



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

CHRISTMAS EVE 2020

Family Service, 5:00 pm

All of this evening's hymns are taken from the Pilgrim Hymnal.

Prelude *Noël sur les Flûtes* L.-C. d'Aquin

Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn 120 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Mendelssohn

- (1) Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
- (2) Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
- (3) Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Call to Worship

Leader: Come as a child to the kingdom!

People: Come believing in angels on heavenly errands, with eyes for a wandering star and ears for the message of dreams.

Leader: Come as a child who hears the angel proclaim, "With God all things are possible!"

People: Come as a child to the miraculous kingdom of the miraculous God!

Prayer of Invocation

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.

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Kailyn Rappaport and Nan Parsons

The Offering of Our Gifts

The Call to Stewardship

Offertory

The Virgin at the Crib

C. Franck

Doxology (*Unison*)

Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures here below,
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication (*Unison*)

Loving God, we did not carry gifts to the manger, for that birth was far away in distance and time. Yet by your grace, our gifts of love are still warmly received. Knowing this, we joyfully bring these offerings to the Christ who is as close as life itself and ever-present throughout the ages. Amen.

The Christmas Story

Presented by the Children of the Church

During the pageant, the congregation will join in singing the following carols:

Hymn 132

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

- (1) O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels.
(*Refrain*) O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!
- (2) Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
(*Refrain*) O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Hymn 134*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

St. Louis

- (1) O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
- (2) O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray,
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Hymn 137*Away in a Manger*

Away in a Manger

- (1) Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
- (2) The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Hymn 116*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Gloria

- (1) Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains, in reply, echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
- (2) Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
- (3) Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Hymn 146*While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

Winchester New

- (1) While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, the
angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.
- (2) "To you, in David's town, this day is born of David's line the Savior, who is
Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:
- (3) "The heavenly babe you there shall find to human view displayed, all meanly
wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid."

Hymn 143*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

Kings of Orient

- (1) We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
 Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
 O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
 Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
- (2) Glorious now behold him arise, King, and God, and Sacrifice;
 Alleluia, alleluia! Sounds through the earth and skies.
 O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
 Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Hymn 130*Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*

Antioch

- (1) Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
 Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing;
 And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
- (2) Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy;
 Repeat the sounding joy; repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- (3) He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
 The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love;
 And wonders of his love; and wonders, wonders of his love.

Benediction

My friends, life is short. We do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So, be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. Now go forth with the love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, this day and forevermore. Amen.

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Leading Worship This Evening

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor
 Ernie Drown, Organist • Members of the FCC Choir

Many thanks to Nan Parsons, the Children's Community Corner, and their families for making this year's Christmas pageant possible in our online Zoom format.



Merry Christmas!

While we have no poinsettias in our Sanctuary this year, we are grateful to all those who offered contributions to our **OPEN DOOR MINISTRY** in loving honor or memory of all those listed below.

IN HONOR OF...

DeAnn Clancy and Sandy Driscoll—*Brian, Amy, Katie, and Grace*

All first-responders, medical personnel, and teachers—*Marcia Corkins and Pete Mason*

Betty Adams, Ike's mother—*Linda and Ike Jacobs*

The caring, kind, compassionate congregation of FCC-Lebanon—*Barbara H. Jones*

Marcia Corkins, Louise Parsons (G.G.), Larry Kirkpatrick (Grandpap), Shawna Osmer (Mommy), and David Rappaport (Daddy)—*Nan Parsons and Kailyn Rappaport*

Phyllis, Ron, Kathy, and Aunt Jeanie—*Deb and Jon Scott*

Our families—*The Silver Family*

IN MEMORY OF...

Florence and Bill Beckett—*Kathy Beckett*

Our parents, and a cherished friend, Laura Place—*Kathy and Warren Belding*

Grandma Callahan and Roy Westmoreland—*The Callahan Family*

Grandma Zickler, as she joins our other grandparents, and our fathers—*Brian, Amy, Katie, and Grace*

Linda's parents and grandparents; Ike's cousin Gayle Cavalier; the Places and Howards; Gracie Morse; Claude Young; and so many other loved ones who are also gone but never forgotten—*Linda and Ike Jacobs*

Emily and Earle Pike; Ruth and Ralph Hammond—*Gloria and Phil Hammond*

My parents, Helen and Alfred Walling—*Susan Pratt*

Our daughter, Carol S. Mistretta, and our son, Charles L. Sargent—*Barbara and Gordon Sargent*

Ken, Jim, Roger, and our grandparents—*Deb and Jon Scott*

Our loved ones—*The Silver Family*

My mother, Eunice Sleeper—*Jerry Sleeper*



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES AT FCC

Candlelight Communion Service, 11:00 pm (on Zoom)

A service of light, word, and song, celebrating Christ's birth with holy communion.

Service of Lessons and Carols (on YouTube)

The story of our Savior's birth in Scripture and traditional carols—available to watch anytime.

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

We are grateful to accept donations 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. Thanks!

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 • Nancy Parsons, Church School Superintendent
Barbara Teeter, Chair of Deacons • Linda Jacobs, Chair of Church Council • Barbara Jones, Moderator
Brian Clancy, Church Administrator

Church Office Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9:00-12:00 (or by appointment as needed)
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