



The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

God is an infinite circle whose center is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere.

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 5-7.

Prelude “Rêverie,” from *24 Pièces en style libre*, op. 31 Louis Vierne

Call to Worship

Adapted from Psalm 107

One: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever.

All: Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands,

One: From the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

All: Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

Hymn 320 (p. 5) *The Church of Christ in Every Age* Wareham

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 “Thou Shalt Bring Them In” (*Israel in Egypt*) Georg Frideric Handel

Children's Moment

Today is “Open Question Time.” Ask me a question, any question, and I will try to answer it for you, right now. If I can’t, I’ll tell you and try to find you an answer later. Asking questions, wanting to know more is an important part of being a person of faith. Having questions does not mean you doubt God. It just means you’re using the brain that God gave you, and that’s okay.

Hymn 354 (p. 6) *God, When I Came into This Life* Land of Rest

Scripture Lessons

Joshua 3:7-17. ⁷The Lord said to Joshua, “This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, so that they may know that I will be with you as I was with Moses. ⁸You are the one who shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, ‘When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.’” ⁹Joshua then said to the Israelites, “Draw near and hear the words of the Lord your God.” ¹⁰Joshua said, “By this you shall know that among you is the living God who without fail will drive out from before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites: ¹¹the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is going to pass before you into the Jordan. ¹²So now select twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. ¹³When the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan flowing from above shall be cut off; they shall stand in a single heap.”

¹⁴When the people set out from their tents to cross over the Jordan, the priests bearing the ark of the covenant were in front of the people. ¹⁵Now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest. So when those who bore the ark had come to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the edge of the water, ¹⁶the waters flowing from above stood still, rising up in a single heap far off at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, while those flowing toward the sea of the Arabah, the Dead Sea, were wholly cut off. Then the people crossed over opposite Jericho. ¹⁷While all Israel were crossing over on dry ground, the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, until the entire nation finished crossing over the Jordan.

Matthew 23:1-12. Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ²“The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat; ³therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. ⁴They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. ⁵They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. ⁶They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, ⁷and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. ⁸But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. ⁹And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. ¹⁰Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. ¹¹The greatest among you will be your servant. ¹²All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

Sermon

“A Little Humility, Please”

Stephen R. Silver

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, and Lauren.

O Jesus, O prince of peace, we come before you during these days of war, when conflict rages around the world, when our own society is disturbed, and we wonder: when? When will peace, *real peace*, come? We ask this question, we puzzle over it, and we even sometimes try to fashion an answer, hoping that your peace, the peace of Jesus, will come. We do this because we are a people of hope, a people who know that killing and bombing everything will get us nothing. We do this because we follow the way of Jesus, who taught us that indulging in hate and conflict is ultimately futile.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name 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

O Quam Gloriosum

Tomás Luis de Victoria

"O how glorious is that kingdom where, with Christ, all the saints rejoice. Clad in white vestments, they follow the Lamb wherever he goes."

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*)

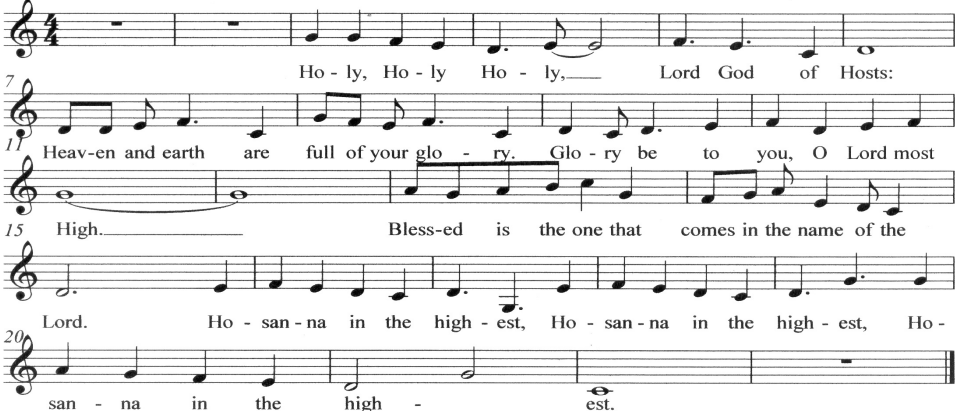
"Whom shall I send?" you ask. "Send us," we reply. We offer these gifts as a sign that we gladly take up your work of healing broken communities, of feeding the hungry, of comforting the bereaved, of bringing peace to a troubled world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

For communion, you are invited to have some bread and juice on hand. We will share in the bread and cup at the appointed time. If you would like to receive a blessing, please let the officiant know.

