



## Words of Welcome; Our Ministry and Mission

Anthem

Kyrie, from *Missa Secunda*

Hans Leo Hassler

### Children's Moment

Let's look to the future. Should we be wary? Or should we be hopeful? The passage we will read from First Samuel tells us to be cautious, while the one from Revelation foretells a wonderful future. Which will it be? Well, I don't know. Nobody does. The Bible is not a book of predictions, but one of comfort and wisdom. The Bible's authors spoke to their own situations, of the empires that threatened ancient Israel and how the Romans ruled the Mediterranean world. We can draw lessons from the Bible, some of which can be very valuable, but we should never expect predictions.

Hymn 435 (p. 6)

*Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor*

Rhuddlan

### Scripture Lessons

*1 Samuel 8:10-18.* <sup>10</sup>So Samuel reported all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking him for a king. <sup>11</sup>He said, "These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots; <sup>12</sup>and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. <sup>13</sup>He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. <sup>14</sup>He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers. <sup>15</sup>He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers. <sup>16</sup>He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle and donkeys, and put them to his work. <sup>17</sup>He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. <sup>18</sup>And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the Lord will not answer you in that day."

*Revelation 21:1-6a.* Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; <sup>4</sup>he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

<sup>5</sup>And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup>Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. [...]"

Sermon

"Holiness and the Vote"

Stephen R. Silver

## 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.

We also offer the Serenity Prayer, originally written by Reinhold Neibuhr:

Today God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,  
courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;

Enjoying one moment at a time;

Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;

Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it;

Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will;

That I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him

Forever in the next.

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

Sanctus, from *Missa Secunda*

Hans Leo Hassler

## 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*)

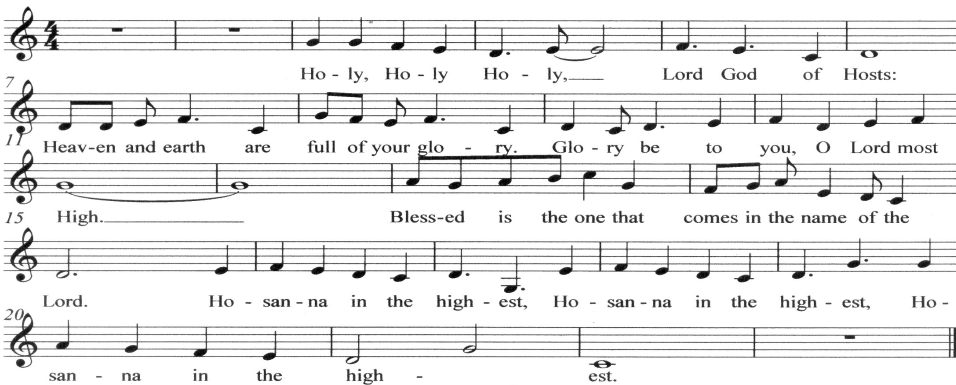
God of majesty, God of power, God of service: We pray that we have the wit and the faith to be good stewards and the courage to share what you have so generously given us. We present this morning's offering as a sign of our desire to walk your path, to care for your people, to try to do as Jesus did. Amen.

## The Sacrament of Holy Communion

For communion, you are invited to have some bread and juice on hand. We will share in the bread and cup at the appointed time. If you would like to receive a blessing, please let the officiant know.

### Invitation and Communion Prayer

**Sanctus**



Ho - ly, Ho - ly Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts:  
7 Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo - ry be to you, O Lord most  
11 High. Bless-ed is the one that comes in the name of the  
15 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho -  
20 san - na in the high - est.

### Sharing of the Bread and Cup

**Communion Music** Benedictus, from *Missa Secunda* Hans Leo Hassler

### Prayer of Thanksgiving (*Unison*)

Because the broken bread has meant our healing, because the outpoured cup has meant our life, because our common sharing has meant the communion of our souls, and because we have here been graced by your presence, God, we give you thanks and pray that our lives may be renewed in the life and the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Hymn 506** (pp. 7-8) *Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table!* Copeland

### Benediction

**Postlude** Agnus Dei, from *Missa Secunda* Hans Leo Hassler

\* \* \*

### *Leading Worship This Week*

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Deb Scott, Liturgist

*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.*

## **Doing What Is Right and Just—Stewardship Sunday is November 17**

*“To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.” —Proverbs 21:3*

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 two weeks, we will gratefully dedicate our 2025 pledges together in worship.

