



The First Sunday in Lent

In the twilight of life, God will not judge us on our earthly possession and human success, but rather on how much we have loved.

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

Prelude O Welt, ich muß dich lassen, op. 122, no. 3 Johannes Brahms

Call to Worship Adapted from Psalm 25

One: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

All: Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

One: Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

All: Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

One: He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

All: All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

Hymn 725 (p. 5) *O Jesus, I Have Promised* Nyland

Prayer of Invocation

Lenten Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Open our hearts to you, that we may receive your forgiveness and be redeemed by your reconciling love. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

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

Call to Remembrance

Richard Farrant

Children's Moment

This morning we begin the first full week of Lent, a season of repentance and reflection as we prepare for Easter. While I'm excited about Easter, Lent has value in and of itself. We are always in need of saying "I'm sorry" and then trying to live into our apology, whether it is to God or other people. The same is true of reflection—it's always a good time to take a moment to think things through, to look at our lives, and to ask how we might do better. This is true whether we are five or ninety-five.

So, please have a blessed Lent. And remember: God will always accept our apologies, which should tell us a lot about God, and how God acts.

Hymn 165 (p. 6) *The Glory of These Forty Days*

Erhalt uns, Herr

Scripture Lessons

Genesis 9:8-17. ⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹²God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." ¹⁷God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Mark 1:9-15. ⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

Sermon “Let’s Make a Deal!” Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 153 (p. 8) Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days St. Flavian

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.

Today we offer ongoing prayers for Pete, Arlene, Evelyn, Gordon, Greg, Jan, Edith, Eileen, Waneta, Terry, Juanita, Dan, Travis, Garrett, Sue, Rick, Edward, Duane, Priscilla, Ron, Lauren, Brian, Micah, Al, and Steve.

Gracious, forgiving God: we come before you at the beginning of this Lenten season with open, contrite hearts, knowing that we each have things for which we must repent. Whether as individuals or as a community, we have fallen short. Grant us a spirit of repentance, towards you and towards our brothers and sisters, and help us to make things right in this all-too-broken world.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of your Son Jesus, 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 Turn Thy Face from My Sins Thomas Attwood

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 and Gracious God, you have given us much. Indeed, we know you have given us everything. In gratitude, we offer this morning’s gifts to you, to serve your people, here and around the world. Amen.

Benediction

Postlude *Prelude and Fugue in E Minor, BWV 555* Johann Sebastian Bach(?)

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Denise Moriearty, Soprano
Jim Hughes, Liturgist • Phil Hammond and Bob Ross, Ushers • Barb Jones, 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 HEART OF IT ALL—LENTEN BOOK STUDY STARTS THIS WEEK!

Wednesdays, February 21 through March 27, at 7:00 pm on Zoom

What does the Bible mean to us? What does the Bible say to us? Join us for a discussion of *The Heart of It All: The Bible's Big Picture* (2019) by the Rev. Dr. Samuel Wells, an Anglican priest, and vicar of St. Martin-in-the-Fields in London. "As a collection of 66 books spanning thousands of years," explains the publisher, "the Bible can be daunting in size and scope. Rev. Wells simplifies the Bible's complexity and presents the entire sweep of its narrative in eighteen key themes."

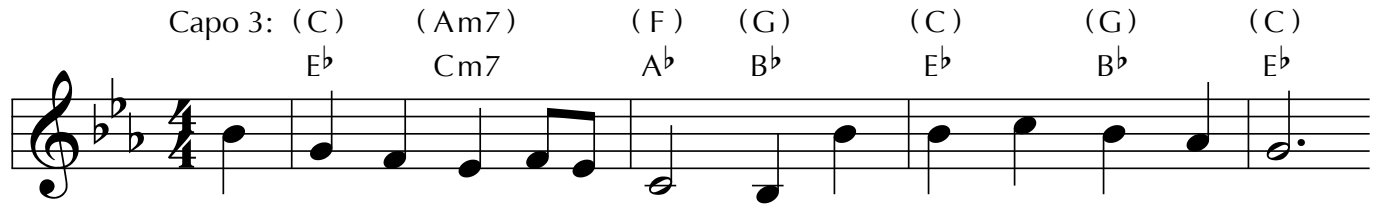
We'll discuss this provocative, engaging book on Zoom over six Wednesdays, but you needn't attend every week to participate. Copies of the book are free, but you must RSVP so that we can order you a copy. To participate, please contact the church office or silver@fccleb.org.

If you would like to receive daily devotional reflections from Rev. Steve Silver during Lent, please contact the church office or email him directly at silver@fccleb.org.

