



## The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

“We need to remember that we are saved by grace when we fail.  
But we need to remember it much more when we succeed.”

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

**Prelude**                      Adagio and Allegro, *Flute Sonata in G*, HWV 363b                      G. F. Handel

Call to Worship

Adapted from Psalm 15

One: O LORD, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

**All:** Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart.

One: Those who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors.

**All:** Those in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear the LORD; who stand by their oath even to their hurt.

One: Those who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

**All:** Those who do these things shall never be moved. They are the ones who may dwell on the LORD's holy hill.

Hymn 206 (p. 5)      *Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim*      Hanover

## 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                      Looke Downe, O Lord                      William Byrd

## Children's Moment

Today we read from the famous Sermon on the Mount. In it, we hear how so many good things will happen to the poor, the bereaved, those without anything.

This is not a description of our world, not in any way. It is, however, a vision of the Kingdom of Heaven, a synopsis of how God wants things to be—it is a call to action, and it's a call to each and to all of us. Part of being a faithful person is working to make sure that everyone is cared for. And that means EVERYONE.

**Hymn 16** (p. 5)      *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

Praise My Soul

### Scripture Lessons

*Micah 6:1-8.* Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. <sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup>“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! <sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. <sup>5</sup>O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

<sup>6</sup>“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? <sup>7</sup>Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” <sup>8</sup>He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

*Matthew 5:1-12.* When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: <sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. <sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. <sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. <sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. <sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

**Sermon**      “Mission Statements”

Stephen R. Silver

**Hymn 101** (p. 5)      *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

In Babilone

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

I will now share with you an update to the old serenity prayer by Father James Martin, S.J., which was posted on the Jesuits' web page and on Facebook:

God, grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change,  
which is pretty much everyone, since I'm clearly not you, God.

At least not the last time I checked.

And while you're at it, God, please give me the courage to change  
what I need to change about myself, which is frankly a lot, since, once again,  
I'm not you, which means I'm not perfect.

It's better for me to focus on changing myself than to worry about changing other people,  
who, as you'll no doubt remember me saying, I can't change anyway.

Finally, give me the wisdom to just shut up whenever I think that I'm clearly smarter  
than everyone else in the room, that no one knows what they're talking about except me,  
or that I alone have all the answers.

Basically, God, grant me the wisdom to remember that I'm not you. Amen.

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**                      Bouree Anglaise, *Flute Sonata in G*, HWV 363b                      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 grace, we come before you today thankful for the gifts, large and small, seen  
and unseen, that you have bestowed upon us. With gratitude and in faith, we present  
this morning's offering, recognizing that one of the ways you would have us thank you  
is to love each other as you have loved us.

## 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

Minuetto, *Flute Sonata in G*, HWV 363b

G. F. Handel

\* \* \*

## *Leading Worship This Week*

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Piano • Beth Hilgartner, Recorder • The FCC Choir • Chris Chase, Liturgist  
Marcia Corkins and Pete Mason, Ushers • Dawn Troutman, 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@fccleb.org](mailto:prayer@fccleb.org) or speak with Rev. Silver directly.*

\* \* \*

## THE SOUPER BOWL IS HERE!

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**.

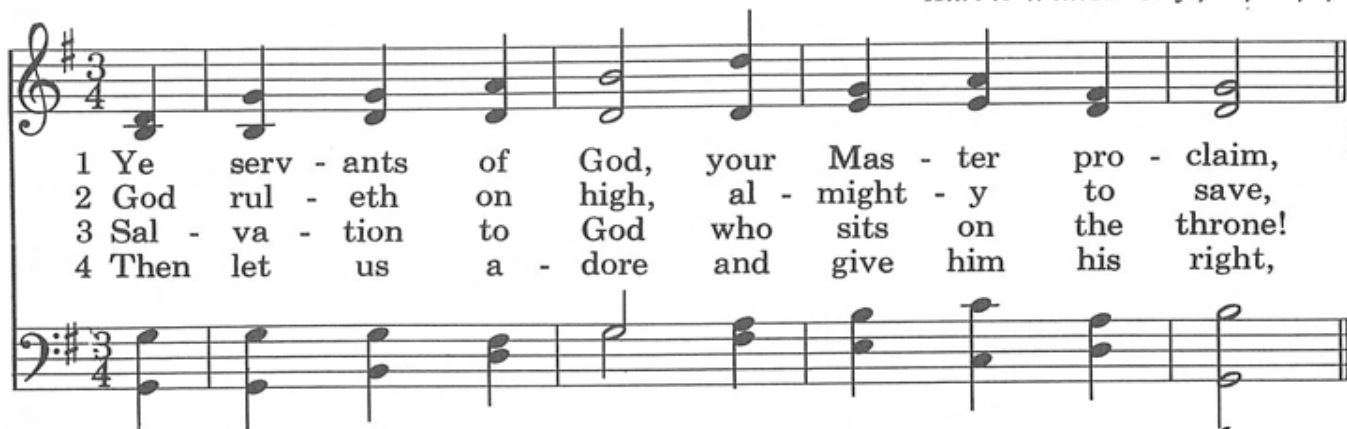
*Donations may be left in the boxes in the Parish Hall until February 12. You may also bring them directly to any of the three beneficiaries (please let us know if you do so). THANK YOU!!*

