



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Third Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2023

“Easter was when Hope in person surprised the whole world
by coming forward from the future into the present.”

–N. T. Wright

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 4-7.

Prelude *Prelude in G, op. 37, no. 2* Felix Mendelssohn

Call to Worship Adapted from Psalm 116

One: I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

All: Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

One: What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?

All: I will lift up the cup of salvation and praise the name of the LORD. Praise the LORD!

Hymn 322 (p. 4) *Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult* Galilee

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 *Above All Praise and All Majesty* Felix Mendelssohn

Children's Moment

Are you open to new ideas? I know that's a big question, and it's one that adults need to ask throughout their lives. Some new ideas are just plain foolish, like suggesting we can fly off a cliff if we flap our arms hard enough. I don't care who might tell you that—they're wrong. But you might be told that making friends with people from different backgrounds is a bad idea. Is that really true? Sure, caution is always prudent when meeting strangers, but if we talked only with people just like us, we'd be awfully lonely. It's a good idea to hear people out, to listen to what they say, to think about what they are telling you. Only then can you dismiss, or accept, what they say.

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

Scripture Lessons

Acts 2:14a, 36-41. ^{14a}But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “[...]” ³⁶Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.”

⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Luke 24:13-35. ¹³Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” ²⁵Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.

³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions

gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Sermon “Walking, Talking, and Chewing Gum” Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 308 (p. 6) O God in Whom All Life Begins Noel

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 ongoing prayers for Pete, Arlene, Evelyn, Barbara, Gordon, Greg, Edith, Jan, Eileen, Waneta, Terry, Juanita, Dan, Ethan, Travis, Garrett, Sue, Rick, and Duane. God on the road to Emmaus, you remind us in Scripture that we can meet you in the oddest places, when it’s least expected. You tell us to be open to your message of grace, and your promise of new life, but all too often we are too distracted to pay attention to what you would have us know. Help us to be attentive to you, O God, as we travel to our own Emmaus, to be ready to meet you at any time and in any place.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of the Risen Christ. 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 I Give You a New Commandment Peter Aston

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 led us to this place and time, to this community and fellowship, to the new life we know in Jesus. In gratitude, we offer our thanks and offer these gifts as signs of our commitment to share with others the blessings of grace, love, and hope you have shared with us. In the name of our Risen Lord, Amen.

Benediction

Postlude

Basse et Dessus de Trompette

Louis-Nicolas Clérambault

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Denise Moriearty, Liturgist

Sue Pratt and Chris Chase, Ushers • Dawn Troutman, Zoom Greeter

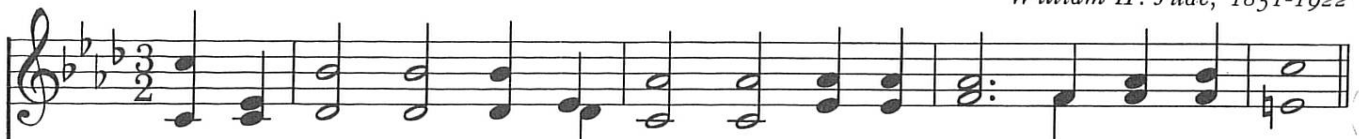
If you wish to have a joy, concern, or prayer request lifted up in the service, or if you know of someone who may need special prayers, a card or phone call, or some other form of pastoral care, please email prayer@fccleb.org or speak with Rev. Silver directly.

322

Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult

First Tune

Cecil F. Alexander 1818-1895

GALILEE 8.7.8.7.
William H. Jude, 1851-1922

1 Je - sus calls us, o'er the tu - mult Of our life's wild, rest-less sea;
 2 As of old, Saint An-drew heard it By the Gal - i - le - an lake,
 3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship Of the vain world's gold-en store,
 4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, Days of toil and hours of ease,
 5 Je - sus calls us; by thy mer - cies, Sav-ior, may we hear thy call,



