

setting, but same teachings. We learn that God has a soft spot for the downtrodden and the weak, and that the rich and powerful may well be in for some trouble.

Hymn 255 (p. 5) *Most Perfect Is the Law of God*

Stracathro

Scripture Lessons

Jeremiah 17:5-10. ⁵Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. ⁶They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. ⁸They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it? ¹⁰I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

Luke 6:17-26. ¹⁷He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

²²“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

²⁵“Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

Sermon *“Making the Familiar Seem New”*

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 266 (p. 6) *One Holy Church of God Appears*

St. James

Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

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

We offer ongoing prayers for Pete, Marcia, Arlene, Evelyn, Greg, Jan, Edith, Eileen, Terry, Waneta, Dan, Juanita, Travis, Garrett, Sue, Rick, Edward, Priscilla, Ron, Lauren, Brian, Micah, Al, Steve, Denzil, Jacobe, Reg, Chris, Deserai, Tricia, Ellen, Pam, Jon, and Elizabeth. O God, we have heard your word, listened to your teachings. Sometimes, we act out our agreement, showing that we have taken your words to heart; other times, we turn away, we fail to listen, we do not act. We confess this with a heavy heart. We wonder what it would be like to live in a world where the Sermon on the Plain was taken seriously, as more than just idle words, and as the truth, your truth. Help us, O God, to truly follow the path of Jesus, to do the work to which he has called us, with glad and open hearts. We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. 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

O Taste and See

Ralph Vaughan Williams

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*)

Holy God of the mountain and the plain, you have come to us in generosity. You gave us your law, you gave us your Way, you gave us salvation. These gifts are unmerited—still, you shared them with us. Help us to help others, to be present for others, to know that there are people in need, here and on the other side of the world. Help us to help them, and accept these gifts as a sign of our desire to be generous, as you taught us, as you showed us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Hymn 185 (p. 7)

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

St. Kevin

Benediction

Postlude

Postlude-Cantique

Théodore Dubois

Denis Wortman, 1835-1922

TOULON 10.10.10.10.
Abridged from "Genevan Psalter," 1551

1 God of the proph - ets, bless the proph - ets' sons:
 2 A - noint them proph - ets! Make their ears at - tent
 3 A - noint them priests! Strong in - ter - ces - sors they
 4 A - noint them kings! Aye, king - ly kings, O Lord!
 5 Make them a - pos - tles! Her - alds of thy cross,

E - li - jah's man - tle o'er E - li - sha cast.
 To thy di - vin - est speech; their hearts a - wake
 For par - don, and for char - i - ty and peace!
 A - noint them with the Spir - it of thy Son:
 Forth may they go to tell all realms thy grace;

Each age its sol - emn task may claim but once:
 To hu - man need; their lips make el - o - quent
 Ah, if with them the world might pass a - stray,
 Theirs not a jew - eled crown, a blood-stained sword;
 In - spired of thee, may they count all but loss,

Make each one no - bler, strong - er than the last!
 To as - sure the right, and ev - ery e - vil break.
 In - to the dear Christ's life of sac - ri - fice.
 Theirs, by sweet love, for Christ a king - dom won.
 And stand at last with joy be - fore thy face. A - men.

Most Perfect Is the Law of God

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Based on Psalm 19
'The Psalter,' 1912

STRACATHRO C.M.
Melody by Charles Hutcheson, 1792-1860
Harm. by Geoffrey Shaw, 1879-1943

1 Most per-fect is the law of God, Re - stor - ing those that stray;
2 The pre-cepts of the Lord are right; With joy they fill the heart;
3 The fear of God is un - de - filed And ev - er shall en - dure;
4 The words which from my mouth pro - ceed, The thoughts with-in my heart,

His tes - ti - mo - ny is most sure, Pro - claim-ing wis-dom's way.
The Lord's com-mand-ments all are pure, And clear-est light im - part.
The stat-utes of the Lord are truth And right-eous-ness most pure.
Ac - cept, O Lord, for thou my Rock And my Re-deem-er art. A - men.

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Brian Clancy, Liturgist

Linda and Ike Jacobs, 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.

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!

One Holy Church of God Appears

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Samuel Longfellow, 1819-1892

ST. JAMES C.M.
Raphael Courteville, ?-c.1735

1 One ho - ly Church of God ap - pears Through
2 From old - est time, on far - thest shores, Be -
3 The truth is her pro - phet - ic gift, The
4 O liv - ing Church, thine er - rand speed, Ful -

ev - ery age and race, Un - wast - ed by the
neath the pine or palm, One un - seen Pres - ence
soul, her sa - cred page; And feet on mer - cy's
fill thy task sub - lime; With Bread of life earth's

lapse of years, Un - changed by chang - ing place.
she a - dores, With si - lence, or with psalm.
er - rands swift Do make her pil - grim - age.
hun - ger feed; Re - deem the e - vil time! A-men.

THE SOUPER BOWL'S BIG FINISH!