Invitation and Communion Prayer

Sanctus



Ho - ly, Ho - ly Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts:
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo - ry be to you, O Lord most
High. Bless-ed is the one that comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho -
san - na in the high - est.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (*Unison*)

Because the broken bread has meant our healing, because the outpoured cup has meant our life, because our common sharing has meant the communion of our souls, and because we have here been graced by your presence, God, we give you thanks and pray that our lives may be renewed in the life and the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn 347 (p. 7) *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* Linstead

Benediction

Postlude *Andante Religioso, from Sonata IV* Felix Mendelssohn

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ • Laurel Stavis, Mezzo-Soprano • The FCC Choir

Stacey Steele, Liturgist • Carol and Chuck Stone, Ushers • Dominic Watson, 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.

New Members to be Received— Next Sunday, November 12

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.

320 The Church of Christ in Every Age



1 The church of Christ in ev - ery age, be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
4 For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
be - dience to our Lord: to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
out re - serve, and spread Christ's lib - er - at - ing word.

In this challenging text by a British Methodist minister, the odd-numbered stanzas develop the image of "the servant church," while the second surveys the many needs and the fourth describes the true source of strength for the task.

God, When I Came into This Life

354

Fred Kaan, 1979

Isa. 43:1

1 God, when I came in - to this life, you
2 You give me free - dom to be - lieve; to -
3 With - in the cir - cle of the faith, as
4 In all the ten - sions of my life, be -
5 So help me in my un - be - lief and

called me by my name; To - day I come, com -
day I make my choice, And to the wor - ship
mem - ber of your cast, I take my place with
tween my faith and doubt, Let your great Spir - it
let my life be true: Feet firm - ly plant - ed

mit my - self, re - spond - ing to your claim.
of the church I add my learn - ing voice.
all the saints of fu - ture, pres - ent, past.
give me hope, sus - tain me, lead me out.
on the earth, my sights set high on you.

The musical setting for this text by contemporary poet Fred Kaan is an Appalachian folk tune of possible British origin. Annabel Morris Buchanan, an organist, music teacher, and scholar of American hymnody, collected and arranged this and other tunes in Folk Hymns of America, 1938.

Tune: LAND OF REST C.M.
The Christian Harp, 1832
Harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938

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Don't Bury Your Treasure: Stewardship Sunday is November 19

Our annual stewardship appeal—inspired by the parable of the talents—will soon be in the mail. You are invited to prayerfully consider your commitment to FCC's mission and ministry in the coming year. In two weeks, we will gratefully dedicate our 2024 pledges together in worship.

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Luke 10:1-9

Fred Kaan, 1975; alt.

C F G Dm G C G

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em-ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear-ing fruit in a world of doubt,

C F G Dm7 C G C

bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex-press.
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - ery-where!

Refrain (first time *p*, second time *f*)

C C7 F Dm G C F C

Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!

This hymn came into being when composer Doreen Potter asked poet Fred Kaan to write a text for her adaptation of a Jamaican folk melody. It was first used at the World Council of Churches Assembly in Nairobi (1975), and in Vancouver (1983).

Tune: LINSTED L.M. with refrain
 Jamaican folk song
 Adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975



The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, 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.*

Cameo Baroque: Benefit Concert for 19 Days—Sunday, November 26, at 4:00 pm

This superb ensemble (Ernie Drown, Beth Hilgartner, Leslie Stroud, and Laurie Rabut) offers their annual benefit for the Upper Valley Haven’s **19 Days of the Valley** campaign. They’ll share an autumnal selection of G. F. Handel, G. P. Telemann, William Boyce, and more. *Free-will donation to benefit the Haven; more at cameoarts.org or uppervalleyhaven.org.*

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

Longtime friends Daniel Weiser and Philip Liston-Kraft renew this festive tradition of favorite classics in fun, four-hand-piano arrangements, from “Jingle Bells” and “White Christmas” to the Blue Danube Waltz and the Nutcracker. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15; more at classicopia.org.*

Bel Canto Chamber Singers: Wintertide—Saturday, Dec. 9, at 7:00 / 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

Our annual performance of G. F. Handel’s beloved oratorio, with student soloists. All welcome to join the chorus (scores available!) or just listen. *Suggested \$20 donation; more at uvmusic.org.*

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

A representative from LISTEN will visit worship to tell us more about the organization’s current needs and programs. **Please consider a donation of non-perishable food or personal-care items.**

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

CHRISTMAS COMES TO ALL—LISTEN’S HOLIDAY BASKETS

For years FCC has participated in the Holiday Basket Program organized by LISTEN Community Services. Requests for baskets are always high, as families struggle to provide warm clothing for children and food for holiday meals. LISTEN gathers donations of new items and gift cards for these families, and FCC joins many other partners to support this vital project with donations.

Please help us fill our baskets by covering a gift for one of our families! Gift wish lists are available in the Parish Hall (and will also be updated by email in the coming weeks).



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@fcclieb.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@fcclieb.org • prayer@fcclieb.org • music@fcclieb.org • www.fcclieb.org