

First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ - Open and Affirming

The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany • Annual Meeting Sunday February 9, 2025

Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing it is not fish they are after.

-Henry David Thoreau

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

Prelude

The Angel's Song, op. 105, no. 1

Charles Villiers Stanford

Call to Worship

Adapted from Psalm 138

One: I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

All: I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

One: On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

All: All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

One: They shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

All: For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives from far away.

One: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

All: The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Hymn 247 (p. 5) Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

Grosser Gott, wir loben dich

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 for a Closer Walk with God

C. V. Stanford

Children's Moment

This week we read of how Jesus began to enlist Peter, James, and James' brother to evangelize people—or, as the Gospel puts it, to become catchers of people. The traditional translation has Jesus tell Peter and company that they would become "fishers of men." Get it? Fishermen: fishers of men. Clever wordplay—in English. The importance of this story is not which translation we use, but what we are called to do. Peter and company are called to share the message of Jesus with men, women, Jews, non-Jews—that is, with everyone. I hope you'll remember that, and act on it.

Hymn 322 (p. 6) Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult

Galilee

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 6:1-13. In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." ⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" ⁹And he said, "Go and say to this people: 'Keep listening, but do not comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand.' ¹⁰Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and comprehend with their minds, and turn and be healed." ¹¹Then I said, "How long, O Lord?" And he said: "Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is utterly desolate; ¹²until the Lord sends everyone far away, and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land. ¹³Even if a tenth part remain in it, it will be burned again, like a terebinth or an oak whose stump remains standing when it is felled." The holy seed is its stump.

Luke 5:1-11. Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ²he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." ⁶When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. ⁷So they signaled

their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" ⁹For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; ¹⁰and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." ¹¹When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Sermon

"Let's Go Fishing"

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 236 (p. 7)

Life of Ages, Richly Poured

Buckland

Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

As we hold community members in prayer, please exercise care and discretion when sharing.

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, Reg, Chris, Deserai, Tricia, Ellen, Pam, and Jon.

O God, we are like Peter—often confused, sometimes dim, easily distracted, but always waiting to be welcomed by you. We may feel like failures, but to you that does not matter. You do not care about our credentials, or where we went to school, or what job we may now have, or how much money we have in the bank. These are the yardsticks of humanity, not you. You judge us by our actions, by what we do, by what we say. You welcome all of us and for that we are grateful, at least when we are paying attention to you and your call. Help us to follow your way, today and everyday.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of your Son, 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

Pray That Jerusalem May Have Peace

C. V. Stanford

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)

Gracious and loving God, you have called us to be your people, not caring where we came from, or who we know, but looking at each of us, seeing that we all have gifts to share with others. These gifts of ours are a sign of our desire to give of ourselves, and as we share with others, we look to the way in which you have given so much for us. Amen.

Hymn 726 (p. 8) Will You Come and Follow Me

Kelvingrove

Benediction

Postlude On a Theme of Orlando Gibbons, op. 105, no. 2

C. V. Stanford

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Phil Hammond, Liturgist Chris Chase and Valerie Nevel, Ushers • Linda Jacobs, Zoom Greeter

The 2025 Annual Meeting will begin shortly after the conclusion of the worship service.

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.

NOTICE of ANNUAL MEETING – Sunday, February 9, 11:30 am (Sanctuary/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.

THE SOUPER BOWL IS HERE... BUT NOT FOR LONG!

One week left to for a game-winning SOUPer BOWL drive! Bring in your donations of soup and other non-perishable items anytime (collection boxes in the Parish Hall), for our neighbors at HEADREST, the UV HAVEN, and LISTEN COMMUNITY SERVICES.

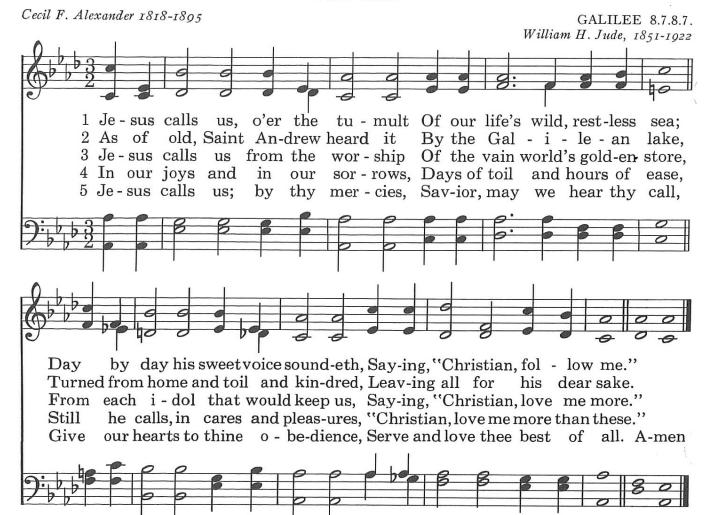
Donations may be left in the boxes in the Parish Hall until February 9. You may also bring them directly to any of the three beneficiaries (please let us know if you do so). THANK YOU!!

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name



Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult

First Tune





UPCOMING CONCERTS

All in the FCC Sanctuary

The Anonymous Coffeehouse-Fridays, 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.

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.

Samuel Johnson, 1822-1882 BUCKLAND 7.7.7.7. Leighton G. Hayne, 1836-1883 1 Life of a - ges, rich - ly poured, Love of God, un - spent and free, 2 Nev-er to chos-en race That un-stint-ed tide con-fined: 3 Breath-ing in the think-er's creed, Puls - ing in the he - ro's blood, art and song, Ho - ly book and 4 Con - se - crat - ing pil - grim track. a - ges, rich - ly poured, Love of God, un - spent and free, in the proph-et's word, And the peo-ple's lib - er - ty! ev - ery time and place, Foun-tainsweet of heart and mind, Nerv-ing sim-plest thought and deed, Freshen-ing time with truth and good, Hurl-ing floods of ty-rant wrong From the sa-cred lim-its back. Flow still in the prophet's word, And the peo-ple's lib - er - ty! A - mer

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!

726 Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons



- 1 "Will you come and fol low me if I but call your name? 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
- 3 "Will you let the blind ed see if I but call your name?
- 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name? 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



go where you don't know and nev - er Will you be the same? Will you for cruel and kind and nev - er the same? care be pris - oners free Will you set the and nev - er be the same? fear Will you quell the in - side and nev - er be the same? fol - low the me turn and you and nev - er same.



my love shown; will you let my name be Will you let be known; Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract scare? clean, and do such as this Will you kiss the lep - er un - seen, re-shape the world a - round, Will you use the faith you've found to where your love and foot-steps show. your com - pa - ny I'llgo



will me?" you let life my be grown in you and you in Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?" ad - mit what me?" and to mean in you and you in through my sight and touch and sound in you and you me?" in I'll move and live and grow in you and you me.

The first four stanzas of this ballad-like hymn are understood to be in the voice of Christ, with the fifth reflecting the individual singer's response. Created for this traditional Scottish tune, the text was written to mark the conclusion of a youth volunteer's time of ministry.



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