The weather has allowed us to make ONE LAST 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 NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 16. You may also bring them directly to any of the three beneficiaries (please let us know if you do so). THANK YOU!!

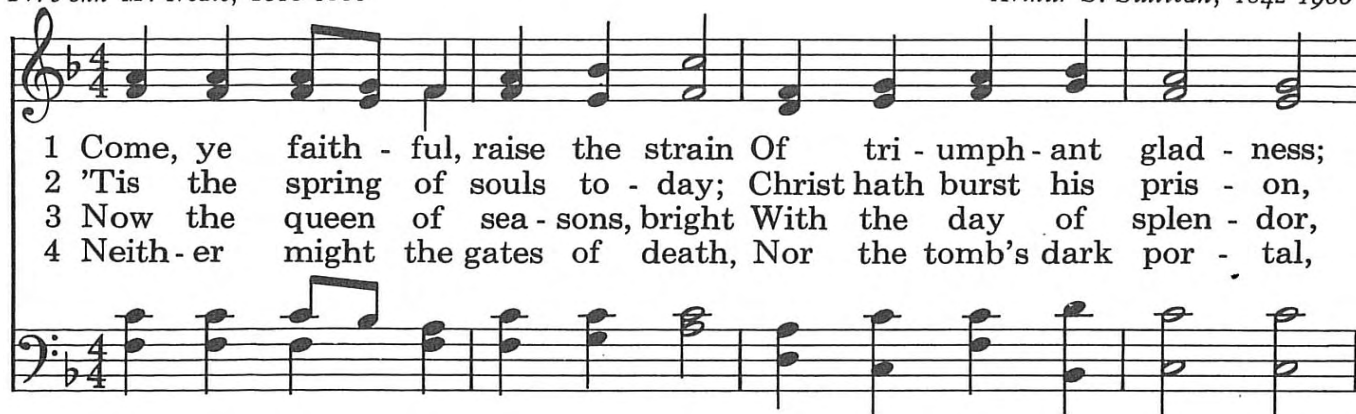
185

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

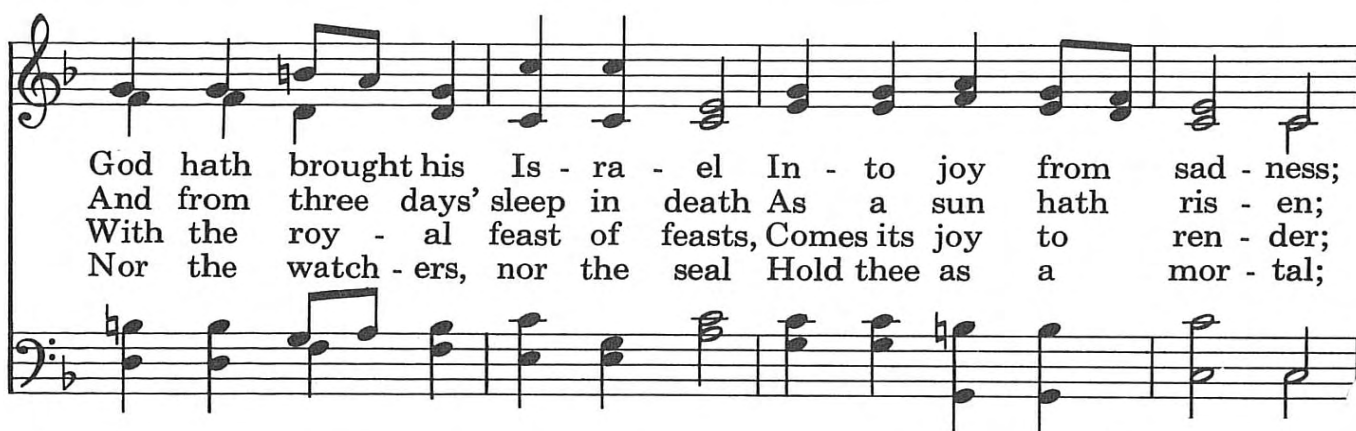
First Tune

Attr. to John of Damascus, c.696-c.754
Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866