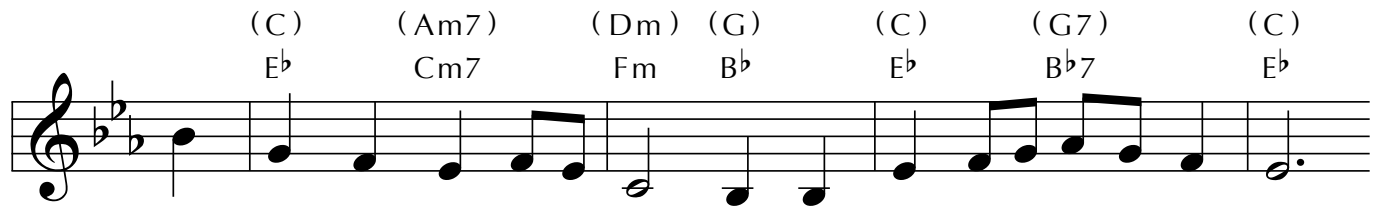
* * * **HOLY WEEK IS MARCH 24-31, 2024** * * *

O Jesus, I Have Promised

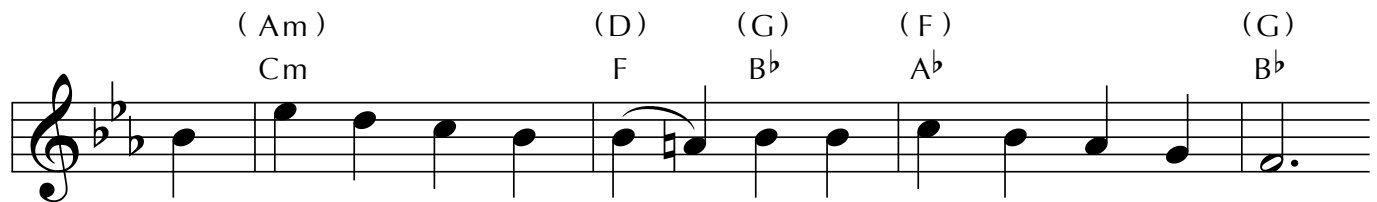
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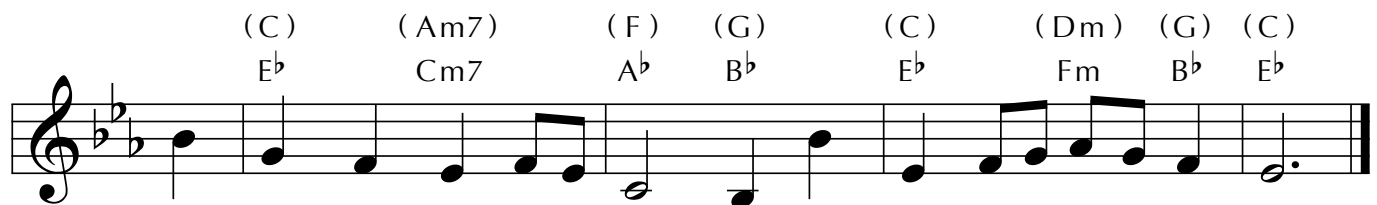
1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 O let me feel you near me! The world is ev - er near:
 3 O let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,
 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



be now and al - ways near me, my Mas - ter and my friend;
 I see the sights that daz - zle; the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will;
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, draw still near - er and shield my soul from sin.
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, true guard - ian of my soul.
 now give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my friend.

This hymn written by an Anglican clergyman for the confirmation of his children in Victorian times appears here in updated language that may help to make its challenging commitments more immediate. The tune is named for the province in Finland from which it comes.

TEXT: John Ernest Bode, 1866, alt.

MUSIC: Finnish folk melody; adapt. and harm. David Evans, 1927

Music Adapt. and Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press

NYLAND

7.6.7.6.D

(alternate tune: ANGEL'S STORY, 724)

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165 The Glory of These Forty Days

1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -
 4 Then grant that we like them be true, con -

cel - e - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, by whom all
 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
 liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride-groom's
 sumed in fast and prayer with you; our spir - its strength-en

things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
 with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Appropriate for singing at any time during Lent, this stately text connects Jesus' wilderness fast with the solitary testing of other prophetic souls: Moses, Elijah, Daniel, and John the Baptist. This sturdy 16th-century chorale melody formed the basis of Bach's *Cantata 126*.

