



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 28, 2024

I have often repented of judging too severely, but seldom of being too merciful.

—John Wesley

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 4-7.

Prelude *Prelude in G, op. 37 no. 2* Felix Mendelssohn

Call to Worship Psalm 111:1-4, 9-10

One: Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

All: Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

One: Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

All: He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the LORD is gracious and merciful.

One: He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name.

All: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.

Hymn 64 (p. 4) *All Creatures of Our God and King* Lasst uns erfreuen

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 *The Lord's Prayer* Albert Hay Malotte

Children's Moment

Hymn 43 (p. 5) *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies* Ratisbon

Scripture Lessons

Deuteronomy 18:15-20. ¹⁵The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” ¹⁷Then the Lord replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

Mark 1:21-28. ²¹They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Sermon

“Duly Authorized”

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 211 (p. 6)

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Aberystwyth

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, Al, and Steve.

Today we confess: We do not know it all. We do not have all the answers. We are all too often guided by our whims, and not by the truth. Like the man at the synagogue in Capernaum, we must each face our own demons, those of pride, of arrogance, of delusion, of want. Help us, we pray, to fight off and reject these temptations, to instead dedicate ourselves to following you and your Way, knowing that we need not struggle alone, that you are with us, always.

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

The Lord Is My Shepherd

Howard Goodall

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*)

God, you have trusted us with your Gospel, believing in our ability to share the good news of your love through our words and deeds. Accept this offering as a sign of our commitment to do the work you have charged us to do. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Hymn 93 (p. 7)

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Cwm Rhondda

Benediction

Postlude

Fugue in G, op. 37 no. 2

Felix Mendelssohn

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Phil Hammond, Baritone

Bob Gerlach, Liturgist • Corrine Erskine and Ike Jacobs, Ushers • Linda Jacobs, Zoom

THE SOUPER BOWL IS HERE!

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!!

