

November 26, 2023

–Timothy Keller

I hope you had a good Thanksgiving. Next week, we begin Advent, and we prepare for Christmas. It seems like there's one holiday after another at this time of year, doesn't it? Life can be busy. Life can be full. Life can be a bit much, can't it? When I feel pressured by all that's going on, I take a moment to pray, to give God thanks for having things to do, which is a lot better than being bored or idle.

So, as your plate may be full, thank God for the holidays we celebrate. Thank God for the people in your life, and thank God for giving you things to do.

Hymn 206 (p. 6) *Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim*

Hanover

Scripture Lessons

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24. ¹¹For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. [...]

²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

Matthew 25:31-46. [Jesus continued,] ³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry

and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Sermon	“Who’s the GOAT?”	Stephen R. Silver
Hymn 202 (p. 7)	<i>Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun</i> (vv. 1-5)	Duke Street

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, Travis, Garrett, Sue, Rick, Edward, Duane, Priscilla, Ron, and Lauren.

Almighty God, we come before you this day, acknowledging your power, your grace, and your love. We seek your forgiveness for our rebellion and our ingratitude. We delude ourselves, thinking that we are in control of all, not seeing that we are part of something larger than ourselves. At the same time, we often spurn our independence, looking to others to deal with our problems. Help us, we pray, to follow in the path of Jesus, who served, who taught, who healed, who loved all your people.

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	<i>My Shepherd Will Supply My Need</i>	arr. Virgil Thomson
------------------	--	---------------------

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*)

Sovereign, servant God: In Jesus you have shown us how to lead. In service comes power, in sharing comes abundance, in faith comes meaning. With these gifts we rededicate ourselves to following the way of the Risen Christ. Amen.

Hymn 199 (p. 8) *Crown Him With Many Crowns*

Diademata

Benediction

Postlude Presto, *Trio in G*, BWV 1039

Johann Sebastian Bach

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ • The FCC Choir • Alicia Casey and Ben Van Vliet, Violins
Betsy Alexander, Liturgist • Linda and Ike Jacobs, Ushers • Barb Jones, 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.

Don't Bury Your Treasure *Many Thanks for Your 2024 Stewardship Pledges*
"For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance." —Matthew 25:29

All are invited to prayerfully consider their commitment to FCC's mission and ministry in the coming year. We have so far received 14 pledges for 2024, and we will gratefully continue to accept more anytime in the coming weeks. Thank you for your support of our church!

*Please either place your pledge form in the offering plate or return it to the church office by mail.
Box sets (#1-20) of offering envelopes for 2024 should be available next Sunday.*

Advent Begins Next Sunday, December 3—Let's Decorate!

Yes, ADVENT! After worship next week we're going to decorate FCC for the season, and all are warmly invited to stay and help. We'll hang wreaths, string lights, trim our tree, and have fun as we prepare the church for the festive season of Advent. *Let's celebrate the season!*

Christmas Carol Sing and Potluck at the Parsonage

Sunday, December 17, 12:00-2:00 pm—15 Kimball St, Lebanon

All are warmly invited to our annual congregational Christmas party! We'll gather round the fireplace for festive fellowship and favorite carols. *Bring a favorite dish or holiday treat to share.*

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

First Tune

Edward Perronet, 1726-1792
 Alt. by John Rippon, 1751-1836

CORONATION C.M.
 Oliver Holden, 1765-1844

1 All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
 2 Crown him, ye mar - tyrs of our God, Who from his al - tar call;
 3 Ye seed of Is - ra - el's chosen race, Ye ran - somed of the fall,
 4 Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe, On this ter - res - trial ball,
 5 O that, with yon - der sa - cred throng, We at his feet may fall;