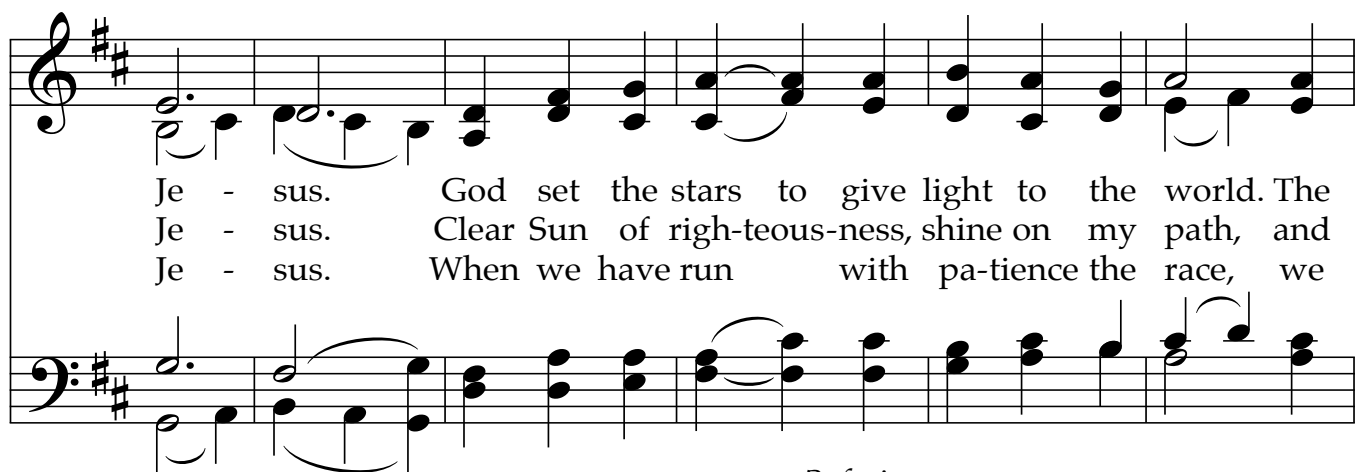
TEXT: Gregory the Great, 6th cent.; trans. Maurice F. Bell, 1906, alt.
 MUSIC: Klug's *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1725

ERHALT UNS, HERR
 LM

377 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

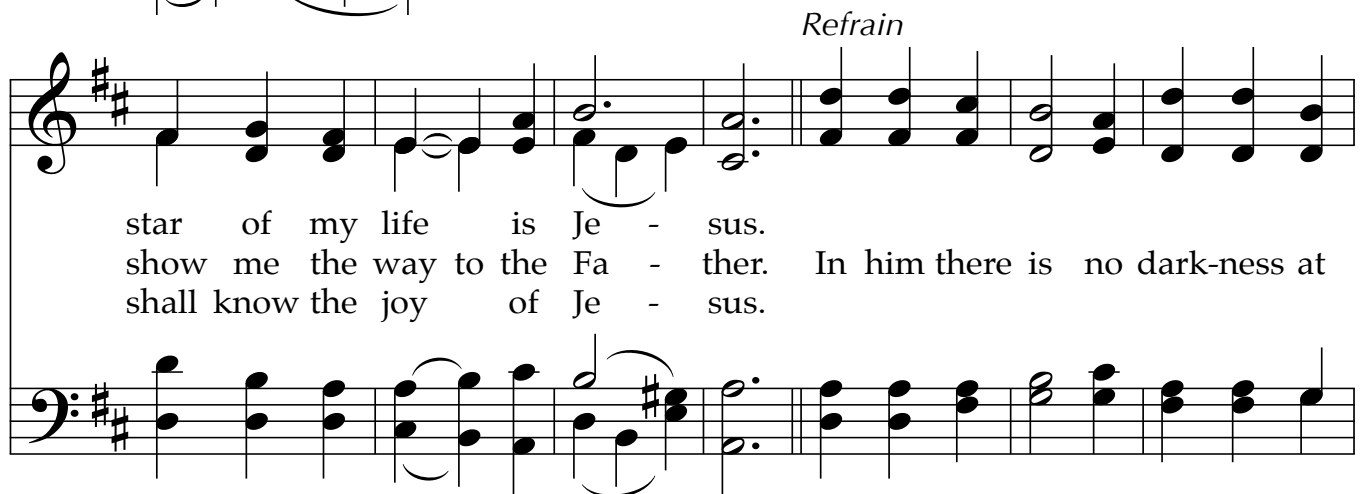


1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to fol - low
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to look at
3 I'm look-ing for the com - ing of Christ. I want to be with

