



The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany • Annual Meeting Sunday

“Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much.”

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

Domenico Scarlatti

Psalm 119:1-8

All: I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous ordinances.
I will observe your statutes; do not utterly forsake me.

Nyland

Gloria (*Unison*)

Words of Welcome; Our Ministry and Mission

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Well, special, yes, but good, not so much. We read throughout Scripture how the people of God rebel, sin, stumble, err, fight, and do all sorts of stupid things.

Makes you think, doesn't it?

God must have a lot of love for humanity, and God must be really, really patient. And that's a relief, because people today are not better than they were in the past, but we are still "people of God." Oh, in some ways, we do better, and we may know more than the ancients, but overall we still rebel, sin, stumble, err, fight, and do stupid things.

Let's give God thanks for God's willingness to stick with us, to help us to grow, to provide us guidance that we will hopefully follow as we make our way through life, individually and communally, and try to live up to being "people of God."

Hymn 319 (p. 6) *Just as I Am, Without One Plea*

Woodworth

Scripture Lessons

Deuteronomy 30:15-20. ¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Matthew 5:21-37. ²¹[Jesus continued,] "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' ²²But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

³¹“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’

³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

Sermon

“Our State of the Union”

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 97 (p. 7)

God of Our Life, Through All the Circling Years

Sandon

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.

We pray for our congregation on this Annual Meeting Sunday, asking that you help us to work together, to love one another, to be a model of Christian community in the year ahead. Help us to listen to each other, help us to compromise, help us to set aside our egos, and help us to do what we need to do as we seek to strengthen this church and promote your Gospel in the year ahead.

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

Ave Verum Corpus

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

“Hail, true body, born of the Virgin Mary, having truly suffered, sacrificed on the cross for humanity, from whose pierced side flowed water and blood. Be for us a foretaste of Heaven in our trial of death.”

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, you have entrusted us with the gift of choice: to choose whether to help others, whether to share with others, whether to love others. Take this offering as a sign of our decision to embrace your way of life, service, and witness. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Hymn 314 (p. 8) *Community of Christ*

Leoni

Benediction

Postlude *Sonata in D Major*

Domenico Scarlatti

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Piano • The FCC Choir • Amy Driscoll, Liturgist

Chris Chase and Linda Gerlach, Ushers • Bob Gerlach, 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 or speak with Rev. Silver directly.

ONE LAST DRIVE FOR THE SOUPER BOWL!

We're closing in on a new SOUPER BOWL record! Bring in your last donations to our collection of soup and other non-perishable items for our neighbors at Headrest, the Haven, and Listen.

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!!

“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. **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! Contact the church office for registration details. Conference booklet available in the Parish Hall. For more, please visit www.nhcucc.org.

O Jesus, I Have Promised

725

Capo 3: (C) (Am7) (F) (G) (C) (G) (C)
 E^b Cm7 A^b B^b E^b B^b E^b



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 O let me feel you near me! The world is ev - er near:
 3 O let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,
 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you

(C) (Am7) (Dm) (G) (C) (G7) (C)
 E^b Cm7 Fm B^b E^b B^b7 E^b



be now and al - ways near me, my Mas - ter and my friend;
 I see the sights that daz - zle; the tempt-ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will;
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.

(Am) (D) (G) (F) (G)
 Cm F B^b A^b B^b



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

(C) (Am7) (F) (G) (C) (Dm) (G) (C)
 E^b Cm7 A^b B^b E^b Fm B^b E^b



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, draw still near - er and shield my soul from sin.
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, true guard-ian of my soul.
 now give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my friend.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This hymn written by an Anglican clergyman for the confirmation of his children in Victorian times appears here in updated language that may help to make its challenging commitments more immediate. The tune is named for the province in Finland from which it comes.

TEXT: John Ernest Bode, 1866, alt.

MUSIC: Finnish folk melody; adapt. and harm. David Evans, 1927

Music Adapt. and Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press

NYLAND

7.6.7.6.D

(alternate tune: ANGEL'S STORY, 724)

Just as I Am, Without One Plea

Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871

First Tune

WOODWORTH L.M.