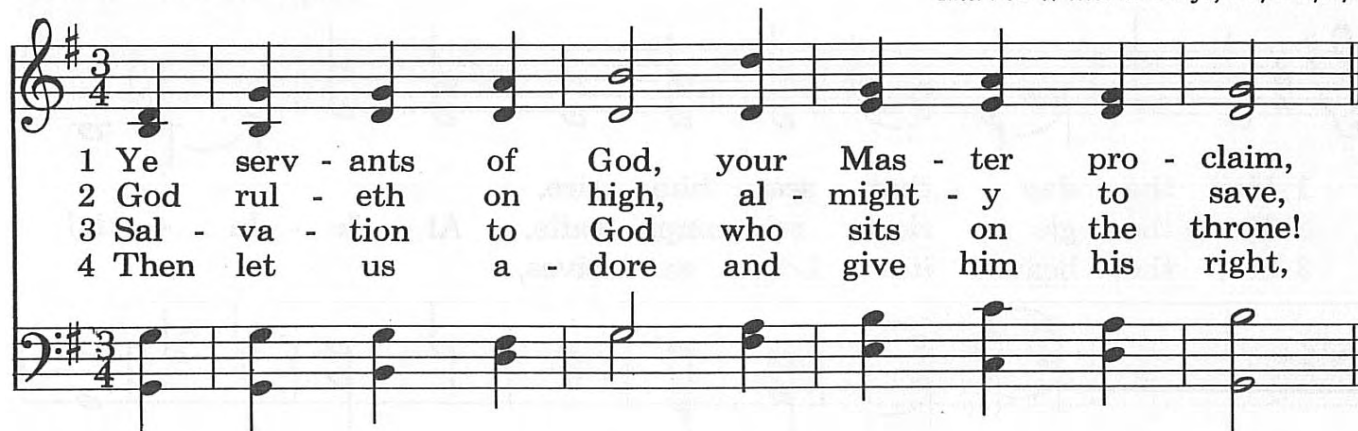
Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, And crown him Lord of all.
 Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod, And crown him Lord of all.
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, And crown him Lord of all.
 To him all maj - es - ty as - crite, And crown him Lord of all.
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, And crown him Lord of all.

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, And crown him Lord of all.
 Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod, And crown him Lord of all.
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, And crown him Lord of all.
 To him all maj - es - ty as - crite; And crown him Lord of all.
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, And crown him Lord of all. A - men

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

HANOVER 10.10.11.11.