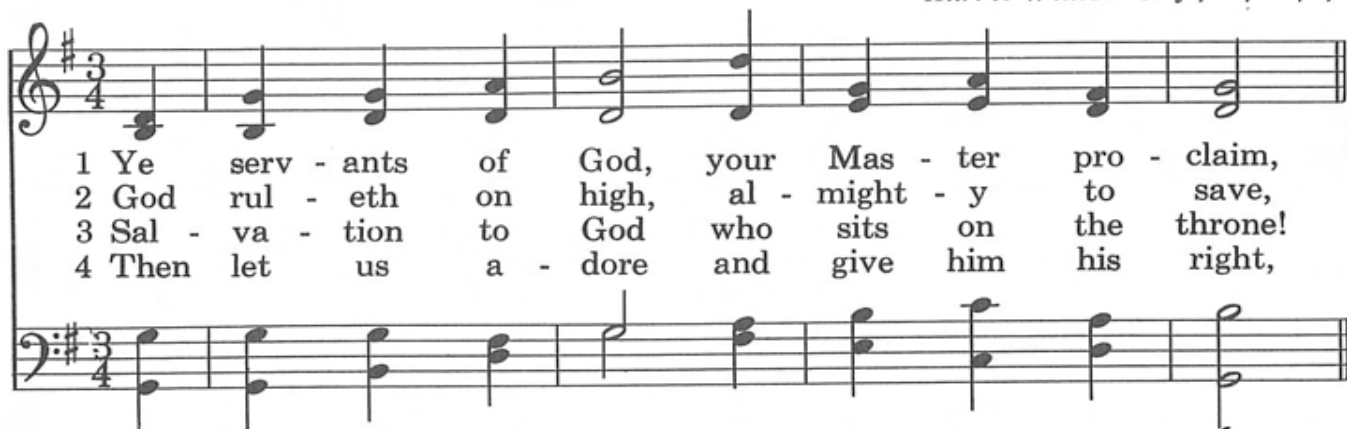
Day by day his sweet voice sound-eth, Say-ing, "Christian, fol - low me."
 Turned from home and toil and kin-dred, Leav-ing all for his dear sake.
 From each i - dol that would keep us, Say-ing, "Christian, love me more."
 Still he calls, in cares and pleas-ures, "Christian, love me more than these."
 Give our hearts to thine o - be-dience, Serve and love thee best of all. A-men



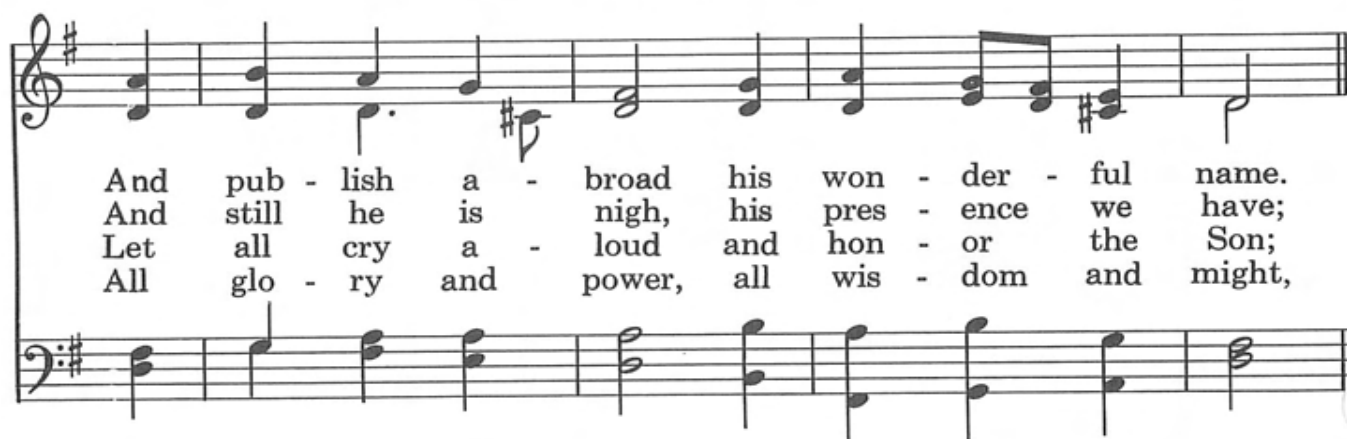
Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

HANOVER 10.10.11.11.

