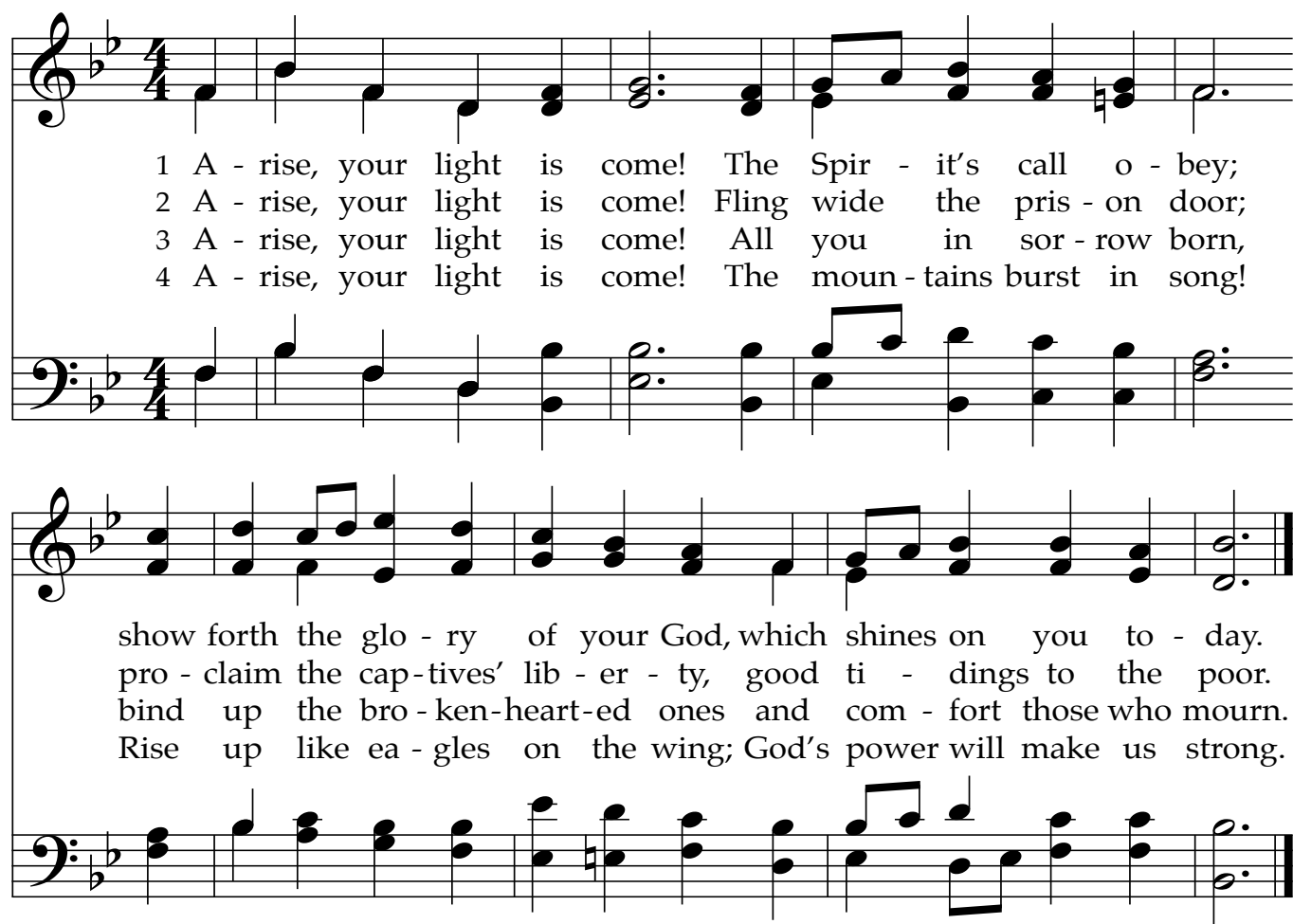
**“For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.” (Isaiah 65:17)**

Many thanks for the 28 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)***

# 744 Arise, Your Light Is Come!



1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,  
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God, which shines on you to - day.  
 pro - claim the cap - tives' lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.  
 bind up the bro - ken-heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

