



# First Congregational Church of Lebanon

*United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming*

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## The Sunday of the Transfiguration

February 19, 2023

“It would not, evidently, have occurred to Peter not to say anything.”

–Donald English

*Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 4-8.*

**Prelude** *Impromptu in A-flat Major, op. 142, no. 2* Franz Schubert

**Call to Worship** Psalm 99

One: The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim;  
let the earth quake!

**All: The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. Let them praise  
your great and awesome name. Holy is he!**

One: Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed  
justice and righteousness in Jacob.

**All: Extol the LORD our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he!**

One: Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who  
called on his name. They cried to the LORD, and he answered them.

**All: He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees, and the statutes  
that he gave them.**

One: O LORD our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an  
avenger of their wrongdoings.

**All: Extol the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the LORD our  
God is holy.**

**Hymn 7 (p. 4)** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* St. Denio

**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** *Sicut Cervus* Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

*“As the hart longs for the flowing stream, so longs my soul for thee, O God.”*

## Children's Moment

Are you ever amazed by what you see? Think about it. Sure, it seems harder to be blown away in an era of great movie special effects, but have you ever seen a sunrise at the beach, or maybe a sunset over some hills? Ten out of ten times nature beats the movies because nature is REAL, and nature is made by God.

So, when you see something beautiful, whether it's a mountaintop vista or a monarch butterfly fluttering by, thank God and let yourself be awed.

**Hymn 182** (p. 5)      *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding*

Hyfrydol

## Scripture Lessons

*Exodus 24:12-18.* <sup>12</sup>The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." <sup>13</sup>So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup>To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

<sup>15</sup>Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup>The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. <sup>17</sup>Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. <sup>18</sup>Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

*Matthew 17:1-9.* Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. <sup>2</sup>And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>3</sup>Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>5</sup>While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" <sup>6</sup>When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup>But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." <sup>8</sup>And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. <sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

**Sermon**                      "Stop Talking"

Stephen R. Silver

**Hymn 193** (p. 6-7)      *Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain*

Unser Herrscher

## 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, Arlene, Evelyn, Barbara, Greg, Edith, Jan, Eileen, Juanita, Terry, Dan, Ethan, Travis, Garrett, Sue, Rick, and Terry.

O God of the mountaintop, God of the valleys, and God of all that is in between: we often try to pin you down, to make you fit our needs—and in doing so, we obscure you and lose sight of just how majestic you are. Grant us the wisdom, the perspicacity to see you in all you do and have made, to recognize that you have touched all the world, and that your creative power is complemented by your saving love. We give you thanks for your love and your grace, and we ask that you help us discern this throughout our lives. 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**                      *King of All Ages, Throned on High*                      Paul Isom

### **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, inspired by the prophets of old, encouraged by Jesus, and empowered by your Spirit, we present these gifts this morning, seeking to do your will, through our worship, our service, our witness, our sharing. In the name of your Son, who came to us bringing love and hope and reconciliation, we pray. Amen.

**Hymn 206** (p. 8)              *Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim*                      Hanover

### **Benediction**

**Postlude**                      *Invention No. 8, BWV 779*                      Johann Sebastian Bach

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### *Leading Worship This Week*

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor  
Ernie Drown, Piano • The FCC Choir • Betsy Alexander, Liturgist  
Dawn Troutman and Ike Jacobs, Ushers • Linda Jacobs, Zoom Greeter

## Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Walter C. Smith, 1824-1908, alt.

ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.  
Welsh Hymn Melody

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all, life thou giv - est to both great and small;  
 4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,  
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.  
 Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 And with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee. A - men.

1 We have come at Christ's own bid - ding to this high and  
 2 Light breaks through our clouds and shad - ows, splen - dor bathes the  
 3 Strength-ened by this glimpse of glo - ry, fear - ful lest our

ho - ly place, Where we wait with hope and long - ing for some  
 flesh-joined Word, Mo - ses and E - li - jah mar - vel as the  
 faith de - cline, We, like Pe - ter, find it tempt-ing to re -

to - ken of God's grace. Here we pray for new as -  
 heav - enly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts be - hold with  
 main and build a shrine. But true wor - ship gives us

sur - ance that our faith is not in vain, Search - ing  
 won - der how the Law and Proph - ets meet: Christ with  
 cour - age to pro - claim what we pro - fess, That our

