

### First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ - Open and Affirming

## The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost October 22, 2023

Faith is never identical with piety.

-Karl Barth

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

Prelude

Chorale Prelude on "Rockingham"

C.H.H. Parry

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 68** (p. 5) I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Ellacombe

#### 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

#### Children's Moment

When we pray, we what do we ask for? Sometimes, we might want help or reassurance. But sometimes, our prayers may be mean, like asking God to hurt someone we don't like. Now, I can't speak for God, but I'm pretty sure that God doesn't want us to be angry with others. Sure, we can be disappointed. And it's okay to talk with God about that. But to ask God to strike out at them? Really? If that's okay, then what's to stop someone from praying for us to be hurt? Jesus didn't pray for vengeance. Jesus didn't pray for harm to come to those who hurt him. Instead, he prayed for forgiveness and healing. That may not be easy, but it's meaningful, and when we do that, we are following the way of Jesus.

Hymn 246 (p. 6) Come, Thou Almighty King

Italian Hymn

#### Scripture Lessons

Exodus 33:12-23. <sup>12</sup>Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' <sup>13</sup>Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." <sup>14</sup>He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." <sup>15</sup>And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. <sup>16</sup>For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

<sup>17</sup>The Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." <sup>18</sup>Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." <sup>19</sup>And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. <sup>20</sup>But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." <sup>21</sup>And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; <sup>22</sup>and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; <sup>23</sup>then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

Matthew 22:15-22. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. <sup>16</sup>So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. <sup>17</sup>Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup>Then he said to them,

"Whose head is this, and whose title?" <sup>21</sup>They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." <sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Sermon "Show Yourself"

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 251 (p. 7) Holy, Ho

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

Nicaea

#### Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

As we hold community members in prayer, please exercise care and discretion when sharing. Help keep our prayer list current by contacting Rev. Silver or the church office to add or remove names.

Today we offer ongoing prayers for Pete, Arlene, Evelyn, Barbara, Gordon, Greg, Jan, Edith, Eileen, Waneta, Terry, Juanita, Dan, Ethan, Travis, Garrett, Sue, Rick, Edward, Duane, Priscilla, Ron, Lauren, and Brian.

O God, who made yourself known to Moses, who made yourself known to the prophets, who made yourself known to us in Jesus, we seek signs of your presence on this day. We seek to know of your caring, loving nature, of your grace in all parts of our lives. Help us, we pray, to set aside that which distracts us from you, from evidence of the truth of your being. Give us strength to have faith, to trust in you, that we may know new life. We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of Jesus 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** Jesu, Dulcis Memoria

Tomás Luis de Victoria

The sweet memory of Jesus gives true joy to the heart. His presence is sweeter even than honey, and greater than all things.

#### 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, Generous God, all we have is ultimately a gift from you: our money, our skills, our very lives are all given to us by you. Let us now return a portion of this gift to serve your people. In gratitude we present this morning's offering to you. Amen.

**Hymn 366** (p. 8) God of Grace and God of Glory

Cwm Rhondda

Benediction

Postlude Chorale Prelude on "Croft's 136th"

C.H.H. Parry

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ • Laurel Stavis, Mezzo-Soprano • The FCC Choir Phil Hammond, Liturgist • Linda Gerlach and Linda Oronte, Ushers • Bob Gerlach, Zoom

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.

## Do Your Part to Fill the Cart!—LISTEN Visiting November 5

Greater Lebanon continues to struggle with poverty and food insecurity, and we are resuming the collection of items in our shopping cart in the Parish Hall, to support a variety of beneficiaries.

#### **CURRENT BENEFICIARY—LISTEN COMMUNITY SERVICES**

A representative from LISTEN will visit us during worship on November 5 to tell us more about the organization's current needs and local programs. Please consider a donation of non-perishable food or personal-care items, at anytime before that date.

Direct financial contributions to any Upper Valley service organization are always needed and much appreciated. Thanks for fighting local poverty and hunger!