Echoing imagery from Isaiah 61:1–2 and other passages, this text was created as an inclusive-language alternative to an older hymn using this late 19th-century tune. Because it is a song of encouragement rather than a song of praise, it is not directed to God but to people.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1974  
 MUSIC: William H. Walter, 1894  
 Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

FESTAL SONG  
 SM  
 (this tune in a lower key, 815)

## NOTICE of ANNUAL MEETING – Sunday, February 12, 11:30 am (on Zoom)

The Annual Meeting of First Congregational Church of Lebanon, NH, will be held online in Zoom format on **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2022, AT 11:30 AM**, after that morning's worship service, for the following purposes:

1. To hear the reports of all officers, committees, and organizations, as required under the CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS of the church.
2. The election of all officers provided for under the CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS of the church.
3. To consider and act upon any other matters relating to the general church welfare that may properly come before this meeting.

# 733 We All Are One in Mission

1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,  
 2 We all are called for ser - vice to wit - ness in God's name.  
 3 Now let us be u - nit - ed and let our song be heard.

our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.  
 Our min - is - tries are dif - ferent; our pur - pose is the same:  
 Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing word.

A sin - gle, great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove  
 to touch the lives of oth - ers by God's sur - pris - ing grace,  
 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,

to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.  
 so ev - ery folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.  
 our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

A Lutheran pastor wrote this text in response to a bishop's letter that said, "Our mission is to touch the lives of others with Christ's love." This theme is made stronger by recognizing that shared purposes do not require the denial of diversity but are enriched by it.

TEXT: Rusty Edwards, 1985, alt.  
 MUSIC: Memmingen ms., 17th cent.; harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1904  
 Text © 1986 Hope Publishing Company

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELIN  
 7.6.7.6.D

# Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

397

Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879

CANONBURY L.M.

Arr. from Robert A. Schumann, 1810-1856

1 Lord, speak to me, that I may speak In  
 2 O strength - en me, that while I stand Firm  
 3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach The  
 4 O fill me with thy full - ness, Lord, Un -

liv - ing ech - oes of thy tone; As thou hast sought, so  
 on the rock, and strong in thee, I may stretch out a  
 pre - cious things thou dost im - part; And wing my words, that  
 til my ver - y heart o'er - flow In kin - dling thought and

let me seek Thy err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.  
 lov - ing hand To wres - tlers with the trou - bled sea!  
 they may reach The hid - den depths of man - y a heart!  
 glow - ing word, Thy love to tell, thy praise to show! A - men.

# Son of God, Eternal Savior

413

Somerset C. Lowry, 1855-1932, alt.

WEISSE FLAGGEN 8.7.8.7.D.  
"Tochter Sion," Cologne, 1741.

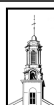
1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and truth and grace,  
 2 Lord, as thou hast lived for oth - ers, So may we for oth - ers live;  
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - bove us, King of love, and Prince of peace;  
 4 See the Christ-like host ad - vanc - ing, High and low - ly, great and small,

Son of man, whose birth in - car - nate Hal - lows all our hu - man race,  
 Free - ly have thy gifts been grant - ed, Free - ly may thy serv - ants give.  
 Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease;  
 Linked in bonds of com - mon serv - ice For the com - mon Lord of all.

Thou, our head, who, throned in glo - ry, For thine own dost ev - er plead,  
 Thine the gold and thine the sil - ver, Thine the wealth of land and sea,  
 By thy pa - tient years of toil - ing, By thy si - lent hours of pain,  
 Thou who pray - edst, thou who will - est That thy peo - ple should be one,

Fill us with thy love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.  
 We but stew - ards of thy boun - ty, Held in sol - emn trust for thee.  
 Quench our fe - vered thirst of pleas - ure, Shame our sel - fish greed of gain.  
 Grant, O grant our hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth thy will be done. A - men.





### ***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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://classicopia.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](mailto: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](mailto:church@fccleb.org) • [prayer@fccleb.org](mailto:prayer@fccleb.org) • [music@fccleb.org](mailto:music@fccleb.org) • [www.fccleb.org](http://www.fccleb.org)**