



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

CHRIST THE KING • The Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

November 24, 2024

The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies' straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. For the sleeping god may wake someday and take offense, or the waking god may draw us out to where we can never return.

–Annie Dillard

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

Prelude

Arabesque, op. 18

Robert Schumann

Call to Worship

Psalm 93

One: The LORD is king, he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed, he is girded with strength. He has established the world; it shall never be moved.

All: Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting.

One: The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice.

All: The floods lift up their roaring.

One: More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the LORD!

All: Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O LORD, forevermore.

Hymn 366 (p. 5)

God of Grace and God of Glory

Cwm Rhondda

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

Alleluia

Randall Thompson

Children's Moment

We are concluding a liturgical year today. Next week, we will begin a new one. Hooray? Well, the year has come to an end, and we will soon begin observing Advent. We'll prepare for Christmas, for all that is coming. But not yet. Do you like waiting? That's a big part of life. Anticipation can be great, but so, too, is arrival. We're still waiting for Jesus, after all. Jesus' return will be amazing, indescribable, and exciting. But we continue to live our lives in this moment, trying to be good people, working to make the world a little bit better—and we'll do that regardless of which liturgical year we're in.

Hymn 202 (p. 6) *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun* Duke Street

Scripture Lessons

Revelation 1:4b-8. ⁴[...]Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.

⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

John 18:33-37. ³³Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” ³⁵Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” ³⁷Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

Sermon “Return (?) of the King” Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 150 (p. 7) *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High* Deus Tuorum Militum

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, Ron, Priscilla, Lauren, Brian, Micah, Al, Steve, Denzil, Jacobe, Chris, and Betsy.

Oh Holy One, we are not sure how to approach you, or even what to call you. Are you a king or our friend? Are you omnipotent or a gentle presence? Or are you all of these things—maddeningly complex, sometimes confusing, and frankly beyond comprehension, but always present, always loving all of us, your precious people. We confess that you are all of these things, that you cannot be contained or hemmed in by our words or imaginations. You are truly awesome, and yet you care about us, each of us and all of us. Help us to remember that, to turn away from despair, to follow the path of Jesus.

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

Sing to the Lord of Harvest

Healey Willan

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.

Responsive Prayer of Dedication

One: For the bounty of the earth:

All: We give God our thanks.

One: For the wonders of creation:

All: We sing God's praise.

One: For God's call to service:

All: We respond with hope.

One: For God's unending love:

All: We offer ourselves with joy.

Hymn 199 (p. 8)

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Diademata

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 • Sue Pratt, Liturgist

Chris Chase and Ike Jacobs, Ushers • Stacey Steele and Dominic Watson, Zoom Greeters

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.

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.)*

Doing What Is Right and Just *Many Thanks for Your 2025 Stewardship Pledges*

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

All are invited to prayerfully consider their commitment to FCC’s mission and ministry in the coming year. We’ll gratefully accept your 2025 pledges anytime in the coming weeks. Thank you!

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 2025 are available in the Parish Hall.

Advent Begins Next 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!*

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).

God of Grace and God of Glory

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Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1878-

CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

John Hughes, 1873-1932

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, On thy pec - ple
2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn thy Christ, as -
3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; Bend our pride to
4 Set our feet on loft - y pla - ces; Gird our lives that
5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion To the e - vils

pour thy power; Crown thine an - cient church's sto - ry; Bring her bud to
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us, Free our hearts to
thy con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, Rich in things and
they may be Arm - ored with all Christ - like gra - ces In the fight to
we de - plore; Let the search for thy sal - va - tion Be our glo - ry

glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,
faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,
poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,
set men free. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,
ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,

For the fac - ing of this hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.
For the liv - ing of these days, For the liv - ing of these days.
Lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, Lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
That we fail not man nor thee, That we fail not man nor thee.
Serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, Serv - ing thee whom we a - dore. A - men.