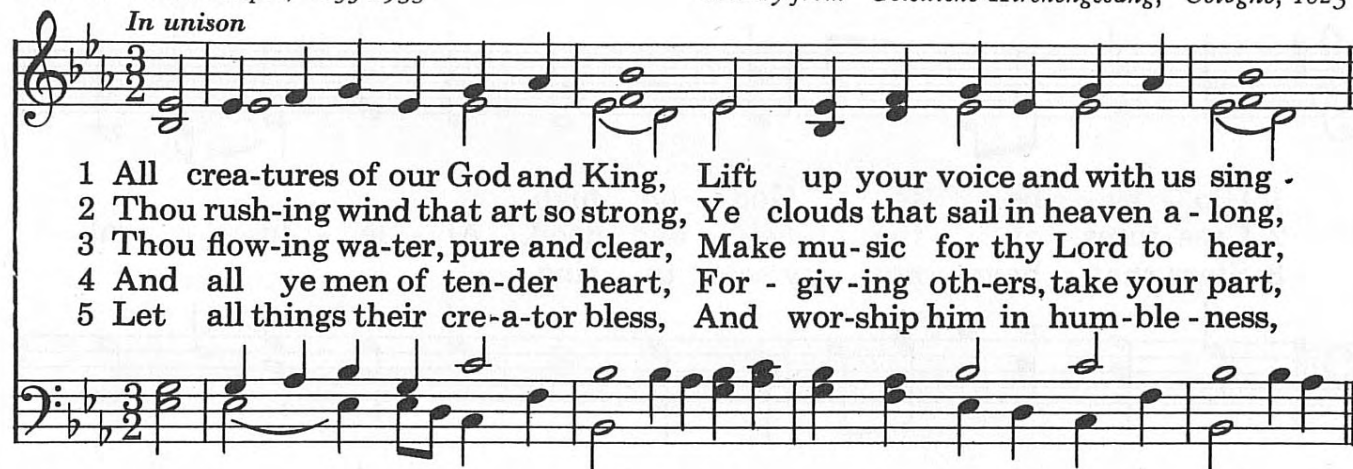
All Creatures of Our God and King

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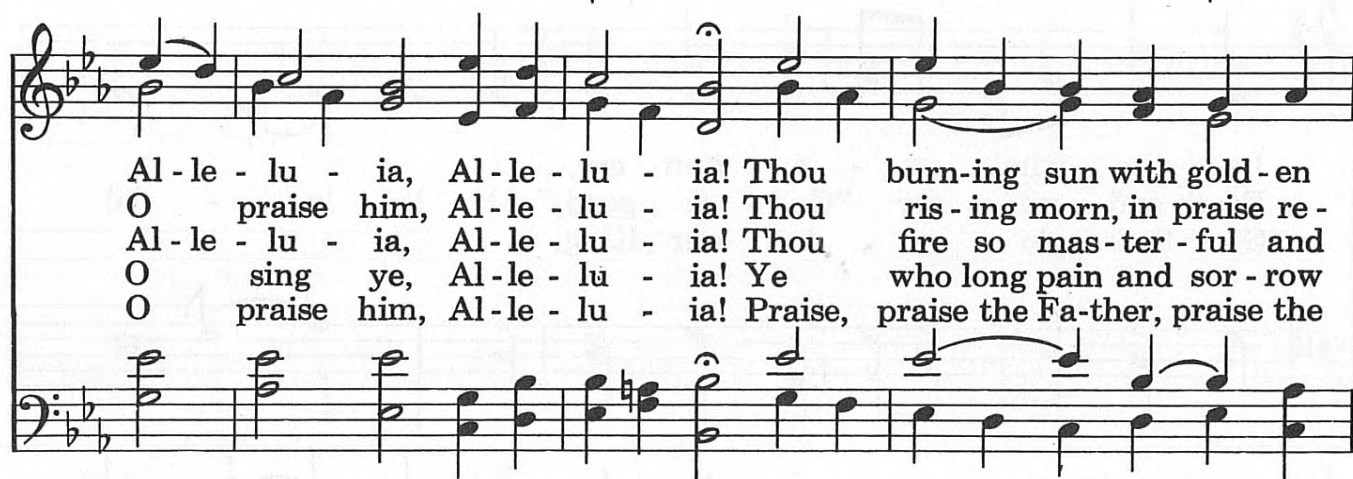
St. Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226
Tr. William H. Draper, 1855-1933

LASST UNS ERFREUEN 8.8.4.4.8.8. with Alleluias
Melody from "Geistliche Kirchengesäng," Cologne, 1623

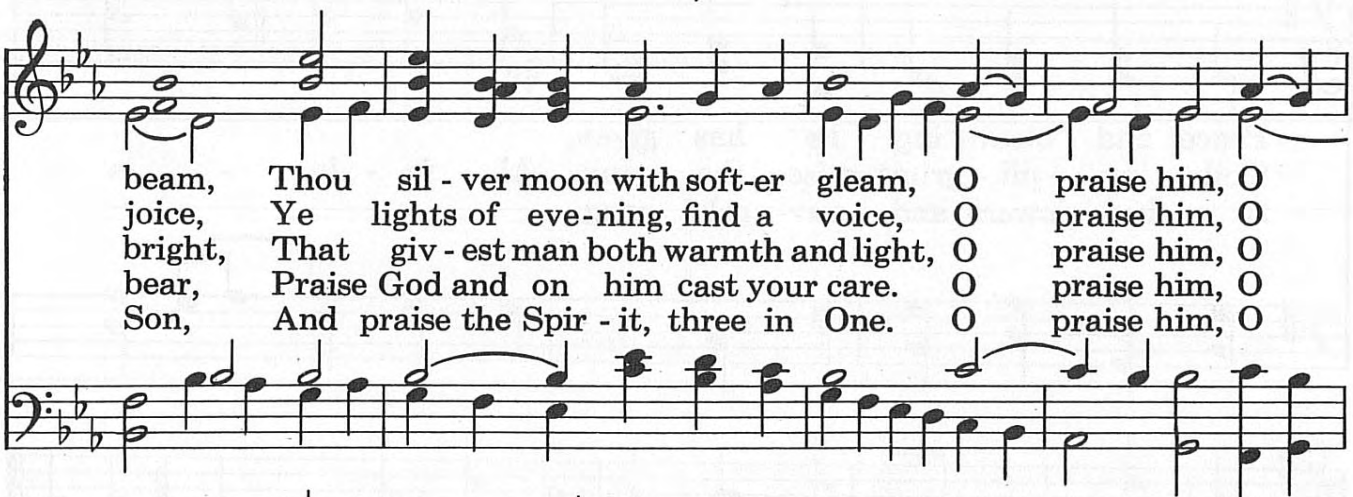
In unison



1 All crea-tures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us sing -
2 Thou rush-ing wind that art so strong, Ye clouds that sail in heaven a - long,
3 Thou flow-ing wa-ter, pure and clear, Make mu-sic for thy Lord to hear,
4 And all ye men of ten-der heart, For - giv-ing oth-ers, take your part,
5 Let all things their cre-a-tor bless, And wor-ship him in hum-ble-ness,