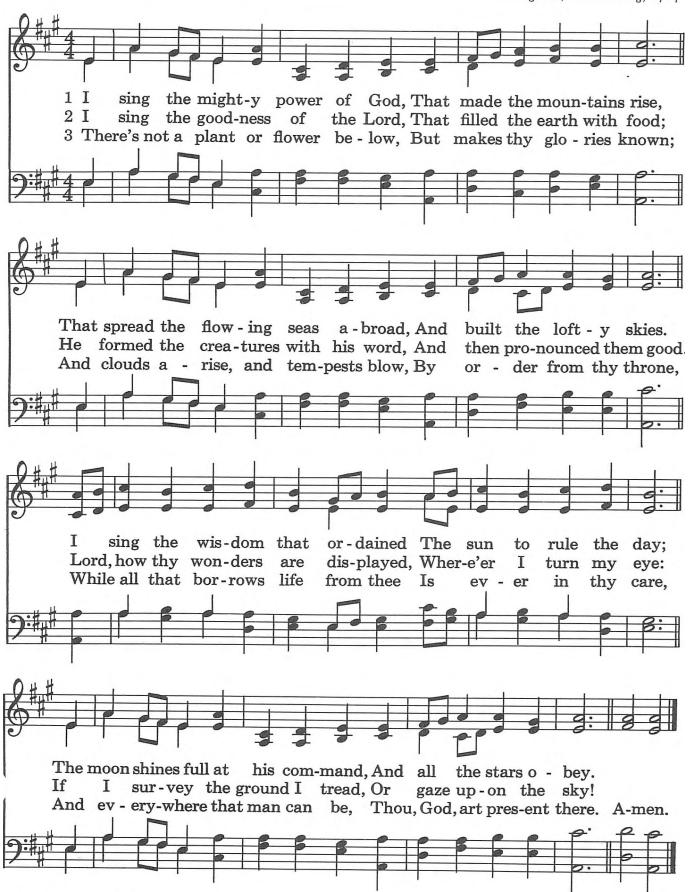
## Neighbors in Need: Behold!—Special UCC Offering This Fall

The UCC's Neighbors in Need program supports ministries of justice and compassion across the country. Two-thirds of the collection funds the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries in local and national initiatives, advocacy efforts, and the fight against systemic injustice. The rest goes to the Council for American Indian Ministry, a voice for Native Americans in the UCC, sustaining a proud denominational tradition of support. This year, NIN focuses on environmental justice, addressing the egregious inequities and ecological harm of waste-disposal practices worldwide.

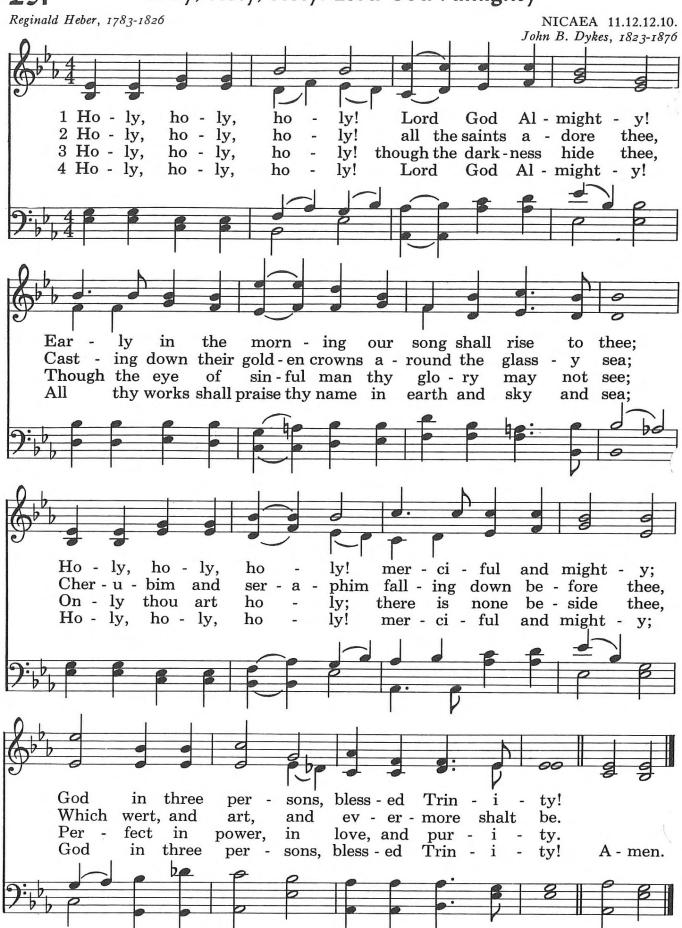
Please contribute as you're able to this vital mission program, by cash or check (payable to FCC, memo "Neighbors in Need") or online at www.ucc.org/nin. Thank you!

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, all.

