



## Children's Moment

Today is Father's Day. Each of us has a father. Every single one of us. Yet we may never see this father.

Huh? Well, you may have figured out that I'm talking about God the Father. That's a much more intimate description than God the Creator, isn't it? But what about moms? Well, we had Mother's Day in May. So, moms count too.

But back to fathers. Just what does it mean to call God *Father*? The relationship between God and Jesus is intimate, it's close. And it's one that each of us should want. The good news is God wants to be close to us, too. We just need to open ourselves up to God.

**Hymn 362** (p. 5)      *Awake, My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve*

Christmas

## Scripture Lessons

*1 Samuel 15:34-16:13.* <sup>34</sup>Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. <sup>35</sup>Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.

<sup>16</sup> The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'" <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup>He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." <sup>7</sup>But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

<sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." <sup>12</sup>He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." <sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

*Mark 4:26-34.* <sup>26</sup>He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup>and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

<sup>30</sup>He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

<sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup>he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

**Sermon**                                      “Don’t Judge Books by Their Covers”                                      Stephen R. Silver

**Hymn 714** (p. 6)                      *God of the Fertile Fields*                                      Italian Hymn

### **Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer**

*As we hold community members in prayer, please exercise care and discretion when sharing.*

Today we offer our ongoing prayers for Pete, Arlene, Evelyn, Greg, Jan, Edith, Eileen, Waneta, Terry, Juanita, Dan, Travis, Garrett, Sue, Rick, Edward, Duane, Priscilla, Ron, Lauren, Brian, Micah, Al, Steve, Denzil, and Lisa.

Almighty God, we know from Scripture that you do not judge us by our appearance. However we dress, whatever we look like, you do not care. You look into our hearts, you know what is truly important to us. We learned from Jesus the disdain in which people who engage in showy stances of prayer are held. We fear that we might fall into the trap of performative religion. Help us, dear God. Help us to be humble, help us to remain true—true to your teachings, true to your path as revealed in Jesus. Let us look into our own hearts, and let us find a love of you and nothing else.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. 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.*

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, bountiful God: we thank you for all you have done for us, and we wish to show our gratitude. We do so by sharing with you our gifts this morning, an offering of our commitment to help those less fortunate than ourselves, no matter where they may be, or whom they may be.

Hymn 540 (p. 7)

We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed

New Beginnings

Benediction

Postlude

On a Theme of Orlando Gibbons, op. 105, no. 2

Charles V. Stanford

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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.

# Awake, My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve

362

Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

CHRISTMAS C.M.

Georg F. Handel, 1685-1759

1 A - wake, my soul, stretch ev - ery nerve, And  
2 A cloud of wit - ness - es a - round Hold  
3 'Tis God's all - an - i - mat - ing voice That  
4 Blest Sav - ior, in - tro - duced by thee, Have

press with vig - or on; A heavenly race de - mands thy zeal,  
thee in full sur - vey; For - get the steps al - read - y trod,  
calls thee from on high; 'Tis his own hand pre - sents the prize  
I my race be - gun; And, crowned with vic - tory, at thy feet

And an im - mor - tal crown, And an im - mor - tal crown.  
And on - ward urge thy way, And on - ward urge thy way.  
To thine as - pir - ing eye, To thine as - pir - ing eye.  
I'll lay my hon - ors down, I'll lay my hon - ors down. A - men.

\* \* \*

## Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist/Pianist • The FCC Choir • Denise Moriearty, Liturgist

Phil Hammond and Bob Ross, Ushers • Sue Pratt, Zoom Greeter

# God of the Fertile Fields

714

1 God of the fer - tile fields, shap - er of  
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in  
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that  
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your  
 trust from you all that you give; help us in  
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our  
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,  
 love to share, teach us like you to care  
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,  
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - ery land be clothed and fed.  
 for peo - ple ev - ery - where, that all may live.  
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.  
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Greater awareness has enlarged Christian stewardship to develop new dimensions of concern for people in all parts of the world. Because we believe that it is God's will that the gifts we have received should be shared, this hymn concludes with that phrase from the Lord's Prayer.

TEXT: Georgia Harkness, 1955, alt.  
 MUSIC: Felice de Giardini, 1769, alt.  
 Text © 1955, ren. 1983 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

ITALIAN HYMN  
 6.6.4.6.6.6.4

*Matt. 13:31–32; Mark 4:30–32; Luke 13:18–19;  
John 13:34–35; 15:12–17*

*Mary Bryan Matney, 1990*

1 We plant a grain of mus - tard seed, and in our faith we find  
2 Our ac - tions, more than words, de - fine how love's ex - am - ple feeds  
3 When stooped to lend a help - ing hand, we find a touch that heals,  
4 Make love our pur - pose, love our aim, for love en - dures all things,

the proof of God is love, in - deed, which blos - soms from its kind;  
a great - er love, for love di - vine bursts forth from small - est seeds;  
for love in - vest - ed will ex - pand to bear the fruit love yields;  
and choos - ing love our lives will claim the peace for - give - ness brings;

the proof of God is love, in - deed, which blos - soms from its kind.  
a great - er love, for love di - vine bursts forth from small - est seeds.  
for love in - vest - ed will ex - pand to bear the fruit love yields.  
and choos - ing love our lives will claim the peace for - give - ness brings.