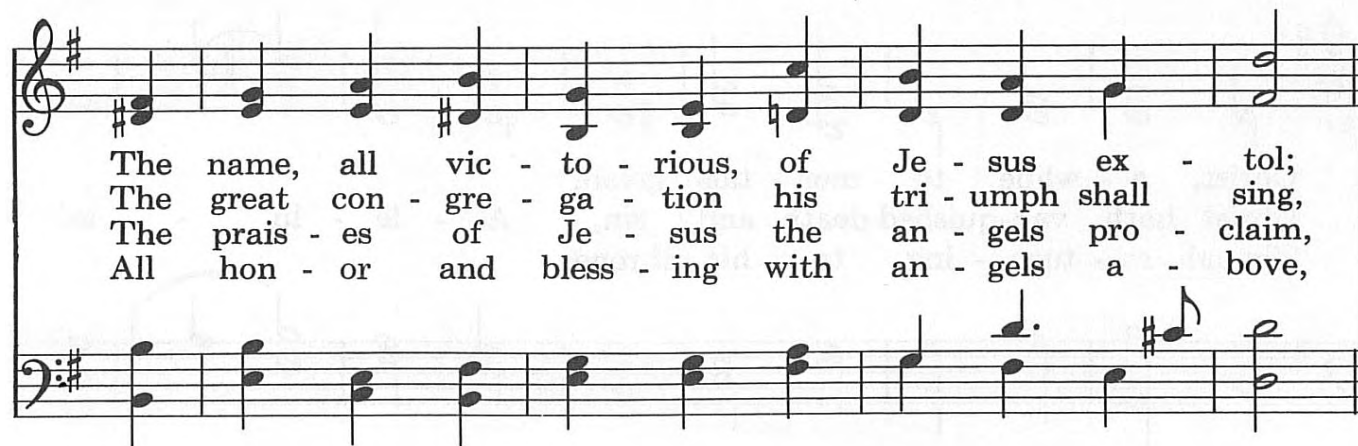
Attr. to William Croft, 1678-1727



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,

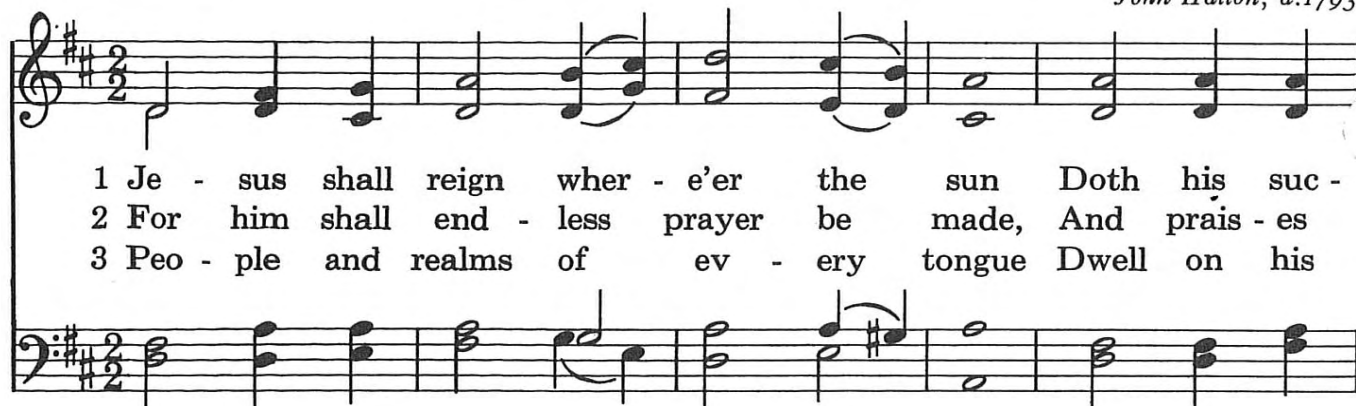


The name, all vic - to - rious, of Je - sus ex - tol;
 The great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall sing,
 The prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,
 All hon - or and bless - ing with an - gels a - bove,

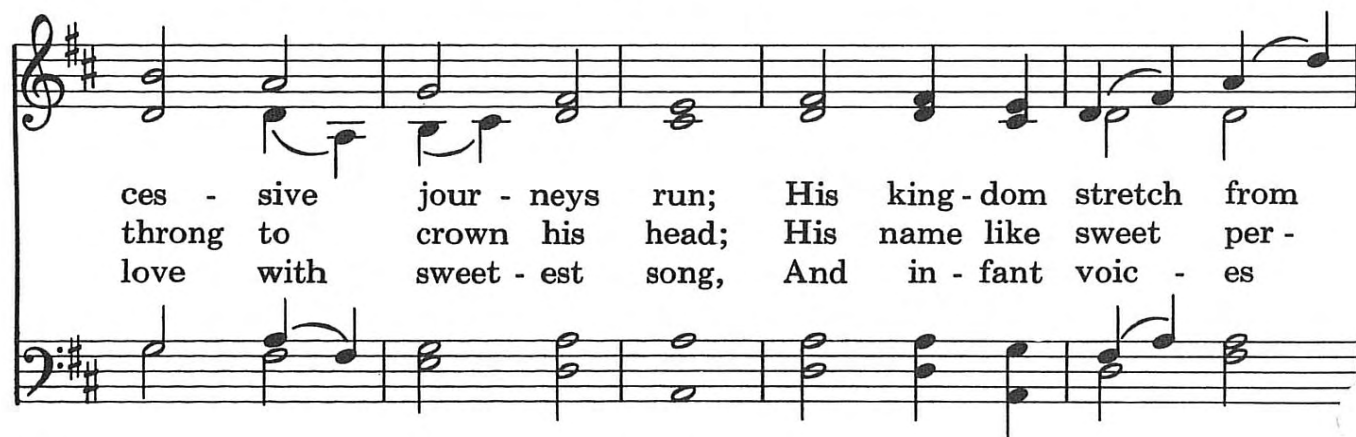


His king - dom is glo - rious, he rules o - ver all.
 As - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our King.
 Fall down on their fa - ces and wor - ship the Lamb.
 And thanks nev - er ceas - ing and in - fi - nite love. A - men.

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

DUKE STREET L.M.
John Halton, d.1793


1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun Doth his suc -
 2 For him shall end - less prayer be made, And prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue Dwell on his



ces - sive jour - neys run; His king - dom stretch from
 throng to crown his head; His name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song, And in - fant voic - es



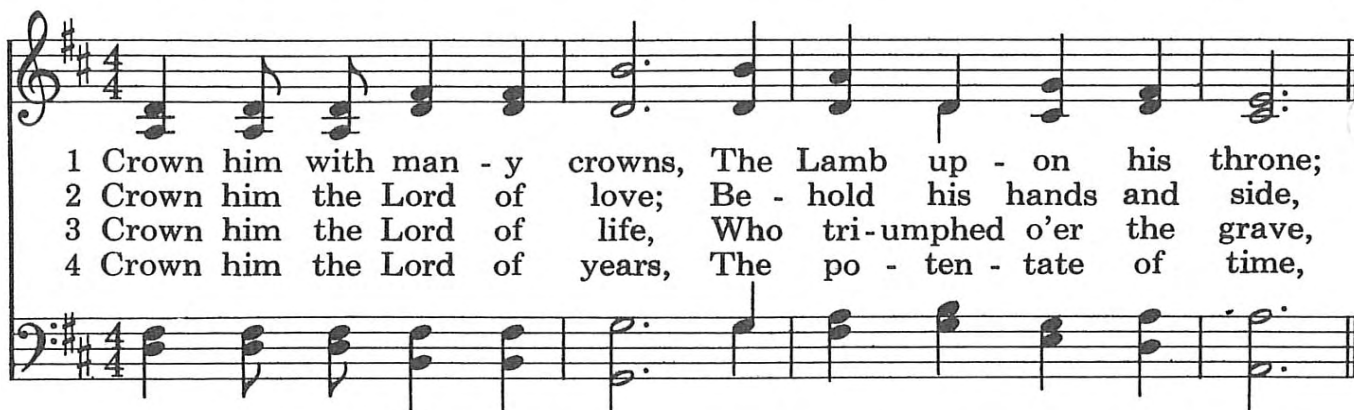
shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise With ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on his name. A-men.