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Thou burn-ing sun with gold - en
O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Thou ris - ing morn, in praise re -
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Thou fire so mas - ter - ful and
O sing ye, Al - le - lu - ia! Ye who long pain and sor - row
O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise, praise the Fa - ther, praise the



beam, Thou sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam, O praise him, O
joice, Ye lights of eve - ning, find a voice, O praise him, O
bright, That giv - est man both warmth and light, O praise him, O
bear, Praise God and on him cast your care. O praise him, O
Son, And praise the Spir - it, three in One. O praise him, O



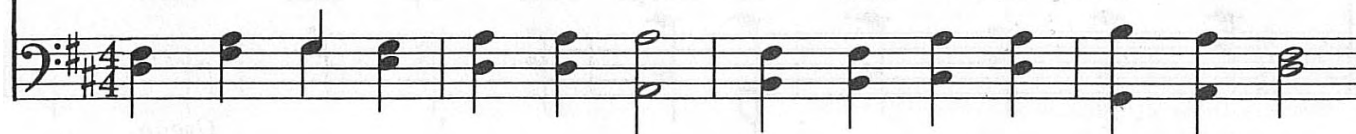
praise him, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

RATISBON 7.7.7.7.7.
Johann Werner's "Choralbuch," 1815

1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the on - ly Light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn Un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;



Sun of right-eous-ness, a - rise, Tri-umph o'er the shades of night;
Joy - less is the day's re - turn, Till thy mer - cy's beams I see,



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
Till they in-ward light im - part, Glad my eyes, and warm my heart. A-men.



3 Visit, then, this soul of mine;
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, Radiancy divine,
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.

New Covenant Members to be Received Next 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.

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Second Tune

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Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

ABERYSTWYTH 7.7.7.7.D.

Joseph Parry, 1841-1903

1 Je - sus, lov - er of my soul, Let me to thy bos - om fly,
2 Oth - er ref - uge have I none; Hangs my help - less soul on thee;
3 Plen - teous grace with thee is found, Grace to cov - er all my sin;

While the near - er wa - ters roll, While the tem - pest still is high;
Leave, ah! leave me not a - lone, Still sup - port and com - fort me.
Let the heal - ing streams a - bound, Make and keep me pure with - in.

Hide me, O my Sav - ior, hide, Till the storm of life is past;
All my trust on thee is stayed, All my help from thee I bring;
Thou of life the foun - tain art, Free - ly let me take of thee;

Safe in - to the ha - ven guide, O re - ceive my soul at last!
Cov - er my de - fense - less head With the shad - ow of thy wing.
Spring thou up with - in my heart, Rise to all e - ter - ni - ty. A - men.

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

William Williams, 1717-1791

Tr. Peter Williams, 1727-1796, and others

CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

John Hughes, 1873-1932

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, Pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, Whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might-y; Hold me with thy
 stream doth flow; Let the fire and cloud-y pil - lar Lead me all my
 fears sub - side; Death of death, and hell's de-struc-tion, Land me safe on

power - ful hand; Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 jour - ney through; Strong De - liv - erer, strong De - liv - erer,
 Ca - naan's side; Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es,

Feed me till I want no more, Feed me till I want no more.
 Be thou still my strength and shield, Be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee, I will ev - er give to thee. A-men.

NOTICE of ANNUAL MEETING – Sunday, February 11, 11:30 am (on Zoom)

The Annual Meeting of First Congregational Church of Lebanon, NH, will be held online in Zoom format on **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024, AT 11:30 AM**, after that morning's worship service, for the following purposes:

1. To hear the reports of all officers, committees, and organizations, as required under the CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS of the church.
2. The election of all officers provided for under the CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS of the church.
3. To consider and act upon any other matters relating to the general church welfare that may properly come before this meeting.



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Winter Concerts

All in the FCC Sanctuary

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*

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.

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.



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