*Mary Bryan Matney and Sally Ann Morris wrote this hymn in 1990 for the marriage of friends. In 1992, it won first prize in its category in a hymnwriting competition sponsored by the Charlotte, North Carolina, chapter of the American Guild of Organists.*

Tune: NEW BEGINNINGS 8.6.8.6.8.6.  
*Sally Ann Morris, 1990*



### *Classicopia: Rhapsodie Française—Sunday, June 16, at 2:00 pm*

Dan Weiser welcomes a new performer to the Classicopia family, violinist Joshua Peckins, for a wonderful program of French music by Camille Saint-Saëns, Claude Debussy, Lili Boulanger, Maurice Ravel, and more. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at [classicopia.org](http://classicopia.org).*

### *15th Annual Carolan Festival—Saturday, June 29, at 7:00 pm*

UVMC hosts an all-day gathering for those who play, listen, sing, or dance to the music of Irish harper and composer Turlough O'Carolan (1670-1738). After a full afternoon of workshops at several downtown locations, the evening concert at FCC will feature harpers Dominique Dodge and Rachel Clemente. *Adults \$25 (suggested), under-18 free; more at [carolanfestvt.com](http://carolanfestvt.com).*

### *Classicopia: The Folk Cello—Sunday, June 30, at 2:00 pm (Rescheduled from April 21)*

South African cellist Jacques-Pierre Malan joins Dan Weiser to explore folk influences in music for cello and piano by Edvard Grieg, Astor Piazzolla, and a suite based on Georgian tunes by Sulkhan Tsintsadze. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at [classicopia.org/concert/the-folk-cello/](http://classicopia.org/concert/the-folk-cello/).*

### *Oak Hill Music Festival: Season Three!—Week of July 8-13 (Various Dates/Programs)*

Hanover-born bassoonist Leah Kohn and her violinist husband Niv Ashkenazi lead this third cast of professional musicians for a week in residence at FCC. They'll play two concerts here during the week, with a third in Norwich. *Full schedule, details, and ticket options at [www.oakhillmusicfestival.com](http://www.oakhillmusicfestival.com).*

### *Classicopia: Czech, Please!—Sunday, July 14, at 2:00 pm*

Dan Weiser welcomes violinist Andréa Picard Boecker and cellist Alicia Ward for a program of music that dances and moves the spirit, in piano trios by Bedrich Smetana and Antonín Dvořák. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at [classicopia.org/concert/czech-please/](http://classicopia.org/concert/czech-please/).*

## Do Your Part to Fill the Cart!

Join the fight against poverty and food insecurity in the Upper Valley by leaving contributions in our shopping cart in the Parish Hall, benefiting a variety of local service organizations.

**This month, we're collecting non-perishable food and personal-care items on behalf of:**

### LISTEN COMMUNITY SERVICES

For a list of current and ongoing needs, please visit [listencs.org/food-pantry#itemsweneedthemost](http://listencs.org/food-pantry#itemsweneedthemost) or see the list that is attached to the shopping cart itself.

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

*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](mailto:prayer@fccleb.org) or speak with Rev. Silver directly.*

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THANKS TO ALL who generously participated in Shelter Sunday this year! We give these gifts to the glory of God, lovingly honoring and remembering the fathers in our lives.

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## IN HONOR OF...

My sons Doug and Dave and the dads working on Habitat homes—*Ron Bailey*

Our sons, Chris and Rob—*Kathy and Warren Belding*

My wonderful husband Warren—*Kathy Belding*

All the dads in our families—*Marcia Corkins and Pete Mason*

Ike Jacobs, a wonderful dad and husband, and helping friend to many—*Linda Jacobs*

Our grandsons-in-law, Etienne Houdegbe, Matt Henry, and Brenden MacAskill—*Linda and Ike*

David Rappaport (Dad)—*Nan Parsons and Kailyn Rappaport*

Jon, Grandpa Ron, and our sons Walter and James—*Deb and Jon Scott*

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

The many father-figures of FCC who contribute to Dominic's development—*Stacey and Dominic*

My dad, John Troutman—*Dawn Troutman*

## IN MEMORY OF...

My father and grandfathers—*Ron Bailey*

Our fathers, Wayne Perkins and Robert Belding—*Kathy and Warren Belding*

Willard Wilson and the Rev. Loring D. Chase—*Karen and Christopher Chase*

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

Our fathers, Sherwood M. Avery and Carlton S. Mason, Sr.—*Marcia Corkins and Pete Mason*

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

Earle W. Pike and Ralph F. Hammond—*Philip Hammond*

Maurice Sumner (Linda's dad), Raymond Adams (Ike's dad), Arthur King (Linda's uncle), and Harold Jacobs (Ike's uncle)—*Linda and Ike Jacobs*

David L. Huestis, my caring dad; and all fathers and father-figures at FCC—*Barbara Jones*

Joseph Prescott Logan, loving father of Dan, Kate, Greg, and Laurie—*Dan Logan*

Larry Kirkpatrick (Grandpap), Robert Parsons (Gramps), and Donald Parsons (Bop)—  
*Nan Parsons and Kailyn Rappaport*

My dad, Alfred Walling—*Susan Pratt*

Our dads, Jim and Ken—*Deb and Jon Scott*

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

My father, William A. Smith—*Dr. Kenneth W. Smith*

My father, J. Henry Smith—*Wendell Smith*

(Great)Grandpa Hezekiah, Grandpa Keith, and Uncle Noel—*Stacey and Dominic*

Our fathers, Robert Richmond and Roscoe Stone—*Carol and Chuck Stone*



**First Congregational Church of Lebanon**

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**Weekly Worship Resources Enclosed!**

*DATED MATERIAL—Please Deliver Promptly*

***Do you use email? Contact [church@fcclleb.org](mailto: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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