



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY • The Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

November 17, 2024

The greatest lesson you might ever learn in this life is this: It is not about you.

–Shannon L. Adler

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

Prelude *Impromptu in G Flat, op. 90, no. 3* Franz Schubert

Call to Worship Psalm 16

One: Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

All: I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.”

One: As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.

All: Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.

One: The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

All: The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

One: I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

All: I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

One: Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

All: For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit. You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Hymn 691 (p. 4) *Lord, When I Came into This Life* Land of Rest

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 Gift of Love* Hal Hopson

Children's Moment

Hymn 232 (p. 5) *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*

Morecambe

Scripture Lesson

Proverbs 21:1-8. The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will.

²All deeds are right in the sight of the doer, but the Lord weighs the heart.

³To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.

⁴Haughty eyes and a proud heart—the lamp of the wicked—are sin.

⁵The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to want.

⁶The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a snare of death.

⁷The violence of the wicked will sweep them away, because they refuse to do what is just.

⁸The way of the guilty is crooked, but the conduct of the pure is right.

Sermon “Some Wisdom for the Age”

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 98 (p. 6) *My God, I Thank Thee, Who Hast Made*

Wentworth

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, Jacobe, Chris, and Betsy.

Holy God, we turn to you this morning with hopes for the future, with dreams and fears, with assurance and confusion. Much does not make sense to us, but we know that you are aware of everything. *Everything*—big and small, important and meaningless, what matters and what does not. Everything is known to you, O God, and while we may fool ourselves into thinking that we know more than we do, or more than we can, we turn to you, trusting in your knowledge and your wisdom. Though we may continue to seek to know more, help us remember that we do so because we are your creatures, curious, wanting and desiring to learn more, always.

We confess that this desire can be wonderful, but it can also be fearsome. Help us to use our desire to learn, to follow your path, the path of Jesus, who taught us, among other things, to pray:

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

Give Alms of Thy Goods

Christopher Tye

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*)

Bountiful God: we thank you for calling us to be stewards. We acknowledge that while we have been entrusted with much, it is so that we might better serve you and your people. Accept these gifts as a sign of our willingness to serve, and to follow the path of Jesus, with gratitude and faith. In his name we pray. Amen.

Hymn 694 (p. 7)

Great God of Every Blessing

Aurelia

Benediction

Postlude

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Peter Lutkin

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Chris Chase, Liturgist

Carol and Chuck Stone, Ushers • Dawn Troutman, 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.

Doing What Is Right and Just It's Stewardship Sunday!

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

Scripture teaches us that God is more pleased by what we *do*, rather than by what we give up. Gifts of money are important and needed, but if we are looking to please God, we must do more. During what is traditionally seen as a season of giving, we'll explore the concepts of righteousness and justice, and what those concepts mean for our church and for us individually.

You are invited to prayerfully consider your commitment to FCC's mission and ministry in the coming year. This Sunday we will gratefully dedicate our 2025 pledges in worship.

Lord, When I Came into This Life 691

1 Lord, when I came in - to this life you
 2 With - in the cir - cle of the faith, as
 3 In all the ten - sions of my life, be -
 4 So help me in my un - be - lief and

called me by my name; to - day I come, com -
 mem - ber of your cast, I take my place with
 tween my faith and doubt, let your great Spir - it
 let my life be true: feet firm - ly plant - ed

mit my - self, re - spond - ing to your claim.
 all the saints of fu - ture, pres - ent, past.
 give me hope, sus - tain me, lead me out.
 on the earth, my sights set high on you.

Written for the confirmation of the author's son, this text of self-dedication also voices our recurring individual need to recommit ourselves in less formal ways. The familiar shape note tune enhances a sense of finding our place among God's people from all times and places.