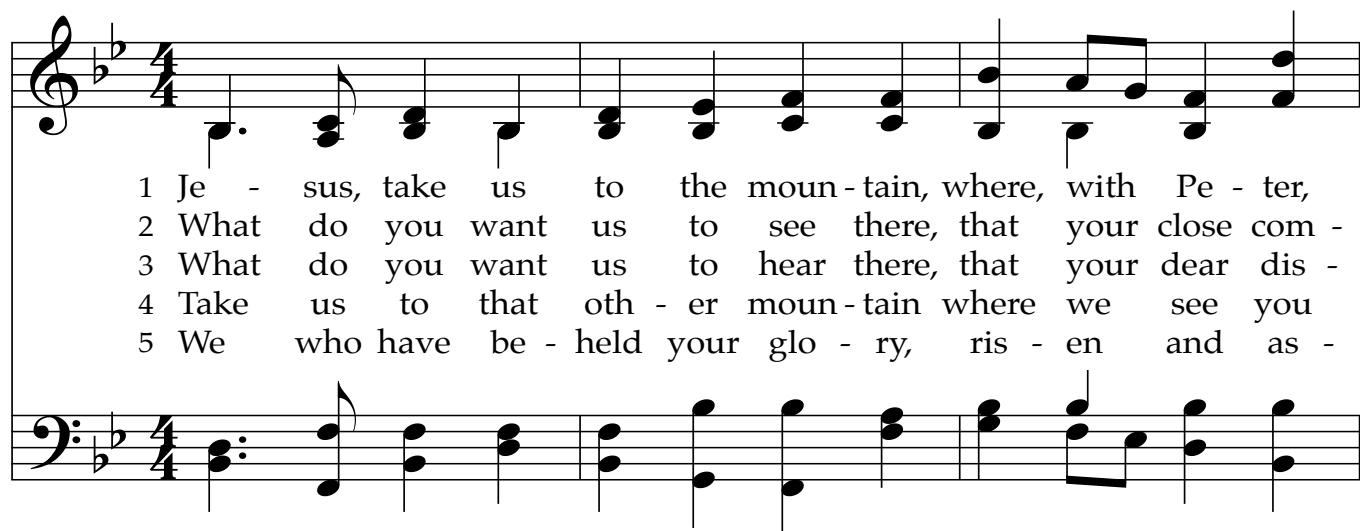
like those first dis - ci - ples for a sign both clear and plain.  
 gar - ments drenched in bright - ness, stands trans - fig - ured and com - plete.  
 dai - ly lives may prove us peo - ple of the God we bless.

*In his commentary on the text, hymnwriter Carl P. Daw, Jr., describes the "implicit comparison between the attitudes and assumptions of the disciples on the Mount of the Transfiguration and the expectations of present-day Christians as they gather for worship."*

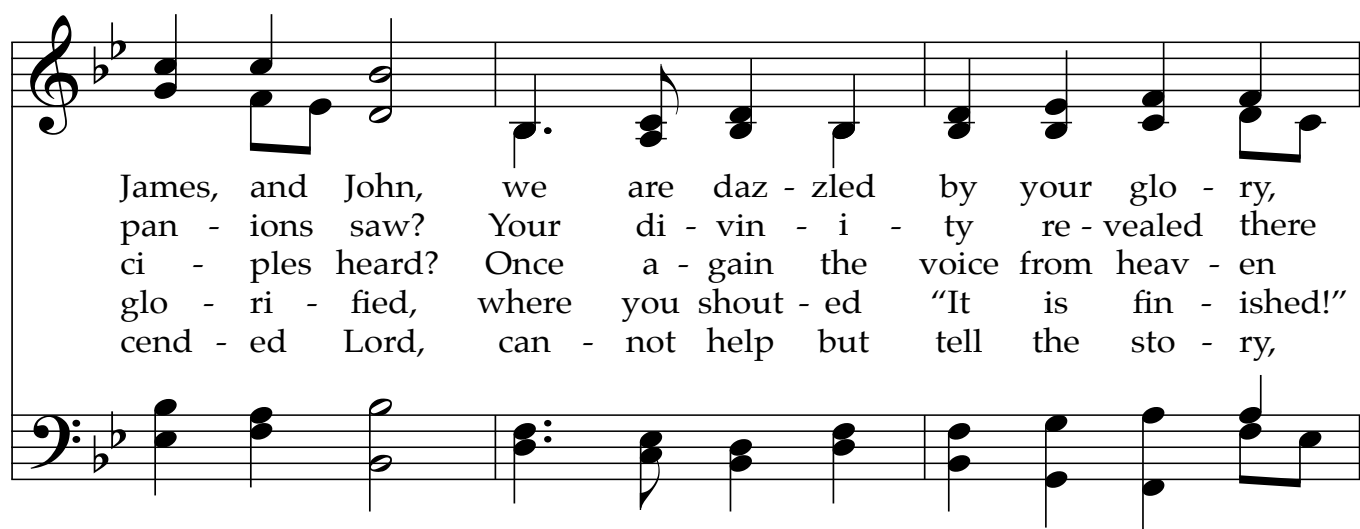
Tune: HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7.D.  
 Rowland H. Prichard, 1844  
 Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Words Copyright © 1988 by Hope Publishing Company  
 Arrangement Copyright ©, Oxford University Press. From *The English Hymnal* 1906.