# O God of Earth and Altar

436

Gilbert K. Chesterton, 1874-1936

LLANGLOFFAN 7.6.7.6.D.  
Traditional Welsh Melody

1 O God of earth and al - tar, Bow down and hear our cry;  
2 From all that ter - ror teach - es, From lies of tongue and pen,  
3 Tie in a liv - ing teth - er The prince and priest and thrall;

Our earth - ly rul - ers fal - ter, Our peo - ple drift and die;  
From all the eas - y speech - es That com - fort cru - el men,  
Bind all our lives to - geth - er, Smite us and save us all;

The walls of gold en - tomb us, The swords of scorn di - vide;  
From sale and prof - a - na - tion Of hon - or and the sword,  
In ire and ex - ul - ta - tion A - flame with faith, and free,

Take not thy thun - der from us, But take a - way our pride.  
From sleep and from dam - na - tion, De - liv - er us, good Lord!  
Lift up a liv - ing na - tion, A sin - gle sword to thee. A - men.

## 435

## Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor

Henry S. Holland, 1847-1918, alt.

RHUDDLAN 8.7.8.7.8.7.

Traditional Welsh Melody

1 Judge e - ter - nal, throned in splen - dor, Lord of lords and  
 2 Still the wea - ry folk are pin - ing For the hour that  
 3 Crown, O God, thine own en - deav - or; Cleave our dark - ness

King of kings, With thy liv - ing fire of judg - ment  
 brings re - lease; And the cit - y's crowd - ed clan - gor  
 with thy sword; Feed the faint and hun - gry peo - ples

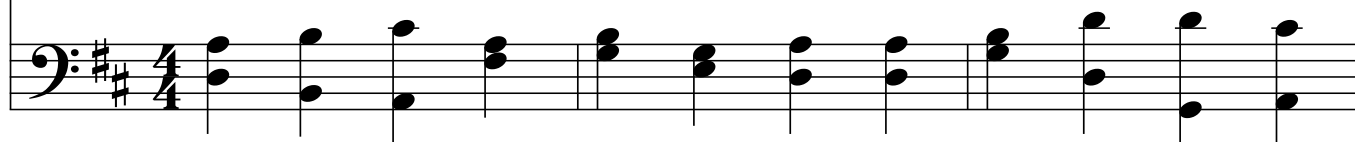
Purge this land of bit - ter things; Sol - ace all its  
 Cries a - loud for sin to cease; And the home - steads  
 With the rich - ness of thy Word; Cleanse the bod - y

wide do - min - ion With the heal - ing of thy wings.  
 and the wood - lands Plead in si - lence for their peace.  
 of this na - tion Through the glo - ry of the Lord. A - men.

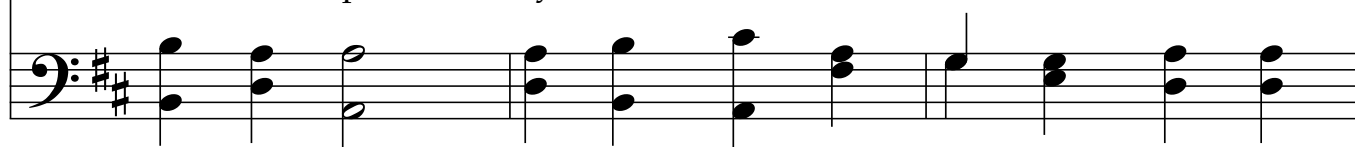
# 506 Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table!