4 Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
 The prisoner leaps to lose his chains,
 The weary find eternal rest,
 And all the sons of want are blest.

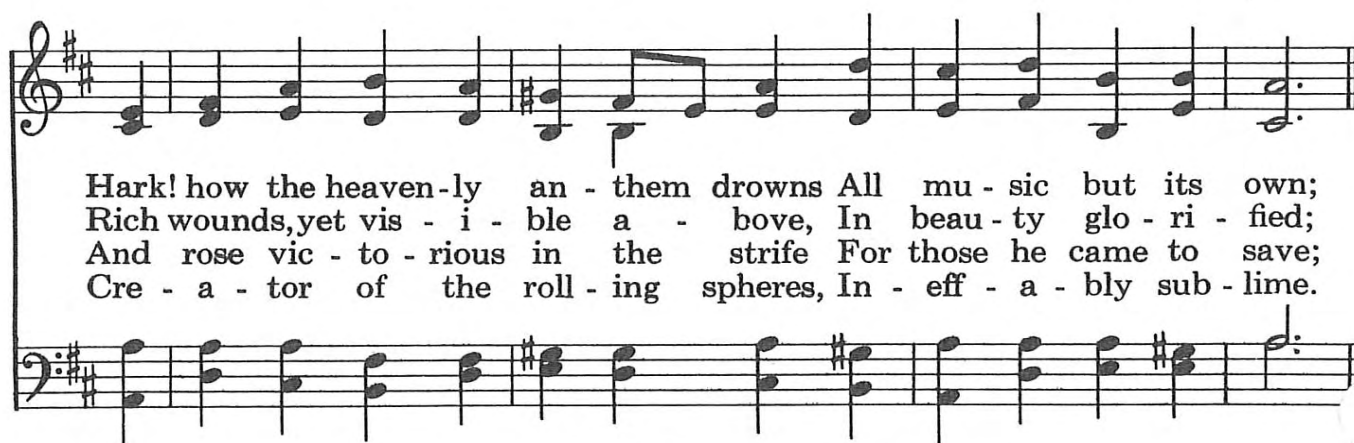
5 Let every creature rise and bring
 Peculiar honors to our King;
 Angels descend with songs again,
 And earth repeat the loud Amen.

Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894
 Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, St. 3

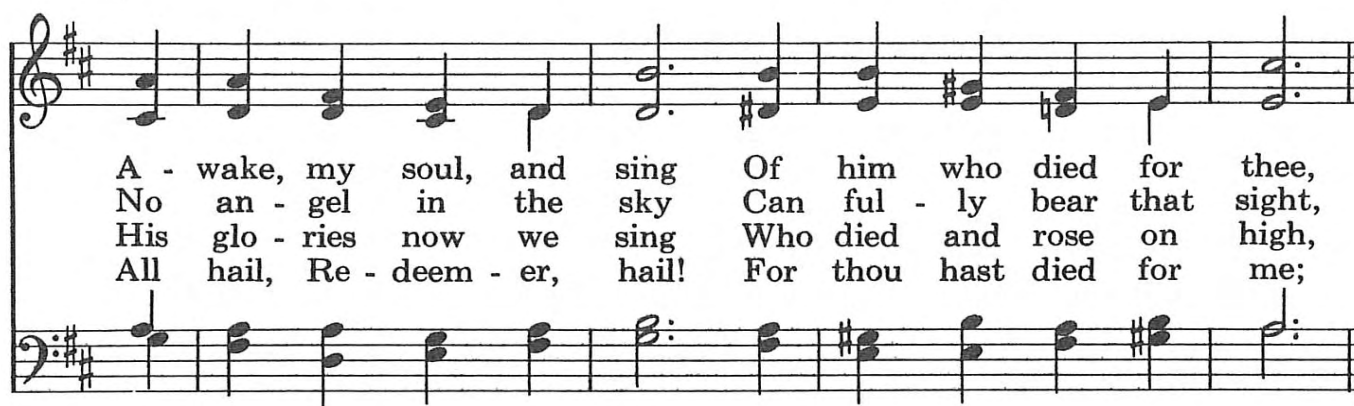
DIADEMATA S.M.D.
 George J. Elvey, 1816-1893