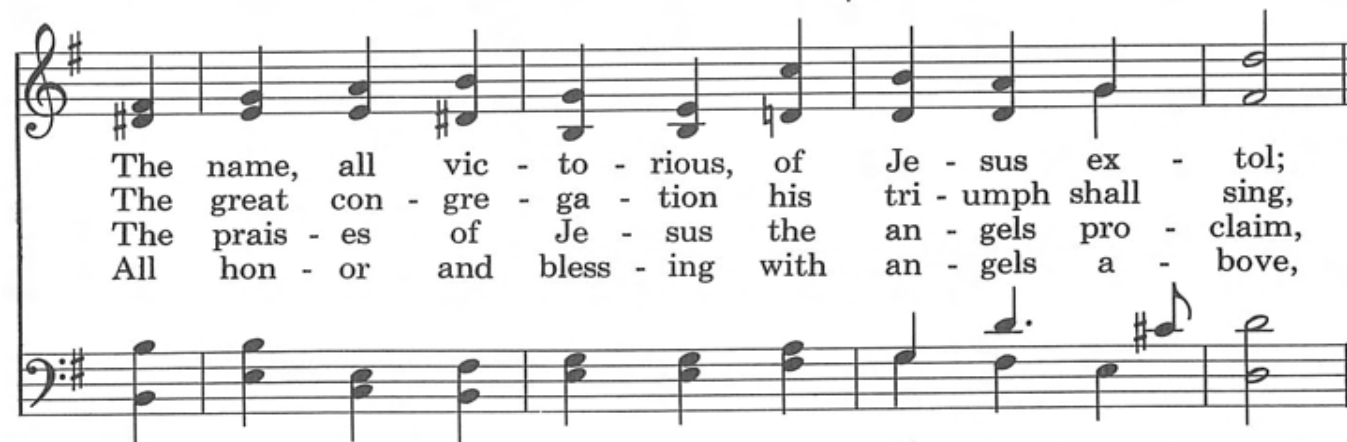
Attr. to William Croft, 1678-1727



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,



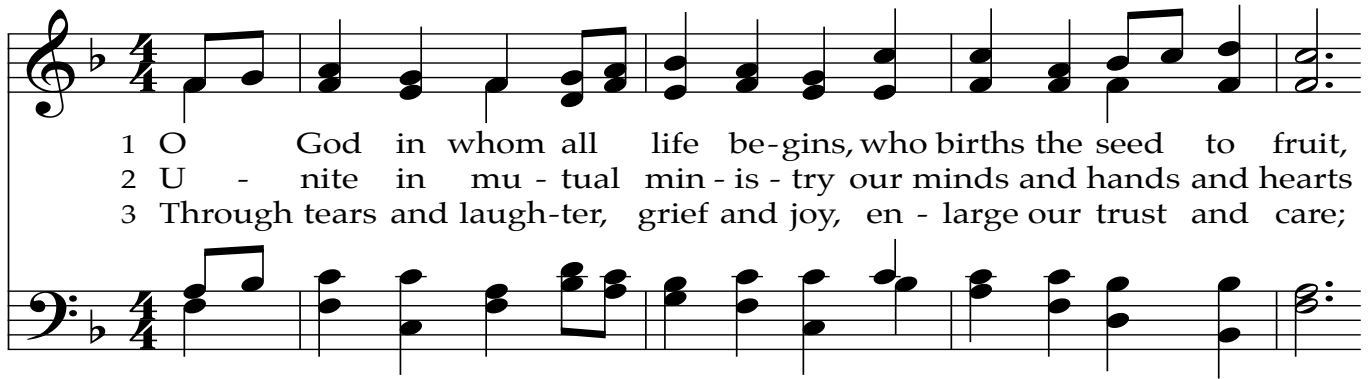
The name, all vic - to - rious, of Je - sus ex - tol;
 The great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall sing,
 The prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,
 All hon - or and bless - ing with an - gels a - bove,



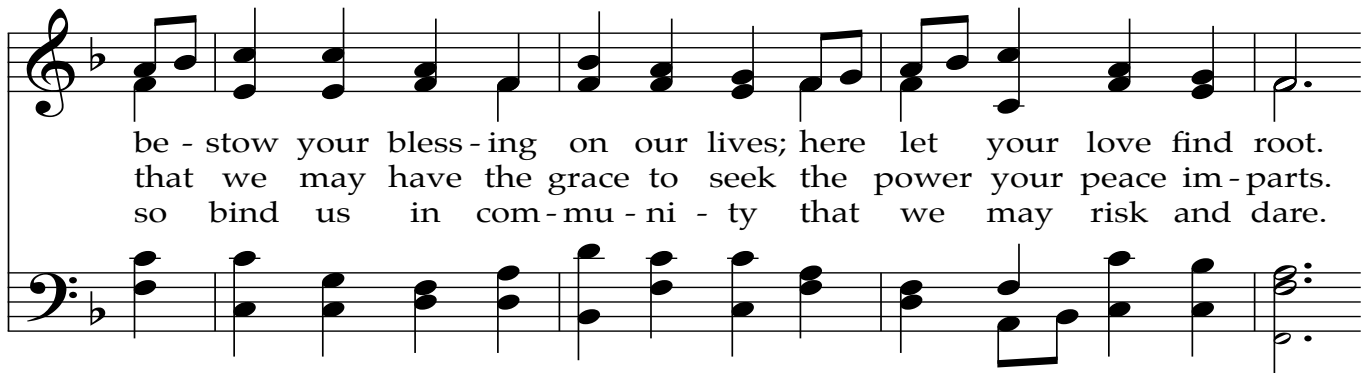
His king - dom is glo - rious, he rules o - ver all.
 As - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our King.
 Fall down on their fa - ces and wor - ship the Lamb.
 And thanks nev - er ceas - ing and in - fi - nite love. A - men.