1 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries  
2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -  
3 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand  
4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to



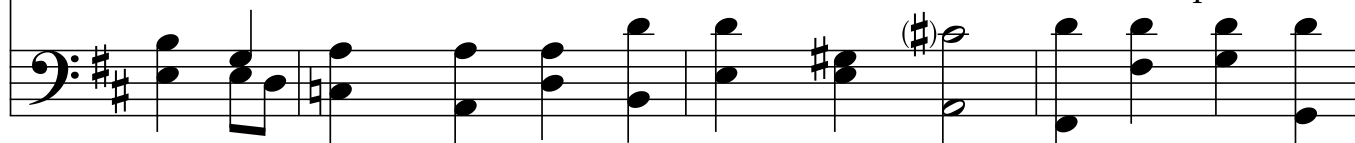
that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;  
ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled  
dif - ferent ways, but they share one thing in com - mon:  
be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,



some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -  
with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -  
they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has in -  
who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and



vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they  
ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his  
vit - ed north and south and east and west to con - verge a -  
breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!—and then pass - es



all are wel - come. There is room for ev - ery - one.  
fruit - less ef - forts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.  
round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.  
wine that wak - ens in your heart the taste of love.

This text celebrates the radical hospitality that characterizes Christ’s welcome, which transcends time and reaches in all directions (Matthew 8:11 / Luke 13:29). Saints of old are, like us, people in need of forgiveness, and the response to such pardon is “thanks and praise.”

TEXT: Thomas H. Troeger, 2000  
MUSIC: Michael Corzine, 2000  
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Music © 2000 Michael Corzine

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8.7.8.7.D



Music  
at the  
Meetinghouse

## FALL CONCERTS

All in the FCC Sanctuary

### *The Anonymous Coffeehouse*—Fridays, 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](http://anoncoffee.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.” *Free-will donation benefits UVMC tuition assistance; more at [uvmusic.org](http://uvmusic.org).*

### *Classicopia: Jewish Jazz*—Saturday, November 16, at 7:30 pm

Pianist Dan Weiser and clarinetist Seth Kibel present a new iteration of one of Classicopia’s most popular programs, exploring the exciting early-20th-century interconnections among Klezmer, classical, and jazz influences. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at [classicopia.org](http://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. *Free-will donation; more at [uvmusic.org](http://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.*

### *Cameo Baroque: Benefit for the Haven’s 19 Days*—Saturday, November 30, at 7:00 pm

Ernie Drown’s superb period-instrument ensemble offers its annual benefit for the UV Haven’s 19 Days of the Valley campaign. *Free-will donation; more at [cameoarts.org](http://cameoarts.org) or [uppervalleyhaven.org](http://uppervalleyhaven.org).*



## **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.

## **Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service—Tuesday, November 26, at 7:00**

**West Lebanon Congregational Church, 18 Maple Street, West Lebanon**

All are invited to gather on Maple Street across town for grateful worship with our friends from the Lebanon United Methodist and West Lebanon Congregational Churches, in this faithful, annual observation of Thanksgiving with our wider community. (*Zoom option also available.*)

## **Support the United Church of Christ's 2024 Hurricane Fund**

Following staggering storm devastation across the Southeast, the United Church of Christ's **Global HOPE** team has appealed for help in addressing the needs of the many affected families and communities. The Global HOPE effort serves both urgent relief and long-term recovery.

**Donating online is the fastest and most effective way to help—[support.ucc.org/hurricane-helene-relief](https://support.ucc.org/hurricane-helene-relief). You may also mail a check, payable to United Church of Christ (memo "Hurricanes 2024"), to PO Box 71957, Cleveland, OH 44194.**

## **CHRISTMAS COMES TO ALL—LISTEN'S HOLIDAY BASKETS**

For years FCC has participated in the Holiday Basket Program organized by LISTEN Community Services. Requests for baskets are always high, as families struggle to provide warm clothing for children and food for holiday meals. LISTEN gathers donations of new items and gift cards for these families, and FCC joins many other partners to support this vital project with donations.

*Please help us fill our baskets by covering a gift for one of our families! Gift wish lists will be available in the Parish Hall (and also updated by email in the coming weeks).*

## **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/](https://uppervalleyhaven.org/current-wish-lists/) or see the list that is attached to the shopping cart itself.



**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](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)*

**603-448-4281 • [church@fcclleb.org](mailto:church@fcclleb.org) • [prayer@fcclleb.org](mailto:prayer@fcclleb.org) • [music@fcclleb.org](mailto:music@fcclleb.org) • [www.fcclleb.org](http://www.fcclleb.org)**