

First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ - Open and Affirming

The Second Sunday after Epiphany • Martin Luther King Jr. Day January 19, 2025

Faith is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase. Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.

-Martin Luther King Jr.

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 4-8.

Prelude Air, from Orchestral Suite No. 3, BWV 1068 Johann Sebastian Bach

Call to Worship Psalm 36:5-10

One: Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

All: Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgments are like the great deep; you save humans and animals alike, O LORD.

One: How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

All: They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

One: For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

All: O continue your steadfast love to those who know you, and your salvation to the upright of heart!

Hymn 383 (p. 4) Forward Through the Ages

St. Gertrude

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 O Sing Joyfully

Adrian Batten, ed. M. Bevan

Children's Moment

This weekend we remember and celebrate the life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. King was a great leader in the fight for civil rights, for the ability for all people to be treated fairly by the law, for men and women to be equals. Dr. King saw the fight for civil rights, the fight for equality, as part of his calling. He saw this work as an integral part of being a good Christian. He did a lot for his country—our country—and he has set an example of what we can do for our brothers and sisters today.

Hymn 156 (p. 5) Sing of God Made Manifest

Salzburg

Scripture Lessons

1 Corinthians 12:1-11. Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

John 2:1-11. On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Sermon

"We Are All Gifted"

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 733 (b. 6)

We Are All One in Mission

Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein

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.

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, Ashley, Reg, Chris, Deserai, Tricia, Ellen, Pam, and Tom.

Gracious, liberating God, as we gather today we honor the life and legacy of a modern prophet, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We welcome the inspiration that comes to us from his example of faith and service. Help us to remember the courage, the dedication, and the devotion he brought to his struggle, and imbue us with similar convictions today and in the days ahead.

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

"But the Lord Is Mindful of His Own" (Paulus)

Felix Mendelssohn

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 grace, God of love, God of all people: we give you thanks for the gifts we have received, for our freedom, for our lives, knowing that we will find new life in ensuring that others are able to live fully and freely. Use our offerings as we work to improve our community, here in Lebanon and around the world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Hymn 339 (pp. 7-8) Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift Every Voice

Benediction

Choral Response 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 • Betsy Alexander, Soprano Laurel Stavis, Liturgist • Deb Scott and Barb Teeter, 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.

THE SOUPER BOWL IS HERE!

With pro football's championship game coming up early next month, it's time once again for the Souper Bowl! We'll tackle local hunger with a collection of soup and other non-perishable items, to be split among Headrest, the UV Haven, and Listen Community Services.

Donations may be left in the boxes in the Parish Hall until February 9. You may also bring them directly to any of the three beneficiaries (please let us know if you do so). THANK YOU!!

FCC's 2025 Annual Meeting will be Sunday, February 9, at 11:30 (on Zoom)

Forward Through the Ages

383

Frederick L. Hosmer, 1840-1929

ST. GERTRUDE 6.5.6.5.D. with Refrain Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842-1900

- 1 Forward through the ages,
 In unbroken line,
 Move the faithful spirits
 At the call divine.
 Gifts in differing measure,
 Hearts of one accord,
 Manifold the service,
 One the sure reward;
 Forward through the ages,
 In unbroken line,
 Move the faithful spirits
 At the call divine.
- Wider grows the kingdom, Reign of love and light; For it we must labor, Till our faith is sight. Prophets have proclaimed it, Martyrs testified, Poets sung its glory, Heroes for it died. Forward through the ages, In unbroken line, Move the faithful spirits At the call divine.
- 3 Not alone we conquer,
 Not alone we fall;
 In each loss or triumph
 Lose or triumph all.
 Bound by God's far purpose
 In one living whole,
 Move we on together
 To the shining goal!
 Forward through the ages,
 In unbroken line,
 Move the faithful spirits
 At the call divine.



"Epiphany" means "manifestation" or "showing forth," and this text cites key disclosures of Jesus as Messiah: the coming of the Magi, his baptism by John the Baptist, the wedding at Cana. All are summed up in the Transfiguration, recalled on the Last Sunday after the Epiphany.

We All Are One in Mission



A Lutheran pastor wrote this text in response to a bishop's letter that said, "Our mission is to touch the lives of others with Christ's love." This theme is made stronger by recognizing that shared purposes do not require the denial of diversity but are enriched by it.

6



Initially a poem for a school assembly at which Booker T. Washington spoke on Lincoln's birthday in 1900, this text and tune have gained national recognition and devotion, not only within the African American community, but also among all who seek liberation from oppression.



Music at the Meetinghouse

WINTER CONCERTS

All in the FCC Sanctuary

The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, Jan. 17 and 31, Feb. 14 and 28 (etc.), 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.

UVMC Children's Chorus Celebration of Song—Saturday, January 25, at 2:00 pm Directed by Allison Pollard and accompanied by Will Ögmundson, this delightful ensemble of kids shares an informal concert with family and friends. Free admission; more at uvmusic.org.

Cantabile Women's Voices: Night and Day—Sunday, February 2, at 3:00 pm This superb ensemble offers choral music celebrating the simple beauty in the passing hours of an ordinary day. Music of Sergei Rachmaninoff, Irving Berlin, Jocelyn Hagen, Gwyneth Walker, Eric Whitacre, and more. Adults \$15 suggested donation, online or at the door; more at cantabilewomen.org.

LOH on Location: Dom Flemons—Saturday, February 15, at 7:30 pm
Reviving our pre-pandemic relationship across the Green, Lebanon Opera House brings us Dom Flemons, Grammy-winning cofounder of the Carolina Chocolate Drops. A versatile musician, scholar, and historian, "The American Songster" will share his influential take on folk, blues, bluegrass, and old-time country music. General admission \$27; tickets and more at lebanonoperahouse.org.

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.

NOTICE of ANNUAL MEETING – Sunday, February 9, 11:30 am (on Zoom)

The Annual Meeting of First Congregational Church of Lebanon, NH, will be held online in Zoom format on SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2025, AT 11:30 AM, after that morning's worship service, for the following purposes:

- **1.** To hear the reports of all officers, committees, and organizations, as required under the Constitution and By-Laws of the church.
- 2. The election of all officers provided for under the CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS of the church.
- **3.** To consider and act upon any other matters relating to the general church welfare that may properly come before this meeting.



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