

First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ - Open and Affirming

ALL SAINTS' DAY (Observed) • The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost October 27, 2024

God asks little, but He gives much.

-St. John Chrysostom

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

Prelude

O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig, BWV 656

Johann Sebastian Bach

Call to Worship Psalm 24

One: The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;

All: For he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

One: Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?

All: Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.

One: They will receive blessing from the LORD, and vindication from the God of their salvation.

All: Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

One: Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in!

All: Who is the King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle.

One: Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in!

All: Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory.

Hymn 306 (p. 5) For All the Saints

Sine Nomine

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 Cantate Domino Giuseppe Pitoni

"Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful. Let Israel be glad in his maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King." (Psalm 149:1-2)

Children's Moment

Today we observe All Saints' Day. We remember the good and holy people who have gone before us. But we also remember those who are with us now. Look around and you will see saints everywhere, not just here in church, but at school, and in the park, and at the store. Saints are everywhere. Why? Because any one of us can be a saint.

Hymn 309 (p. 6) Jerusalem the Golden

Ewing

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 25:6-9. On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

John 11:32-44. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Sermon "Saints Alive!"

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 420 (p. 7) O Holy City, Seen of John

Morning Song

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 our ongoing prayers for Pete, Marcia, 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 Jacobe.

On this Sunday when we observe the Feast of All Saints, let us remember those who have gone before us, those who have blazed the path we follow, as we all seek to make our way to you, our God who loves us and cares for us. Give us the strength not only to remember the saints but also to emulate them. Let us act not so that posterity will sing our praises, but because it is what you would have us do.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ, 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)

Holy and gracious God, we know that the needs are great, but we also know that in giving, we are blessed. And so, we present this morning's offering, believing, knowing that in doing so, we receive much from you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Hymn 576 (p. 8) For the Healing of the Nations Westminster Abbey

Benediction

Postlude A Benediction (God Be in My Head) H. Walford Davies

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Ann Gartner, Liturgist Linda Gerlach and Bob Ross, Ushers • Bob Gerlach, 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.

Stewardship Sunday is November 17

Our annual stewardship appeal will soon be in the mail, and you are invited to prayerfully consider your commitment to the mission and ministry of First Congregational Church in the coming year. In three weeks, we will gratefully dedicate our 2025 pledges together in worship.

Grafton-Orange-Sullivan Association Fall Meeting-Sunday, Nov. 17, at 2:00 (Lyme UCC)

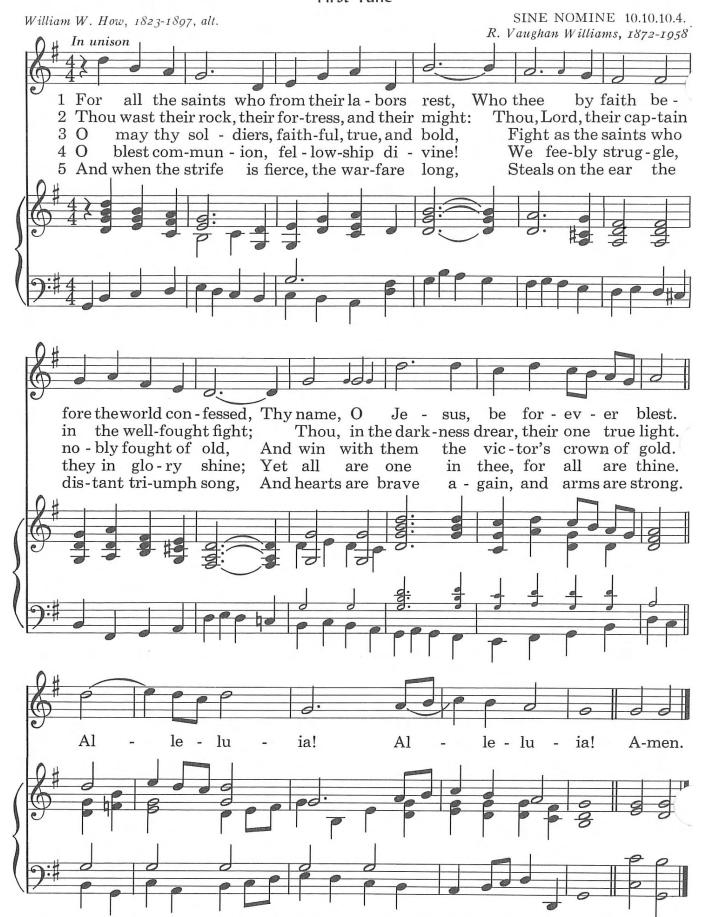
The **Grafton-Orange-Sullivan Association** of the NH Conference (UCC) will discuss its future at its fall meeting at Lyme Congregational Church. The Association will vote on whether to fold its operations into a new state-wide body, and all are invited to attend and participate.