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

DUKE STREET L.M.

John Halton, d.1793

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun Doth his suc -
 2 For him shall end - less prayer be made, And prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue Dwell on his

ces - sive jour - neys run; His king - dom stretch from
 throng to crown his head; His name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song, And in - fant voic - es

shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise With ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on his name. A-men.

4 Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
 The prisoner leaps to lose his chains,
 The weary find eternal rest,
 And all the sons of want are blest.

5 Let every creature rise and bring
 Peculiar honors to our King;
 Angels descend with songs again,
 And earth repeat the loud Amen.

Christmas Carol Sing and Potluck at the Parsonage

Sunday, December 8, 4:00-6:00 pm—15 Kimball St, Lebanon

All are warmly invited to our annual congregational Christmas party! We'll gather round the fireplace for festive fellowship and favorite carols. *Bring a favorite dish or holiday treat to share.*

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

First Tune

DEUS TUORUM MILITUM L.M.

Grenoble Church Melody

Latin: 15th century

Tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819-1885, alt.

In unison

1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high, How pass - ing
 2 For us bap - tized, for us he bore His ho - ly
 3 For us he prayed, for us he taught, For us his
 4 For us to wick - ed men be - trayed, Scourged, mocked, in

thought and fan - ta - sy, That God, the Son of God, should
 fast, and hun - gered sore; For us temp - ta - tions sharp he
 dai - ly works he wrought, By words and signs and ac - tions,
 pur - ple robe ar - rayed, He bore the shame - ful cross and

take Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake.
 knew; For us the temp - ter o - ver - threw.
 thus Still seek - ing not him - self, but us.
 death; For us gave up his dy - ing breath. A - men.

5 For us he rose from death again,
 For us he went on high to reign;
 For us he sent his Spirit here
 To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

6 All glory to our Lord and God
 For love so deep, so high, so broad;
 The Trinity whom we adore
 For ever and for evermore.

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.

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Crown Him With Many Crowns

Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894
 Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, St. 3

DIADEMATA S.M.D.
 George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the Lord of love; Be - hold his hands and side,
 3 Crown him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the grave,
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, The po - ten - tate of time,

Hark! how the heaven-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own;
 Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied;
 And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those he came to save;
 Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, In - eff - a - bly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing Of him who died for thee,
 No an - gel in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His glo - ries now we sing Who died and rose on high,
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

And hail him as thy match-less King Through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 But down-ward bends his burn-ing eye At mys - ter - ies so bright.
 Who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, And lives that death may die.
 Thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail Through-out e - ter - ni - ty. A - men.



The Anonymous Coffeeshouse—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 uppervalleyhaven.org.*

Upper Valley Voices: Spirits of Yule—Saturday, December 7, at 7:00 pm

One of the area's premier choral groups (formerly Thetford Chamber Singers), this ensemble creatively programs repertoire drawn from around the world. *Spirits of Yule* explores the magical, mystical beings associated with the holiday season. *Admission TBD; more at uppervalleyvoices.org.*

Classicopia: Four-Hand Holiday—Sunday, December 8, at 2:00 pm

Good friends Dan Weiser and Philip Liston-Kraft share the keyboard for some festive, four-hand arrangements of seasonal favorites, from the Blue Danube Waltz and the Nutcracker Suite to jazzy carols and show tunes. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at classicopia.org.*

Bel Canto Chamber Singers: In Dulci Jubilo—Sat., Dec. 14, 7:30 pm / Sun., Dec. 15, 4:00 pm

Bel Canto celebrates the winter season with music for choir, strings, and piano—Antonio Vivaldi's *Magnificat*, pieces by Ola Gjeilo and Eric Whitacre, and settings of traditional English, Spanish, German, and Nigerian carols. *Admission by donation (\$15 suggested); more at belcantosingers.org.*

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@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 • prayer@fcclleb.org • music@fcclleb.org • www.fcclleb.org