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

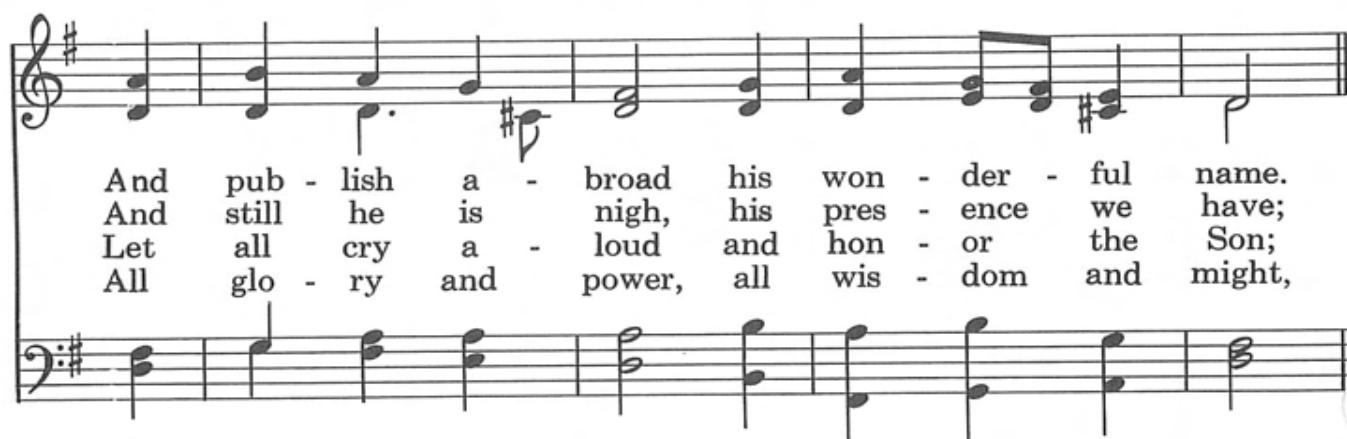
The Annual Meeting of First Congregational Church of Lebanon, NH, will be held online in Zoom format on **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2023, AT 11:30 AM**, after that morning's worship service, for the following purposes:

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.

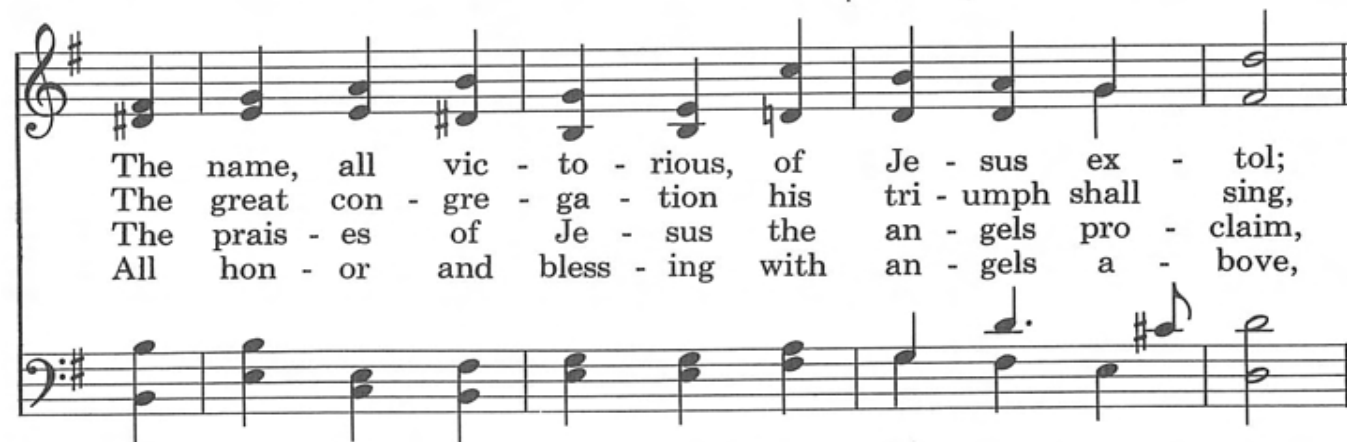
Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