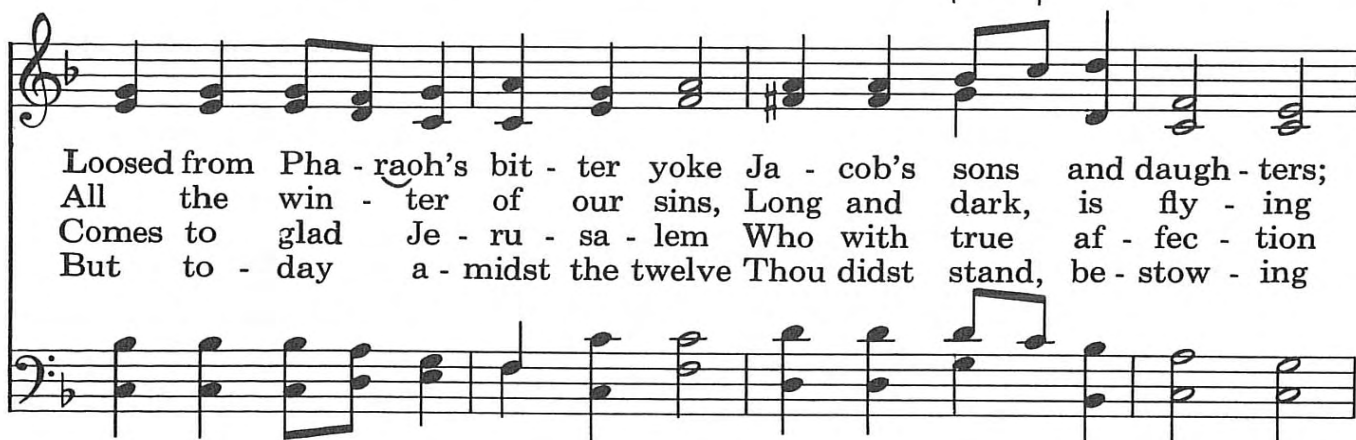
ST. KEVIN 7.6.7.6.D.
Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842-1900



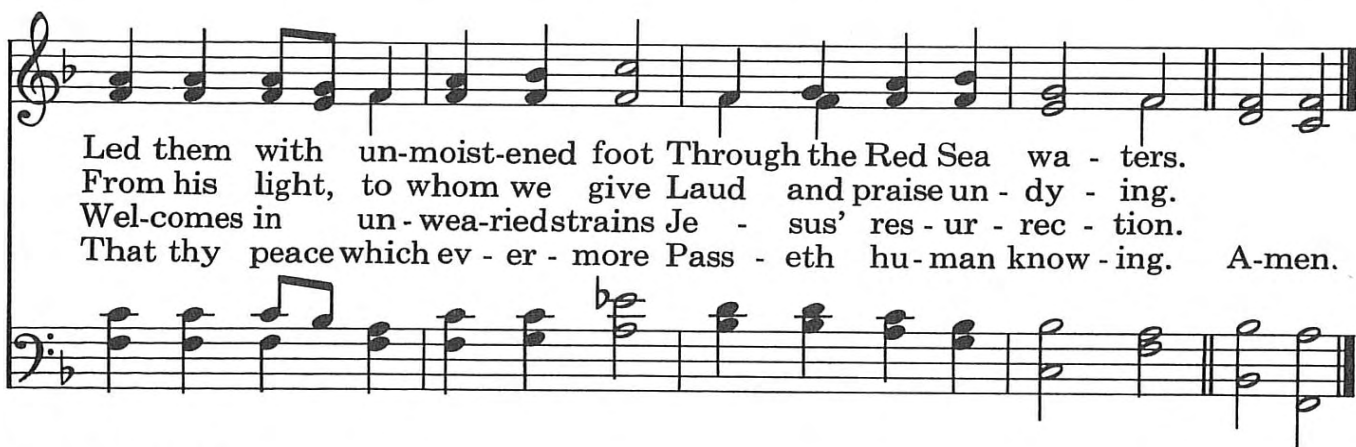
1 Come, ye faith - ful, raise the strain Of tri - umph - ant glad - ness;
2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day; Christ hath burst his pris - on,
3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright With the day of splen - dor,
4 Neith - er might the gates of death, Nor the tomb's dark por - tal,



God hath brought his Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness;
And from three days' sleep in death As a sun hath ris - en;
With the roy - al feast of feasts, Comes its joy to ren - der;
Nor the watch - ers, nor the seal Hold thee as a mor - tal;



Loosed from Pha - raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
All the win - ter of our sins, Long and dark, is fly - ing
Comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem Who with true af - fec - tion
But to - day a - midst the twelve Thou didst stand, be - stow - ing



Led them with un-moist-ened foot Through the Red Sea wa - ters.
From his light, to whom we give Laud and praise un - dy - ing.
Wel-comes in un-wea-ried strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion.
That thy peace which ev - er - more Pass - eth hu - man know - ing. A-men.



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.*

An Open Community Conversation: Responding to the Issues of Our Time

This Monday, February 17, at 6:30 pm—FCC Parish Hall

A group of local citizens invites the public to a wide-ranging conversation about how to respond to pressing current issues and support values of peace, justice, and inclusion. Diverse participants will address concerns such as immigrants’ rights, healthcare and ethical science, racial and sexual equality and justice, reproductive rights, LGBTQIA+ rights, civil-service integrity, climate and environment, and related areas. Rather than focus on a particular group or individual, **the meeting will serve primarily to connect and organize, with an eye toward future action.**

RSVP/questions: don@laurentidearts.com. Organized by Don Collins, Lars Johansson, and Susan Thomas.

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.

Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5 – Service at 7:00 pm (Location TBD)

All are welcome to gather as a community to initiate the holy season of Lent, with our friends from other Upper Valley churches. *If you are unable to attend in person, Zoom will be available.*



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