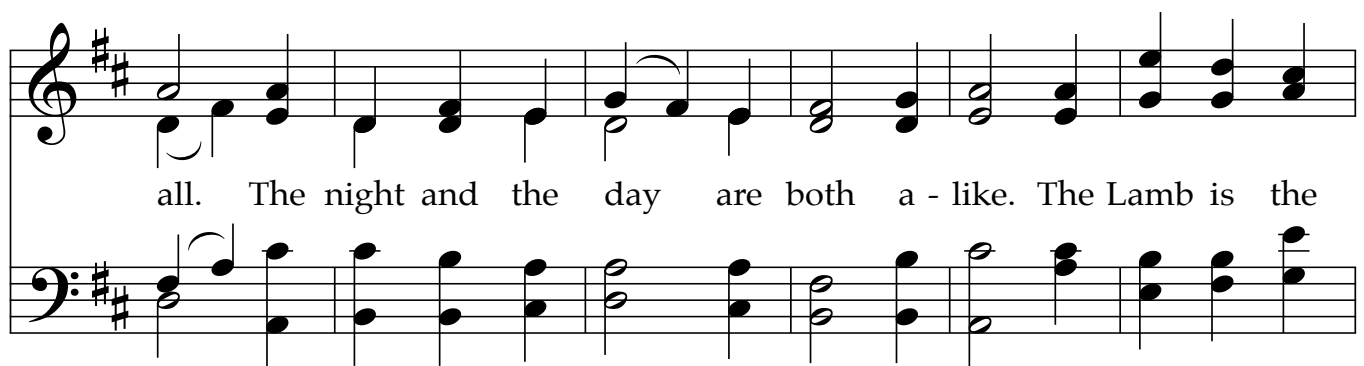


Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The
Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness, shine on my path, and
Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

Refrain



star of my life is Je - sus.
show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at
shall know the joy of Je - sus.



all. The night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

light of the cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

The author-composer of this unrhymed hymn regards it as a meditation and prayer deeply rooted in many scriptures, most connected with the theme of light: Genesis 1:17; Psalm 139:12; Isaiah 60:19; Malachi 4:2; John 14:8; Ephesians 5:8; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 John 1:5; Revelation 21:23.

TEXT and MUSIC: Kathleen Thomerson, 1966
Text and Music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

HOUSTON
10.7.10.8 with refrain

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

153

Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898

ST. FLAVIAN C.M.
"Day's Psalter," 1562

1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days For us didst fast and pray,
2 As thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend, And didst the vic - tory win,
3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, And through thy pas - sion - tide,
4 A - bid with us, that so, this life Of suf - fer - ing o - ver - past,

Teach us with thee to mourn our sins, And close by thee to stay.
O give us strength in thee to fight, In thee to con - quer sin.
Yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bid.
An East - er of un - end - ing joy We may at - tain at last! A-men.



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Upcoming Concerts

All in the FCC Sanctuary

The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, Feb. 23, Mar. 8 and 22, Apr. 5, 19, and 26, all 7:30

Our comfy community venue for live folk music is thriving in its fourth season! Come and go as you please; food and drink available. *Free admission. For performers and more, visit anoncoffee.org.*

NE Heritage Music Camp's Midwinter Gathering—Sunday, March 3, at 6:30 pm

A full day of workshops and jam sessions at UVMC culminates in a concert of traditional music here at FCC. *Adults \$15-25; more information about both daytime programs and concert at uvmusic.org.*

Upper Valley Music Center Faculty Showcase—Saturday, March 9, at 4:00 pm

This popular annual program features the vocal and instrumental excellence of the faculty next door at UVMC, in classical repertoire, traditional and folk genres, and original compositions.

Free-will donation; all proceeds benefit UVMC tuition assistance fund. More at uvmusic.org.

It's Time for the Lenten Lunch Bag Offering

The arrival of Lent brings the **Children's Community Corner** Lunch Bag Offering! We ask for your participation in this annual collection of savings from a regular sacrifice during Lent. The total collection on Palm Sunday (March 24) will be split between **WISE of the Upper Valley** and **Epilogos Charities**. *(Decorated paper bags will be available, but not required to participate.)*

The Children's Community Corner thanks you for supporting this stewardship project!

One Great Hour of Sharing: "Time to Share the Light"—UCC Mission Offering

This annual, nationwide UCC offering funds mission initiatives around the world. It supports healthcare, education, agriculture, refugee assistance, and disaster relief in over 130 countries. OGHS funds are leveraged with local, national, and global partners to maximize their impact.

Please consider a contribution as you are able, and thank you for SHARING!

(Payable to FCC, with "OGHS" in the memo line. Contributions gratefully accepted until Easter.)



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