William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With
 3 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight,
 4 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, Wilt

that thy blood was shed for me, And that thou bidd'st me
 man - y a con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with -
 rich - es, heal - ing of the mind; Yea, all I need in
 wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; Be - cause thy prom - ise

come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come! A-men.

2023 ANNUAL MEETING – Sunday, February 12, at 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.

God of Our Life, Through All the Circling Years



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Hugh T. Kerr, 1872-1950, alt.



SANDON 10.4.10.4.10.10.
Charles H. Purday, 1799-1885



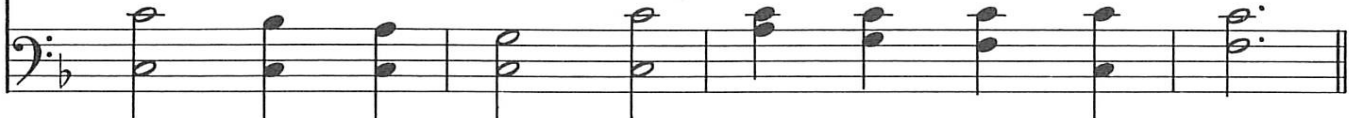
1 God of our life, through all the cir - cling years, We trust in thee;
2 God of the past, our times are in thy hand; With us a - bide.
3 God of the com - ing years, through paths un-known We fol - low thee;

In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, Thy hand we see.
Lead us by faith to hope's true prom-ised land; Be thou our guide.
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not a - lone; Our ref - uge be.

With each new day, when morn - ing lifts the veil,
With thee to bless, the dark - ness shines as light,
Be thou for us in life our dai - ly bread,




We own thy mer - cies, Lord, which nev - er fail.
And faith's fair vi - sion chan - ges in - to sight.
Our heart's true home when all our years have sped. A-men.



Community of Christ

314

Shirley Erena Murray, 1985

1 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, who make the Cross your own,
 2 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, look past the church's door
 3 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, through whom the word must sound—
 4 When men-ace melts a - way, so shall God's will be done,

live out your creed and risk your life for God a - lone:
 and see the ref - u - gee, the hun - gry, and the poor.
 cry out for jus - tice and for peace the whole world 'round:
 the cli - mate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun;

The God who wears your face, to whom all worlds be - long,
 Take hands with the op - pressed, the job - less in your street,
 Dis - arm the powers that war and all that can de - stroy,
 Our cur - ren - cy be love and kind - li - ness our law,

whose chil - dren are of ev - ery race and ev - ery song.
 take towel and wa - ter, that you wash your neigh - bor's feet.
 turn bombs to bread, and tears of an - guish in - to joy.
 our food and faith be shared as one for ev - er - more.

Shirley Erena Murray has grown up within the Ecumenical Movement and addresses related themes such as Christian unity and social justice in her hymnody. This text was first sung at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand.

Tune: LEONI 6.6.8.4.D.
 Traditional Hebrew melody
 Adapt. Meyer Lyon, 1770

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Benjamin Kulp, Cello, and William Ögmundson, Piano—Sunday, February 12, at 3:00 pm

These two accomplished members of UVMC's faculty offer a selection of pieces that they have returned to throughout their musical lives. The program includes music of Zoltán Kodály, Louis Moreau Gottschalk, and Claude Debussy—not to mention a creative interpretation of the heavy-metal band Metallica! Sponsored by UVMC and Vermont Violins. Adults \$20, under-18 free; more at uvmusic.org/event/kulp-ogmundson.

The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, Feb. 17, Mar. 3, 17, and 31, 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.

Classicopia: Black Brilliance (Celebrating Black Composers)—Sunday, February 26, at 2:00 pm

Pianist Dan Weiser and Borowsky siblings Emmanuel (violin) and Frances (cello) offer a superb program in celebration of Black History Month, from ragtime and spirituals to blues-inspired compositions. Music of Scott Joplin, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Undine Smith Moore, Florence Price, and William Grant Still. Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at classicopia.org.

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