



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

CHRISTMAS EVE 2023

Family Service, 5:00 pm

Please silence cell phones and other devices. Masks are strongly encouraged, but not required.

**Those who are able are invited to stand. All hymns except #145 come from the Pilgrim Hymnal.*

Prelude

Grand Dei, Ribon Ribeine

Claude Balbastre

Words of Welcome

***Carol 120**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

- (1) Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
- (2) Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
- (3) Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Call to Worship

One: Come as a child to the kingdom!

**All: Come believing in angels on heavenly errands, with eyes for a wandering star
and ears for the message of dreams.**

One: Come as a child who hears the angel proclaim, "With God all things are possible!"

All: Come as a child to the miraculous kingdom of the miraculous God!

Prayer of Invocation

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.

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Offering of Our Gifts

The Call to Stewardship

*Doxology (*Unison*)

Old Hundredth

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*)

Loving God, we did not carry gifts to the manger, for that birth was far away in distance and time. Yet by your grace, our gifts of love are still warmly received. Knowing this, we joyfully bring these offerings to the Christ who is as close as life itself and ever-present throughout the ages. Amen.

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The Christmas Story

Presented by the Children's Community Corner

During the pageant, the congregation will join in singing the following carols:

Carol 134

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

- (1) O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
- (2) O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray,
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

- (1) Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.
- (2) He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.
- (3) And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Carol 132 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Adeste Fideles

- (1) O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels.
(Refrain) O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!
- (2) Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
(Refrain) O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Carol 137 *Away in a Manger*

Away in a Manger

- (1) Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
- (2) The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Carol 146 *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

Winchester New

- (1) While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, the
angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.
- (2) "To you, in David's town, this day is born of David's line the Savior, who is
Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:
- (3) "The heavenly babe you there shall find to human view displayed, all meanly
wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid."

- (1) We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
- (2) Glorious now behold him arise, King, and God, and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, alleluia! Sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

- (1) Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing;
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
- (2) Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy;
Repeat the sounding joy; repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- (3) He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love;
And wonders of his love; and wonders, wonders of his love.

Benediction

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Leading Worship This Evening

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor
Ernie Drown, Organist
The Children's Community Corner

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Many thanks to Rachel Silver and the Children's Community Corner and their families for making this year's Christmas pageant possible. We wish you all a Merry Christmas!

...and a Happy New Year!



Merry Christmas!

Many, many thanks to all those who generously offered contributions to our **OPEN DOOR MINISTRY** for community assistance, in honor or memory of their loved ones listed below.

IN HONOR OF...

DeAnn/Mom/Mema—*Brian, Amy, Katie, and Grace*

Ike's mom, Betty Adams; Ike's aunt, Terri Reese; our children Carey Jacobs and Craig Jacobs; and dear friend Terry Grigsby—*Linda and Ike Jacobs*

Des and Walter, Hannah and James, Aunti Em, Grandma Kathy, and Gg—*Deb and Jon Scott*

JoAnn and Alan Smith—*Rachel, Steve, and Chip Silver*

IN MEMORY OF...

My aunt Gloria—*Ron Bailey*

Charles E. Baldwin III—*Lola Baldwin*

Family and friends who have passed on—*Kathy and Warren Belding*

Sandy Driscoll, Bill Driscoll, and Maury Clancy—*Brian, DeAnn, Amy, Katie, and Grace*

Our parents—*Marcia Corkins and Pete Mason*

Jean Gerlach, Elsa and Ben Hopkins, and Izetta and Ted Hopkins—*Linda and Bob Gerlach*

Gloria P. Hammond—*Philip Hammond*

Laura and Gordon "Doc" Place—*Sue and Ken Gould and Family*

Linda's parents, Barbara and Maurice Sumner; Linda's grammy, Ruby Sumner; Linda's aunt, Betty Sumner King; Ike's dad, Raymond Adams; and dear friends, loved and missed: Betty and Ellis Howard, Laura and Doc Place, Helen Smith, and Gracie Morse—*Linda and Ike Jacobs*

Marilyn—*Pete Mason*

My parents, the Rev. A. Bertram Miller and Mary Margaret Miller—*Elizabeth Nestler*

Grandpas Jim, Roger, and Ken—*Deb and Jon Scott*

Ruth and S. F. Silver, and Moms—*Steve, Rachel, and Chip Silver*

Ginger—*Wendell Smith*

Frances and Robert Richmond, Doris and Roscoe Stone, and the Rev. Norman and Doris Dubie—*Carol and Chuck Stone*



SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

8:00 pm, FCC Sanctuary (and on Zoom)

The story of Christ's birth in Scripture and traditional carols. Steve Silver will preach and our choir will sing, as we gather together at the manger on Christmas Eve.

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

We invite you to consider a donation to the UCC's Christmas Fund, also known as the Fund for 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 at www.pbucc.org/index.php/christmas-fund-home. Thanks!

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)
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