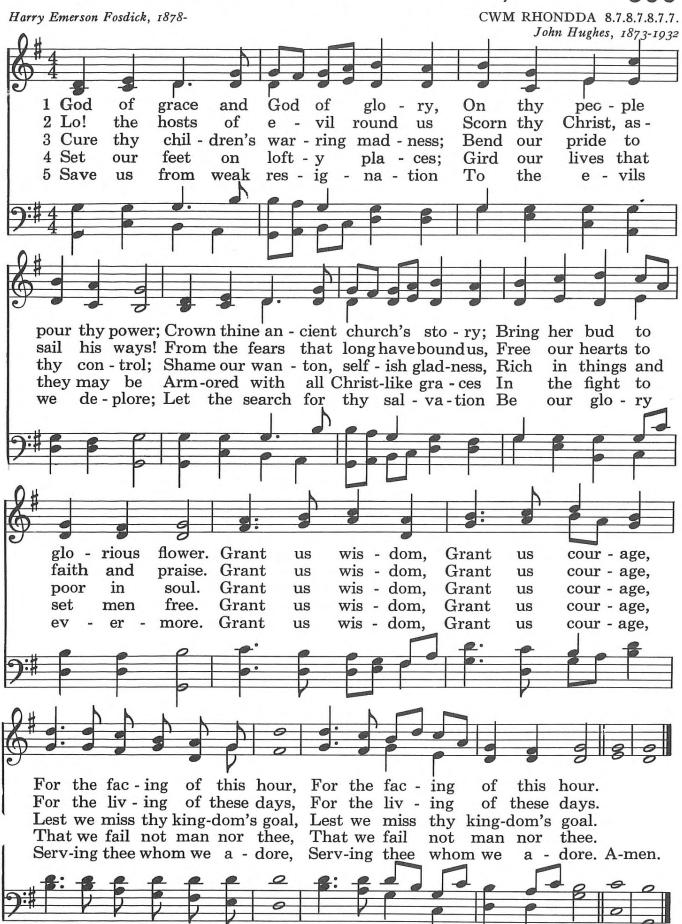
ELLACOMBE C.M.D. "Gesangbuch," Wirtemberg, 1784







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# Music at the Meetinghouse

## **Upcoming Events**

All in the FCC Sanctuary

The Anonymous Coffeehouse-Fridays, Oct. 27, Nov. 10 and 24, Dec. 1 and 15, all 7:30 pm

Our comfy community venue for live folk music is thriving in its fourth season! An informal "listening room" for emerging musicians, each show features several acoustic acts. Come and go as you please; food and drink available. Free admission. For performers and more, visit anoncoffee.org.

UVMC Presents Ensemble Halcyon-Saturday, October 28, at 5:00 pm

As part of a day-long workshop in early music, the Upper Valley Music Center offers this concert by Ensemble Halcyon—Chris Rua and Sarah Cantor on recorders, Jane Hershey on viola da gamba, and our own Ernie Drown on harpsichord. Reception to follow! *Adults* \$20, *more at uvmusic.org*.

Classicopia: The Mendelssohns and the Schumanns—Sunday, October 29, at 2:00 pm Cellist Jacques-Pierre Malan joins pianist Dan Weiser to explore the connections between these two musical families in the early-Romantic period. While the men gained wider fame, Felix's sister Fanny and Robert's wife Clara also distinguished themselves from a young age as composers, performers, and musical advocates. Adults \$20, FCC members \$15; more at classicopia.org.

Classicopia: Four-Hand Holiday—Sunday, December 3, at 2:00 pm

Pianists and longtime friends Daniel Weiser and Philip Liston-Kraft renew this seasonal tradition with a delightful selection of favorites in exciting, four-hand arrangements. *Adults* \$20, FCC members \$15; more at classicopia.org.

Bel Canto Chamber Singers—Saturday, Dec. 9, at 7:30 / Sunday, Dec. 10, at 4:00 Director Jane Woods leads Bel Canto in its ever-popular holiday program. Program details TBA. Adults \$15, students \$10, under 13 free; for more, visit www.belcantosingers.org.

Upper Valley Music Center Messiah Sing!—Sunday, December 17, at 3:30 pm UVMC brings back its annual performance of G. F. Handel's beloved oratorio, with student soloists and chamber orchestra. All welcome to join the chorus (scores available!) or just listen. Fee \$15 choral/orchestral participants; suggested \$10 audience donation. More at uvmusic.org.

## New Covenant Members to be Received—Sunday, November 5

Have you found a welcoming community of people and a spiritually nourishing church home here? Would you like to get more involved in our programs and events? If so, you are warmly invited to join our church as a covenant member.

If you are interested in this invitation or have questions about membership, please speak with the Rev. Steve Silver—or, actually, anyone else!—after the service at coffee hour.



#### 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 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 • Brian Clancy, Church Administrator

Jon Scott, Chair of Church Council • Linda Gerlach, Chair of Deacons • Barbara Jones, Moderator

Church Office Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9:00-12:00 (or by appointment as needed) 603-448-4281 • church@fccleb.org • prayer@fccleb.org • music@fccleb.org • www.fccleb.org