



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 14, 2024

When people talk, listen completely. Most people never listen.

–Ernest Hemingway

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

Prelude *Andante with Variations in D* Felix Mendelssohn

Call to Worship Psalm 139:1-6, 13-14

One: O LORD, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

All: **You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.**

One: Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

All: **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

One: For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

All: **I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.**

Hymn 32 (p. 4) *Awake, My Soul, and With the Sun* Morning Hymn

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 *Come, Ye That Love the Lord* Trad., arr. Alice Parker

Children’s Moment

Today we read two stories from Scripture about people being called by God to do his work. Each call is unique; each person who is called is unique. One doesn’t have to be a prophet or a minister or a person who speaks beautifully. God can work with anyone, make use of anybody’s gifts, to do his work. Sometimes God wants those he calls to do

mighty deeds, other times to do something small that will still make a difference. So, remember this: God calls all sorts of people, even people like you and me!

Hymn 404 (p. 5) *Take My Life and Let It Be*

Vienna

Scripture Lessons

1 Samuel 3:1-20. Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." ¹¹Then the Lord said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." ¹⁷Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him." ¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

John 1:43-51. ⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is

truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Sermon "Do You Hear Me?" Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 391 (p. 6) *Be Thou My Vision* Slane

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, Gordon, Greg, Jan, Edith, Eileen, Waneta, Terry, Juanita, Dan, Travis, Garrett, Sue, Rick, Edward, Duane, Priscilla, Ron, Lauren, Brian, Micah, and Al.

God of the Exodus, we recall this day the mighty deeds you did on behalf of our forebears who were held in bondage in Egypt. We celebrate how you led them to freedom, and we give thanks that you brought them to a new land, a place of bounty and possibility. As we remember these things, we confess that the fight for liberty and human dignity is not just something that required the work of our ancestors—it is something that needs our commitment this very day. Inspire, encourage, and motivate us to fight for equality and freedom for all of your children.

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 *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* Harold Friedell

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*)

Generous, Wondrous, Creator God: In power, you call the world into being. With grace, you take the world into your heart. In love, you serve the world in Jesus. Inspired, encouraged, and empowered by you, we now give joyfully and generously of ourselves. In the name of your Son we pray, Amen.

Hymn 322 (p. 7) *Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult* Galilee

Benediction

Postlude Andante Religioso, from *Sonata IV* Felix Mendelssohn

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Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Barbara Jones, Liturgist
Linda Gerlach and Dawn Troutman, Ushers • Bob Gerlach, Zoom Greeter

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32 Awake, My Soul, and With the Sun

Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

MORNING HYMN L.M.
François H. Barthélémon, 1741-1808

1 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun Thy dai - ly stage of du - ty run;
2 Wake and lift up thy - self, my heart, And with the an - gels bear thy part,
3 Lord, I my vows to thee re - new; Dis - perse my sins as morn - ing dew;
4 Di - rect, con - trol, sug - gest, this day, All I de - sign, or do, or say,
5 Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise him, all crea - tures here be - low;

Shake off dull sloth, and joy - ful rise To pay thy morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
Who all night long, un - wea - ried, sing High praise to the e - ter - nal King.
Guard my first springs of thought and will, And with thy - self my spir - it fill.
That all my powers, with all their might, In thy sole glo - ry may u - nite.
Praise him a - bove, ye heav - en - ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Take My Life and Let It Be

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Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879

VIENNA 7.7.7.7.

Melody by Justin H. Knecht, 1752-1817

1 Take my life, and let it be Con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands, and let them move At the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my will, and make it thine; It shall be no long - er mine;
4 Take my love: my Lord I pour At thy feet its treas - ure store;

Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them flow in cease-less praise.
Take my feet, and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
Take my heart, it is thine own; It shall be thy roy - al throne.
Take my - self, and I will be Ev - er, on - ly, all for thee. A - men.

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 Covenant Members to be Received— Sunday, February 4
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.

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Be Thou My Vision

*Ancient Irish**Tr. by Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931**Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935*

SLANE 10.10.9.10.

*Traditional Irish Melody**Harm. by David Evans, 1874-1948**In unison*

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,
 4 High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

Nought be all else to me save that thou art.
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 Thou mine in - her - it - ance, now and al - ways;
 May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Thou my great Fa - ther, I thy true son;
 Thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
 High King of heav - en, my treas - ure thou art.
 Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all. A - men.

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



THE SOUPER BOWL IS BACK!

With pro football's championship game happening next month, it's time once again to support this year's **SOUPER BOWL**! We will tackle local hunger with a collection of soup and other non-perishable items, to be split among our neighbors at **HEADREST**, the **UPPER VALLEY HAVEN**, and **LISTEN COMMUNITY SERVICES**.

Donations may be left in the boxes in the Parish Hall until February 11. You may also bring them directly to any of the three beneficiaries (please let us know if you do so). THANK YOU!!

Please Note: CONTENT FOR THE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT DUE FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

Thanks so much to all who have already submitted material for FCC's 2023 Annual Report! Please note that reports should be as concise as possible, summarizing in the briefest possible terms only the most relevant and noteworthy items particular to your committee.

The 2024 Annual Meeting will be Sunday, February 11, 2024



Upper Valley Music Center Community Chorus—Friday, January 19, at 7:00 pm

Directed by Annie Arrington and accompanied by Will Ögmundson, UVMC’s Community Chorus is pleased to offer its debut concert! The program includes a variety of musical styles and genres, following the group’s motto—Just Sing! *More at uvmusic.org/event/community-chorus-uvmc-concert.*

The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, Jan. 26, Feb. 9 and 23, Mar. 8 and 22, all at 7:30 pm

Our comfy community venue for live folk music is thriving in its fourth season! Come and go as you please; food and drink available. *Free admission. For performers and more, visit anoncoffee.org.*

Cantabile Women’s Voices: Northern Exposure—Sunday, January 28, at 3:00 pm

Kathy Sherlock-Green brings back this outstanding chorus with an exploration of music from across northern Europe and Canada. They’ll sing music of Eriks Esenvalds, Kim André Arnesen, Jean Sibelius, Canadians Eleanor Daley and Donald Patriquin, and an original piece by Kim Baryluk based on Native Canadian Mi’kmaq chant. *Adults \$15, seniors \$10, students (13+) \$5, under 13 free. Advance purchase preferred; more at www.cantabilewomen.org.*

Benjamin Kulp, Cello, and Chenyu Wang, Piano—Sunday, February 11, at 3:00 pm

UVMC’s longtime cellist Ben Kulp joins new faculty member Chenyu Wang for a concert of short works for cello and piano. *More at uvmusic.org/event/ben-kulp-cello-and-chenyu-wang-piano.*

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 26 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 are available in the Parish Hall.*



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)

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