



we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. <sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

### **An Advent Litany**

One: O come, O come, Emmanuel!

**All: The Christ child is coming!**

One: O come, O come, Emmanuel!

**All: Let us prepare for his arrival.**

One: O come, O come, Emmanuel!

**All: We open ourselves to you.**

One: O come, O come, Emmanuel!

**All: Let us prepare the way with prayer to God and service to his people!**

### **The Lighting of the Advent Candle**

#### **An Advent Prayer (Unison)**

Holy God, in this season of anticipation, help us to be patient. Loving God, in this time of watching, help us to see clearly. Healing God, in these weeks of preparation, make ready our hearts for the arrival of the Light of the World.

### **Words of Welcome; Our Ministry and Mission**

**Anthem**

*E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*

Paul Manz

### **Children's Moment**

There's a saying—"Hurry up and wait." It's often heard when people are called to do something, they show up, and then—they have to wait, to "hold their horses." Ready to go, but forced to wait. Hmm... Sounds a bit like Advent.

During Advent, we can be busy getting ready for Christmas. Getting a tree, decorating it, getting presents, wrapping them, hosting guests, and going to parties. And then Christmas is here. So, we hurry up and wait. It doesn't matter how many movies may be released, or how many times *Elf* is on TV, Christmas will not get here any sooner. We must go through Advent first, a time of preparation, of prayer, of coming to grips with what the birth of the baby we know as Jesus means. So, let's hurry up and wait together.

**Hymn 108 (pp. 6-7)** *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*

Wachet auf

### **Scripture Lessons**

*Jeremiah 33:14-16.* <sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

*Luke 21:25-36.* <sup>25</sup>[Jesus continued,] “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” <sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>34</sup>“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

**Sermon**

*“A Time to Wait”*

Stephen R. Silver

### **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, Marcia, Arlene, Evelyn, Greg, Jan, Edith, Eileen, Waneta, Terry, Juanita, Dan, Travis, Garrett, Sue, Rick, Edward, Priscilla, Ron, Lauren, Brian, Micah, Al, Steve, Denzil, Jacobe, Chris, and Betsy.

O God of the wilderness, we hear a voice crying out, a voice calling us to make ready for your arrival. Once again, we find ourselves waiting, filled with anticipation but worry, too. Is it possible we are waiting in vain? Might we be waiting for the wrong thing?

We hope, we pray, that we will be focused on you, and your Son, on the path you would have us travel, as people of The Way. As we wait, help us to prepare, to center ourselves, to never forget the reason for Christmas. Help us as we ready ourselves for the arrival of the Christchild.

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.*

**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)**

Dear God, in this season of anticipation, we wait and we proclaim. We wait for your arrival, and we proclaim your good news. We offer our gifts of time, skills, and money, witnessing to our belief that your promise of new life is fulfilled in Jesus, in whose name we pray, 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:  
 Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo - ry be to you, O Lord most  
 High. Bless-ed is the one that comes in the name of the  
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est.

**Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

**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.

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

\* \* \*

*Leading Worship This Week*

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Bob Ross, Liturgist

# Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

103

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, *alt.*

STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.  
Melody *attr.* to Christian F. Wilt, 1660-1716  
"Psalmodia Sacra," Gotha, 1715

1 Come, thou long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Is-rael's strength and con-so-la-tion, Hope of all the earth thou art;  
3 Born thy peo-ple to de-liv-er, Born a child, and yet a king,  
4 By thine own e-ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a-lone;

From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in thee.  
Dear de-sire of ev-ery na-tion, Joy of ev-ery long-ing heart.  
Born to reign in us for-ev-er, Now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.  
By thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it Raise us to thy glo-rious throne. A-men.

## Advent Begins This Sunday, December 1—Let's Decorate!

Yes, ADVENT! After worship this Sunday 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 Carol Sing and Potluck at the Parsonage

Next 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.*

## 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).*

## 108

## Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608  
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, all.

WACHET AUF 8.9.8.8.9.8.6.6.4.8.8.  
Melody by Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608  
Harm. by J.S. Bach, 1685-1750

1 Wake, a-wake, for night is fly - ing; The watch-men on the  
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing; Her heart with deep de -

heights are cry - ing, A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!  
light is spring - ing, She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom,

Mid-night's sol - emn hour is toll - ing; His char - iot wheels are  
For her Lord comes down all glo - rious, In grace ar - rayed, by

near - er roll - ing; He comes! O Church, lift up thine eyes!  
truth vic - to - rious; Her star is risen, her light is come!

Rise up, with will - ing feet Go forth, the Bride - groom meet:  
 Ah, come thou bless - ed One, God's own be - lov - ed Son,

Hal - le - lu - jah! Lo, great and small, We an - swer all;  
 Hal - le - lu - jah! We haste a - long, An ea - ger throng,

We fol - low where thy voice shall call.  
 And glad - some join the ad - vent song. A - men.

3 Now let all the heavens adore thee,  
 And men and angels sing before thee  
 With harp and cymbal's clearest tone;  
 Of one pearl each shining portal,  
 Where we shall join the choirs immortal  
 In praises round thy glorious throne;

No vision ever brought,  
 No ear hath ever caught  
 Such great glory!  
 Therefore will we, eternally,  
 Sing hymns of joy and praise to thee.

**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.*

Joel 2:12-23; Isa. 11:1-12

James F. D. Martin, 1981; alt.

1 Re - turn, my peo - ple, Is - ra - el, with pen - i - ten - tial tear;  
 2 Fear not, be - lov - ed, hear - ken now: our God has done great things!  
 3 Then to the faith - ful of the earth the call of God rings clear:

just as the proph-et did fore - tell the ad - vent of Em-man-u - el,  
 Your vin - di - ca - tion shall pour down like rain up-on the bar - ren ground,  
 "Re - turn, my peo - ple, claim your worth, pre-par - ing for your Sav - ior's birth;

God's reign on earth is near! God's reign on earth is near!  
 glad tid - ings to you bring, glad tid - ings to you bring.  
 my reign on earth is near. My reign on earth is near."

*This new Advent text by United Church of Christ minister James Martin is set to a tune by British composer Charles Hubert Hastings Parry, who is also known for his symphonies, organ works, and cantatas.*

Tune: REPTON 8.6.8.8.6.6.  
 C. Hubert H. Parry, 1888  
 Alternate tune: REST





*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).*

*The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, Dec. 6, Jan. 3, 17, and 31, 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).*

*Upper Valley Voices: Spirits of Yule—Saturday, December 7, at 7:00 pm*  
This premier choral ensemble (formerly Thetford Chamber Singers) creatively programs repertoire drawn from around the world. *Spirits of Yule* explores the magical, mystical beings associated with the season. *Advance \$15 (at the door \$20), students \$10, under-13 free; more at [uppervalleyvoices.org](http://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](http://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](http://belcantosingers.org).*

*Upper Valley Music Center Messiah Sing!—Sunday, December 22, at 3:00 pm*  
Organized by UVMC's voice faculty and directed by Mark Nelson, this annual performance of G. F. Handel's beloved oratorio features student soloists and chamber orchestra. All are welcome to join the chorus (scores are available!) or just listen. *Free-will donation (\$20 suggested); more at [uvmusic.org](http://uvmusic.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](http://www.pbucc.org/index.php/christmas-fund-home). Thanks!*

## 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](http://listencs.org/food-pantry#itemsweneedthemost) or see the list attached to the 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)**