HANOVER 10.10.11.11.  
Attr. to William Croft, 1678-1727


1 Ye serv - ants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim,  
2 God rul - eth on high, al - might - y to save,  
3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne!  
4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right,



And pub - lish a - broad his won - der - ful name.  
And still he is nigh, his pres - ence we have;  
Let all cry a - loud and hon - or the Son;  
All glo - ry and power, all wis - dom and might,



The name, all vic - to - rious, of Je - sus ex - tol;  
The great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall sing,  
The prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,  
All hon - or and bless - ing with an - gels a - bove,



His king - dom is glo - rious, he rules o - ver all.  
As - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our King.  
Fall down on their fa - ces and wor - ship the Lamb.  
And thanks nev - er ceas - ing and in - fi - nite love. A - men.


A descant may be found at No. 584

# Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven


16

Based on Psalm 103  
Henry F. Lyle, 1793-1847


PRAISE MY SOUL 8.7.8.7.8.7.  
John Goss, 1800-1880




1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en, To his feet thy  
2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor To our fa - thers  
3 Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; Well our fee - ble  
4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him, Ye be - hold him



trib - ute bring; Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,  
in dis - tress; Praise him, still the same for - ev - er,  
frame he knows; In his hands he gen - tly bears us,  
face to face; Sun and moon, bow down be - fore him;



Who, like me, his praise should sing? Praise him! praise him!  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless. Praise him! praise him!  
Res - cues us from all our foes. Praise him! praise him!  
Dwell - ers all in time and space, Praise him! praise him!



Praise him! praise him! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King!  
Praise him! praise him! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!  
Praise him! praise him! Wide - ly as his mer - cy flows!  
Praise him! praise him! Praise with us the God of grace! A - men.

## There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

First Tune

Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863

IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.  
Traditional Dutch Melody

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, Like the wide - ness of the sea;  
2 For the love of God is broad-er Than the meas - ure of man's mind;

There's a kind-ness in his jus - tice, Which is more than lib - er - ty.  
And the heart of the E - ter - nal Is most won - der - ful - ly kind.

There is no place where earth's sor-rows Are more felt than up in heaven;  
If our love were but more sim - ple, We should take him at his word;

There is no place where earth's fail-ings Have such kind-ly judg-ment given.  
And our lives would be all sun-shine In the sweet-ness of our Lord. A-men.

# In Heavenly Love Abiding

343

Anna L. Waring 1823-1910

NYLAND 7.6.7.6.D.

Traditional Finnish Melody

Harm. by David Evans, 1874-1948



1 In heav-en-ly love a - bid - ing, No change my heart shall fear,  
2 Wher - ev - er he may guide me, No want shall turn me back;  
3 Green pas - tures are be - fore me, Which yet I have not seen;



And safe is such con - fid - ing, For noth - ing chang-es here.  
My shep-herd is be - side me, And noth - ing can I lack.  
Bright skies will soon be o'er me, Where the dark clouds have been.



The storm may roar with - out me, My heart may low be laid,  
His wis - dom ev - er wak - eth; His sight is nev - er dim;  
My hope I can - not meas - ure; The path to life is free;



But God is round a - bout me, And can I be dis-mayed?  
He knows the way he tak - eth, And I will walk with him.  
My Sav - ior has my treas - ure, And he will walk with me. A-men.







## Upcoming Concerts!

*Masks and vaccination recommended.*

*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).

*The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, 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).

*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).

## **“Connecting and Reconnecting”—Prepared to Serve 2023**

**Saturday, February 25, 8:00 to 3:30—Pembroke Academy, Pembroke, NH**

**Prepared to Serve** is a training event open to all congregations of the NH Conference (UCC), offering workshops on topics ranging from stewardship, lay leadership, and church finances to service, mission, and Christian education. Special attention will be given this year to envisioning possibilities for post-pandemic church communities. **All are invited to participate in this enriching day of classes, exhibits, and worship with our conference friends.**

*FCC will pay for anyone interested to attend! Online registration deadline is February 15; fee includes meals and meeting resources. A complete conference booklet is available for review in the Parish Hall. For more information, please visit [www.nhcucc.org](http://www.nhcucc.org).*

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

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)***



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