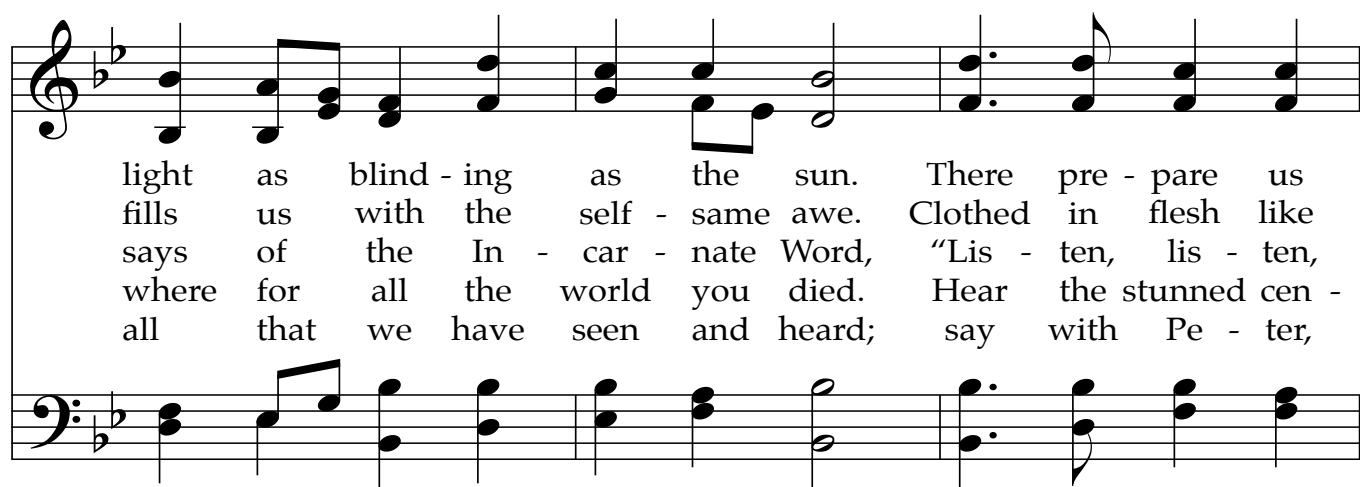
# 193 Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain



1 Je - sus, take us to the moun - tain, where, with Pe - ter,  
 2 What do you want us to see there, that your close com -  
 3 What do you want us to hear there, that your dear dis -  
 4 Take us to that oth - er moun - tain where we see you  
 5 We who have be - held your glo - ry, ris - en and as -



James, and John, we are daz - zled by your glo - ry,  
 pan - ions saw? Your di - vin - i - ty re - vealed there  
 ci - ples heard? Once a - gain the voice from heav - en  
 glo - ri - fied, where you shout - ed "It is fin - ished!"  
 cend - ed Lord, can - not help but tell the sto - ry,



light as blind - ing as the sun. There pre - pare us  
 fills us with the self - same awe. Clothed in flesh like  
 says of the In - car - nate Word, "Lis - ten, lis - ten,  
 where for all the world you died. Hear the stunned cen -  
 all that we have seen and heard; say with Pe - ter,

Some version of the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1–9/Mark 9:2–9/Luke 9:28–36) is always read on the last Sunday after the Epiphany. In this text that foretaste of Christ's glorification helps to prepare Peter, James, and John for their roles as proclaimers of "God's beloved Son."

