

noses, they all play a role in making the whole body able to do what it does. So, too, the spleen, the kidney, and, of course, the heart and the brain. Now, the brain may strike us as more important than the liver, but Paul says, “No! Each part is important!” And he uses these images to make a point about members of the church in Corinth, and by extension, our church. We all play a role. We all are important. We all need to be here.

Hymn 50 (p. 6)

Deep in the Shadows of the Past

Shepherds’ Pipes

Scripture Lessons

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10. [A]ll the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. [...] ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. [...] ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

Luke 4:14-21. ¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Sermon

“Interpretation”

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.

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, and Pam.

O God of the universe, maker of all things, we turn to you in gratitude and awe, hoping, praying, that we are up to the work you would have us do. Be with us this day, enable us to listen to your call, empower us to be present in this moment. We want to listen, to hear, to understand, confessing that your word may well surprise us, as we are led along new paths, going where you would have us go, which may not be the destination we would go, but is the place you would have us be.

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 *Andante, Trio in C Major*

C. P. E. Bach

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)

Creator God, you have revealed yourself through the words, teachings, and actions of Christ. Accept these gifts as a sign of our desire to share the Truth, spread your Gospel, and work to serve your people. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Hymn 413 (p. 8) *By Gracious Powers*

Bonhoeffer

Benediction

Postlude *Allegretto, Trio in C Major*

C. P. E. Bach

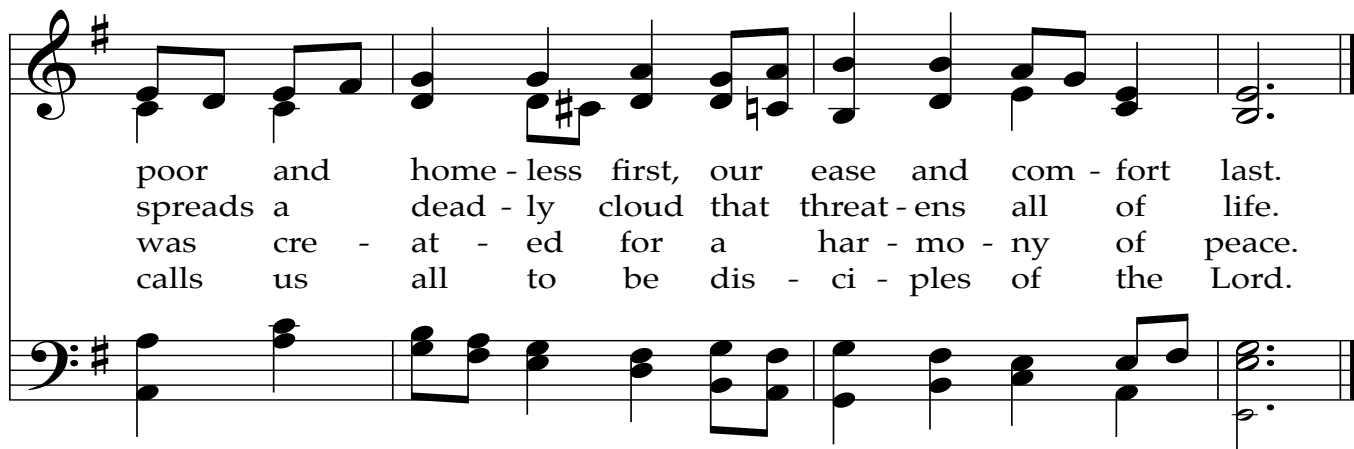
757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the
 2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man
 3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y
 4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing

Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make
 race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -
 stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to
 word, and walk the road the saints have trod till

plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their
 spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly
 cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -
 all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may

thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the
 proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our dis - cord
 store an earth where con - flicts cease, a world that
 we give thanks in one ac - cord to God who



poor and home-less first, our ease and com-fort last.
 spreads a dead-ly cloud that threat-ens all of life.
 was cre-at-ed for a har-mo-ny of peace.
 calls us all to be dis-ci-ples of the Lord.

This text placing stewardship in the context of faithful witness was written by a retired Presbyterian minister to be part of the 1986 stewardship campaign titled "Called to Be Disciples." The tune name recalls the Sussex village where the arranger first heard the melody.

TEXT: H. Kenn Carmichael, 1985
 MUSIC: *English County Songs*, 1893; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
 Text © 1989 H. Kenn Carmichael

KINGSFOLD
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Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Harpsichord • Laurel Stavis, Alto • Leslie Stroud, Traverso • Jason Smoller, Oboe
 Betsy Alexander, Liturgist • Deb Scott and Barb Teeter, Ushers • Bob Gerlach, 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!!