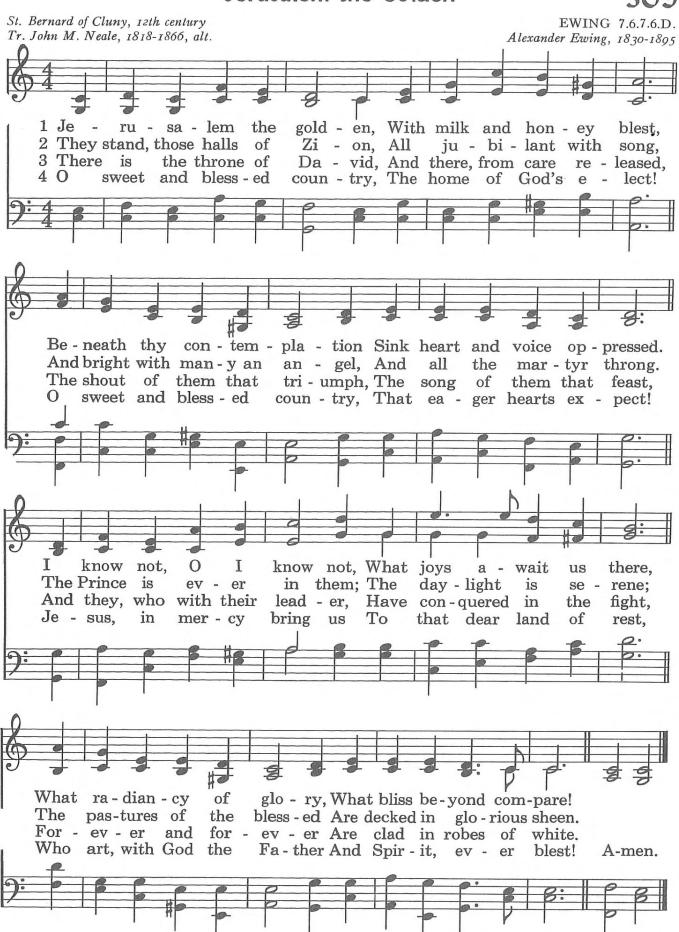
Last Call! Neighbors in Need Special Offering—Mental-Health Justice for All

The UCC's Neighbors in Need program supports ministries of justice and compassion across the country. Two-thirds of the collection funds the UCC's **Justice and Witness Ministries** in local and national initiatives, advocacy efforts, and the fight against systemic injustice. The rest goes to the **Council for American Indian Ministry**, a voice for Native Americans in the UCC, sustaining a proud denominational tradition of support. **This year, NIN focuses on mental-health justice,** treating mental health as a God-given right and dismantling the shame and stigma around it.

Please contribute as you're able to this vital mission program, by cash or check (payable to FCC, memo "Neighbors in Need") or online at www.ucc.org/nin. Thank you!

For All the Saints





W. Russell Bowie, 1882-

MORNING SONG 8.6.8.6.8.6. Melody, "Kentucky Harmony," 1816 Harm. by C. Winfred Douglas, 1867-1944



- 1 O ho ly cit y, seen of John, Where Christ, the Lamb, doth reign,
- 2 O shame to us who rest con-tent While lust and greed for gain
- 3 Give us, O God, the strength to build The cit y that hath stood





With-in whose four-square walls shall come No night, nor need, nor pain, In street and shop and ten-e-ment Wring gold from hu-man pain, Too long a dream, whose laws are love, Whose ways are broth-er-hood,





And where the tears are wiped from eyes That shall not weep a - gain, And bit - ter lips in blind de - spair Cry, "Christ hath died in vain!" And where the sun that shin - eth is God's grace for hu - man good.



4 Already in the mind of God
That city riseth fair:
Lo, how its splendor challenges
The souls that greatly dare,
Yea, bids us seize the whole of life
And build its glory there.

For the Healing of the Nations



Fred Kaan's most widely published text was first sung at Pilgrim Church in Plymouth, England, at a service of worship marking Human Rights Day in 1965. It has been used for many subsequent occasions, including the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY 8.7.8.7.8.7.

Henry Purcell, c. 1680

Arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1842

Music at the Meetinghouse

FALL CONCERTS

All in the FCC Sanctuary

The Anonymous Coffeehouse-Fridays, Oct. 25, Nov. 8 and 22, Dec. 6, all at 7:30 pm

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

Cameo Baroque: An All-Bach Benefit for the Open Door—Sunday, October 27, at 2:00 pm Four superb musicians (Ernie Drown, Beth Hilgartner, Leslie Stroud, and Laurie Rabut) celebrate the music of Johann Sebastian Bach with a selection of trios and arias. Freewill donation to benefit FCC's Open Door Ministry for community assistance. More on Cameo Baroque at cameoarts.org.

Sunflower Woodwind Quintet (Presented by UVMC)—Sunday, November 10, at 1:00 pm This excellent wind ensemble offers musical variety from classical showpieces to dance tunes and a new commission, "Turning Toward." Freewill donation benefits UVMC tuition assistance; more at uvmusic.org.

Classicopia: Jewish Jazz-Saturday, November 16, at 7:30 pm

Dan Weiser presents a new iteration of one of Classicopia's most popular programs, exploring the fascinating early-20th-century synthesis of Klezmer, classical, and jazz influences. Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at classicopia.org.

Upper Valley Music Center Community Chorus—Saturday, November 23, at 4:00 pm Directed by Annie Arrington and accompanied by Will Ögmundson, the Community Chorus at UVMC offers a fun, joyous celebration of song! The program includes a mix of popular songs, folk music, and contemporary compositions. Freewill donation; more at uvmusic.org.

Henry Danaher, Organ-Saturday, November 23, at 7:00 pm

Former FCC organist Henry Danaher, now at the Church of Christ at Dartmouth, returns for a fall evening of organ music by German composers of the 19th century. Free-will donation.

Do Your Part to Fill the Cart!

Currently, we are collecting non-perishable food and personal-care items on behalf of: THE UPPER VALLEY HAVEN

For a list of current and ongoing needs, please visit uppervalleyhaven.org/current-wish-lists/ 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!



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@fccleb.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@fccleb.org • prayer@fccleb.org • music@fccleb.org • www.fccleb.org