TEXT: Fred Kaan, 1976

LAND OF REST

MUSIC: American folk melody; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1988

CM

Text © 1979 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

(alternate harmonization, 545)

Music Harm. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company)

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

232

Attr. to George Croyly, 1780-1860

MORECAMBE 10.10.10.
Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart; Wean it from earth, through
2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies, No sud - den rend - ing
3 Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King? All, all thine own: soul,
4 Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh; Teach me the strug - gles
5 Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love, One ho - ly pas - sion

all its puls - es move; Stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,
of the veil of clay, No an - gel vis - it - ant, no o - pening skies,
heart, and strength, and mind; I see thy cross—there teach my heart to cling;
of the soul to bear: To check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;
fill - ing all my frame; The bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove.

And make me love thee as I ought to love.
But take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
O let me seek thee, and O let me find!
Teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
My heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame. A - men.

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 are available in the Parish Hall (and will also be updated by email in the coming weeks).

Adelaide A. Procter, 1825-1864, *alt.*

WENTWORTH 8.4.8.4.8.4.
Frederick C. Maker, 1844-1927

1 My God, I thank thee, who hast made The earth so bright,
2 I thank thee, too, that thou hast made Joy to a-bound;
3 I thank thee more that all our joy Is touched with pain,
4 I thank thee, Lord, that thou hast kept The best in store;

So full of splen-dor and of joy, Beau-ty and light;
So man-y gen-tle thoughts and deeds Circ-ling us round,
That shad-ows fall on bright-est hours, That thorns re-main,
We have e-nough, yet not too much To long for more:

So man-y glo-rious things are here, No-ble and right.
That in the dark-est spot of earth Some love is found.
So that earth's bliss may be our guide, And not our chain.
A yearn-ing for a deep-er peace Not known be-fore. A-men.

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.)

694 Great God of Every Blessing

1 Great God of ev - ery bless - ing, of faith - ful, lov - ing care,
2 Your Word is our sal - va - tion, the source of end - less grace,
3 Your Spir - it is our teach - er, the light that guides our search,

you are the fount of good - ness, the dai - ly bread we share.
in death and life ex - tend - ing your cov - e - nant em - brace.
trans - form - ing bro - ken peo - ple in - to the ho - ly church.

How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
In Christ we are one bod - y; each mem - ber has a part:
For feed - ing us with mer - cy, for wis - dom you im - part:

sin - cere - ly and com - plete - ly I of - fer you my heart.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are placed between the vocal and piano lines. The score ends with a double bar line.

Written for the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth, this text sums up his liturgical theology, ending each stanza with his motto: *Cor meum tibi offero, Domine, prompte et sincere*. By moving from plural to singular the stanzas show how corporate faith becomes personal piety.

TEXT: David Gambrell, 2009
MUSIC: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864
Text © 2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.)

AURELIA
7.6.7.6.D



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.*

The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, Nov. 22 and Dec. 6, 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.*

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.*

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

Former FCC organist Henry Danaher, now music director at the Church of Christ in Hanover and organist at Dartmouth College, returns for a Thanksgiving program featuring music of J. S. Bach, Felix Mendelssohn, Andrew Clarke, Leo Sowerby, and more. *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 or upppervalleyhaven.org.*

Do Your Part to Fill the Cart!

We’re currently collecting non-perishable food and personal-care items on behalf of:
LISTEN COMMUNITY SERVICES

Please visit listencs.org/food-pantry#itemsweneedthemost or see the list attached to the cart itself.

Advent Begins Sunday, December 1—Let’s Decorate!

Yes, ADVENT! After worship in two weeks we’re going to decorate FCC for the season, and all are warmly invited to stay and help. We’ll hang wreaths, string lights, trim our tree, and have fun as we prepare the church for the festive season of Advent. *Let’s celebrate the season!*

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

We invite you to consider a donation to the UCC’s Christmas Fund, also known as the Fund for the Veterans of the Cross or Emergency Fund. This program offers compassionate, grateful support for retired clergy and their families with pension, healthcare, and emergency assistance.

Please contribute as you’re able to this vital denominational offering, either by check to FCC (memo “Christmas Fund”) or online at www.pbucc.org/index.php/christmas-fund-home. Thanks!



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