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 in the Sanctuary (with remote participation available on Zoom) 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.

Deep in the Shadows of the Past 50

1 Deep in the shad-ows of the past, far out from set - tled lands,
 2 While oth-ers bowed to change-less gods, they met a mys - ter - y,
 3 From Ex - o - dus to Pen - te - cost the prom-ise changed and grew,
 4 For all the writ-ings that sur-vided, for lead - ers, long a - go,

some no - mads trav-eled with their God a - cross the des - ert sands.
 in - vis - i - ble, with-out a name: "I AM WHAT I WILL BE";
 while some, re - mem - ber - ing the past, re - cord - ed what they knew,
 who sift - ed, cop - ied, and pre - served the Bi - ble that we know,

The dawn - ing hope of hu - man - kind by them was sensed and shown:
 and by their tents, a - round their fires in sto - ry, song, and law,
 or with their let - ters and la - ments, their proph - e - cy and praise,
 give thanks, and find its sto - ry yet our prom - ise, strength, and call,

a prom - ise call - ing them a - head, a fu - ture yet un - known.
 they praised, re - mem - bered, hand - ed on a past that prom - ised more.
 re - cov - ered, kin - dled, and ex - pressed new hope for chang - ing days.
 the mod - el of e - merg - ing faith, a - live with hope for all.

This vivid text reminds us of two truths we often forget: how deeply our faith is rooted in God's enduring covenant with the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and how much we can learn from their story. The tune began life as the setting for a family Christmas card.

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1973; rev. 1994
 MUSIC: Annabeth McClelland Gay, 1952
 Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company
 Music © 1958, ren. 1986 The Pilgrim Press

SHEPHERDS' PIPES
 CMD

391

Be Thou My Vision

*Ancient Irish**Tr. by Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931**Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935*

SLANE 10.10.9.10.

*Traditional Irish Melody**Harm. by David Evans, 1874-1948**In unison*

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,
 4 High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

Nought be all else to me save that thou art.
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 Thou mine in - her - it - ance, now and al - ways;
 May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Thou my great Fa - ther, I thy true son;
 Thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
 High King of heav - en, my treas - ure thou art.
 Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all. A - men.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1944
 Transl. Fred Pratt Green, 1972

Unison

1 By gra-cious powers so won-der - ful - ly shel-tered,
 2 Yet is this heart by its old foe tor - ment-ed,
 3 And when this cup you give is filled to brim-ming
 4 Yet when a - gain in this same world you give us

and con - fi - dent - ly wait - ing, come what may,
 still e - vil days bring bur - dens hard to bear;
 with bit - ter sor - row, hard to un - der - stand,
 the joy we had, the bright-ness of your sun,

We know that God is with us night and morn - ing,
 O give our fright - ened souls the sure sal - va - tion
 We take it thank - ful - ly and with-out trem - bling,
 We shall re - mem - ber all the days we lived through,

and nev - er fails to greet us each new day.
 for which, O God, you taught us to pre - pare.
 out of so good and so be - loved a hand.
 and our whole life shall then be yours a - lone.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, professor, and leader of the German Opposition, composed the poem on which this hymn is based, "New Year 1945," while imprisoned by the Gestapo in Berlin. Four months later, Bonhoeffer was executed by special order of Himmler.

Tune: BONHOEFFER 11.10.11.10.
 Herbert G. Hobbs, 1976
 Harm. Jan Helmut Wubbena, 1976

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The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, Jan. 31, Feb. 14, 28, Mar. 14, 28 (etc.), all 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.*

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.*

Prepared to Serve 2025—Saturday, February 22, Pembroke NH

Prepared to Serve is a day-long training event open to all congregations of the NH Conference (UCC), offering workshops on topics ranging from stewardship, lay leadership, and church finances to service, mission, and Christian education. **All are invited to participate in this enriching day of classes, exhibits, and worship with our conference friends.**

FCC will pay for anyone interested to attend! Online registration open until February 10; fee includes meals and meeting resources. A conference booklet is available for review in the Parish Hall. For more information, please visit www.nhcucc.org/events/pts-2025.

Potluck Lunch Theater: *The Chosen*—Sunday, March 2, at 11:30

All are invited to Potluck Lunch Theater after church on March 2! While enjoying a delicious meal, we'll watch the first episode of the acclaimed series *The Chosen*. A groundbreaking historical drama based on the life of Jesus as seen through the eyes of those who knew him, it's set against the backdrop of Roman oppression in first-century Palestine. *The episode lasts approximately one hour.*

We hope you will join us for this time of food, fellowship, and film!



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