A descant may be found at No. 584

O God in Whom All Life Begins 308



1 O God in whom all life be-gins, who births the seed to fruit,
2 U - nite in mu - tual min - is - try our minds and hands and hearts
3 Through tears and laugh-ter, grief and joy, en - large our trust and care;



be - stow your bless - ing on our lives; here let your love find root.
that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace im - parts.
so bind us in com - mu - ni - ty that we may risk and dare.



Bring forth in us the Spir - it's gifts of pa - tience, joy, and peace;
So let our var - ied gifts com - bine to glo - ri - fy your Name
Be with us when we gath - er here to wor - ship, sing, and pray;



de - liv - er us from numb - ing fear, and grant our faith in - crease.
that in all things by word and deed we may your love pro - claim.
then send us forth in power and faith to live the words we say.

Although it was written for the installation of a pastor, this text is really about the mutual ministry shared by all members of a worshipping community, both when they are gathered and when they go forth into the world. The tune used here may have Christmas associations for some.

Lift High the Cross

826

Refrain

Descant

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name. *Fine*

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

the Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.
 your death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

to Refrain

This majestic hymn celebrates the paradox that for Christians a means of painful death has been transformed into a symbol of renewed life; a sign of defeat has become an emblem of victory. With the cross traced on our foreheads at Baptism we are marked as Christ's own forever.

TEXT: George William Kitchin, 1887; rev. Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916, alt.

MUSIC: Sydney Hugo Nicholson, 1916; desc. Richard Proulx, 1985

Text and Music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company

Music Desc. © 1985 Hope Publishing Company

CRUCIFER

10.10 with refrain



Acacia Chamber Music: Promenades—Friday, April 21, at 7:30 pm

Leslie Stroud (flute), Meghan Donahue (clarinet), and Matthew Odell (piano) return as an ensemble for the first time in three years, dedicated as always to “promoting music in uncommonly heard combinations.” They share a wonderful spring program of Camille Saint-Saëns, Claude Debussy, and Modest Mussorgsky. *Free-will donation; more at facebook.com/AcaciaChamberMusic.*

The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, April 28 and May 12, 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: Vibrant Violin—Sunday, April 30, at 2:00 pm

Pianist Dan Weiser welcomes back Hanover-born virtuoso violinist Roseminna Watson for a program of thrilling music by W. A. Mozart, Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Béla Bartók, and César Franck. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at classicopia.org/concert/vibrant-violin-2.*

Take Pause, Take Courage: A Viola Recital—Saturday, May 6, at 1:00 pm

UVMC’s Jennifer Turbes and pianist Will Ögmundson share a thoughtful selection of music by Reena Esmail, Jessie Montgomery, Harry Burleigh, and more. *More at uvmusic.org/events.*

Bel Canto Chamber Singers: Journeys—Sat., May 6, at 7:30 pm / Sun., May 7, at 4:00 pm

Jane Woods directs Bel Canto in a musical survey of journeys in their many forms, from physical travel to imaginative and spiritual exploration, from past memories to future hopes. The program features a variety of genres in music for choir, piano, and the handbells of the Church of Christ at Dartmouth. *Adults \$15, students \$10, under 13 free; for more, visit www.belcantosingers.org.*

UVMC Sing & Play Festival—Saturday, May 20 (various times and locations)

Classicopia: Musical Mothers—Sunday, May 28, at 2:00 pm

Liz Simmons and Casey Murray: Folk, Roots, and Cello—Saturday, June 3, at 7:30 pm

Cantabile Women’s Chorus: We Sing Her Song—Sunday, June 4, at 4:00 pm

Cameo Baroque: Music of the French Baroque—Friday, June 9, at 7:00 pm

Register Now for Classicopia’s Music Camp at FCC/UVMC!—August 14-19, 9a-3p Daily

This immersive program offers instrumental and vocal instruction to students aged 8-18, with outstanding faculty and guest artists. *More details and registration at classicopia.org/summer-camp/.*



Mother's Day is Blanket Sunday

We are pleased to participate once again in Church World Service's **CWS BLANKETS** program, a special mission project that provides blankets and essential supplies to people in crisis worldwide. (For more, please visit www.cwsblankets.org.)

If you'd like to honor or remember the mother(s) in your life with a contribution to **CWS BLANKETS**, please complete this form and either put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church (PO Box 230, Lebanon, NH 03766). The suggested minimum donation is \$10, but any amount is welcome!

Dedications must be received by noon on THURSDAY, MAY 11 to be included in the bulletin for MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 14.

Given by _____

In honor of _____

☐ Please send a card (include address on back)

In memory of _____

Contribution: _____ (payable to FCC, memo "Blanket Sunday")

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