TEXT: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1991

MUSIC: Joachim Neander, 1680; harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863, alt.

Text © 1991 Concordia Publishing House

UNSER HERRSCHER

8.7.8.7.7.7



## Ecumenical Ash Wednesday at LUMC—February 22 at 7:00 pm

All are welcome to gather as a community at Lebanon United Methodist Church (18 School St, or via Zoom) to initiate the holy season of Lent, with our friends from West Leb, the Greater Hartford United Church, and the Lebanon and WRJ United Methodist Churches. *If you are unable to attend in person, please contact the church office to receive the Zoom link.*

*If you would like to receive daily devotional reflections from Rev. Steve Silver during Lent, please contact the church office or email him directly at [silver@fccleb.org](mailto:silver@fccleb.org).*

\* \* \* HOLY WEEK IS APRIL 2-9, 2023 \* \* \*

## One Great Hour of Sharing: “Time to Share”—Special UCC Mission Offering

This annual, nationwide UCC offering funds mission initiatives around the world. It supports healthcare, education, agriculture, refugee assistance, and disaster relief in over 130 countries. OGHS funds are leveraged with local, national, and global partners to maximize their impact.

*Please consider a contribution as you are able, and thank you for SHARING!*

(Payable to FCC, with “OGHS” in the memo line. Contributions gratefully accepted until Easter.)

## It’s Almost Time for the Lenten Lunch Bag Offering

The arrival of Lent this week brings the **Children’s Community Corner** Lunch Bag Offering! We ask for your participation in this annual collection of savings from a regular sacrifice during Lent. The total collection on Palm Sunday (April 2) will be split between **Epilogos Charities** and **WISE of the Upper Valley**. (*Decorated paper bags will be available, but not required to participate.*)

*The Children’s Community Corner thanks you for supporting this stewardship project!*



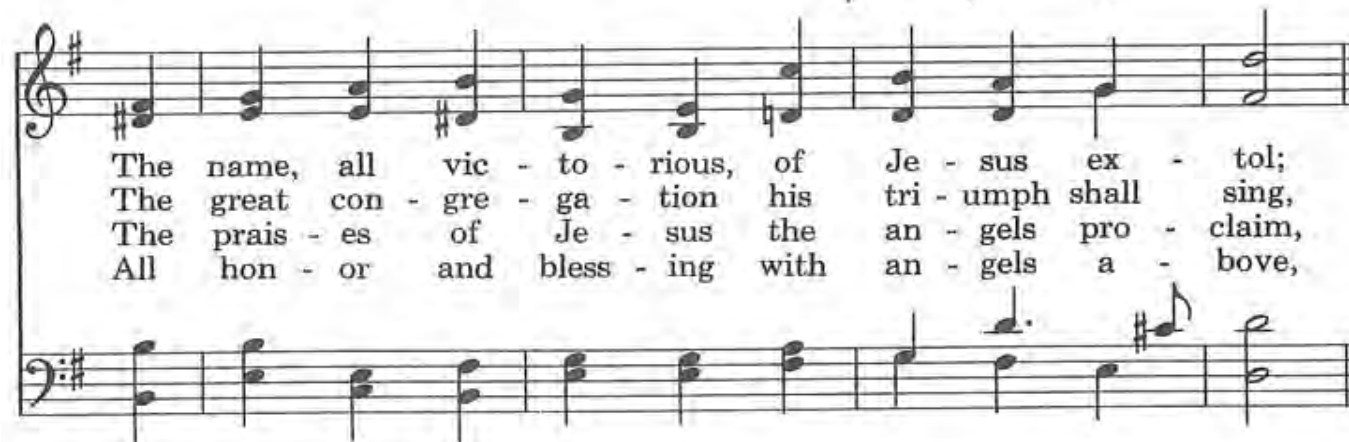
Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

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





***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](http://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](http://classicopia.org).*

***Upper Valley Music Center Faculty Showcase—Sunday, March 19, at 3:00 pm***

Come enjoy a diverse program featuring the vocal and instrumental excellence of the faculty next door at UVMC. *Free-will donation; all proceeds benefit tuition assistance fund. More at [www.uvmusic.org](http://www.uvmusic.org).*

*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@fcclb.org](mailto:prayer@fcclb.org) or speak with Rev. Silver directly.*

***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)**