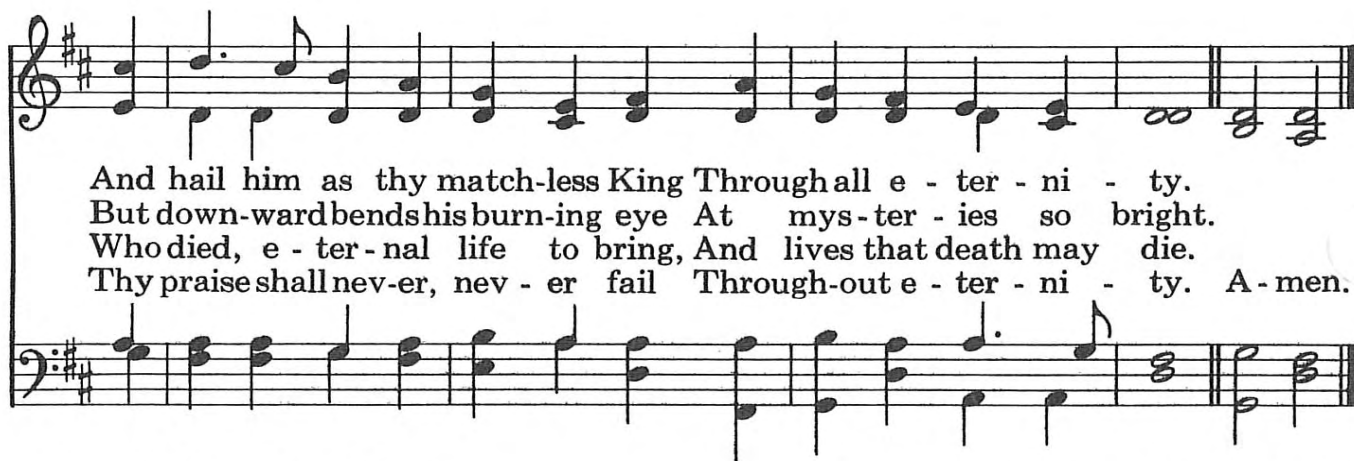
1 Crown him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the Lord of love; Be - hold his hands and side,
 3 Crown him the Lord of life, Who tri-umphed o'er the grave,
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, The po - ten - tate of time,



Hark! how the heaven-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own;
 Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied;
 And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those he came to save;
 Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, In - eff - a - bly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing Of him who died for thee,
 No an - gel in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His glo - ries now we sing Who died and rose on high,
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



And hail him as thy match-less King Through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 But down-ward bends his burn-ing eye At mys - ter - ies so bright.
 Who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, And lives that death may die.
 Thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail Through-out e - ter - ni - ty. A - men.



The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, Nov. 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

Jane Woods leads Bel Canto in a seasonal selection of choral music with strings, flute, and piano. They’ll sing Marc-Antoine Charpentier’s *Messe de Minuit*, as well as Ola Gjeilo, John Rutter, French carols, and traditional spirituals. *Adults \$15, students \$10, under 13 free; for more, visit 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.*

A Borowsky Family Christmas—Saturday, December 23, at 7:00 pm

Pianist Elizabeth Borowsky gathers her musically accomplished family—mother Cecylia Barczyk (cello) and siblings Frances (cello) and Emmanuel (violin)—along with a few friends and colleagues for this special program of a variety of Christmas favorites. All are welcome! *Free-will donation.*

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

We invite you to consider a donation to the UCC’s Christmas Fund, also known as the Fund for the Veterans of the Cross or Emergency Fund. This program offers compassionate, grateful support for retired clergy and their families with pension, healthcare, and emergency assistance.

Please contribute as you’re able to this vital denominational offering, either by check to FCC (memo “Christmas Fund”) or online at www.pbucc.org/index.php/christmas-fund-home. Thanks!



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@fcclleb.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@fcclleb.org • prayer@fcclleb.org • music@fcclleb.org • www.fcclleb.org