



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2020

“God’s promise was never that life would be fair. God’s promise was that, when we had to confront the unfairness of life, we would not have to do it alone, for He would be with us.”

–Harold S. Kushner

All hymns are included after the order of worship, on pages 5-7.

Prelude *Praeludium and Fughetta* G. Muffat

Call to Worship (Unison; Psalm 23, Authorized/King James Version)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Hymn 80 (See below, p. 5) *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* (vv.1-6) St. Columba

Prayer of Invocation

God, though we worship in places near and far today, we trust in your Spirit to join us together as one people. Lift up our worship, inspire our prayers, infuse them with your grace, your love, your power. We pray these things in your Son’s name. Amen.

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

During this time, we are not meeting in person. All are encouraged to stay in touch with one another by phone, email, or written cards. If you would like to organize a Zoom teleconference or telephone meeting, please be in touch with the Rev. Steve Silver (603-448-4281/silver@fccleb.org), and he’ll get you set up and ready to go.

Children's Moment

Have you ever seen a sheep dog at work? I've seen demonstrations at the Shaker Museum. It's really impressive to watch one trained animal round up a flock of independent-minded sheep. The dog runs to and fro, his eye always on the flock, and he keeps all of his charges together, driving them to a pen. Sometimes, some of the sheep aren't that focused on following instructions, and they wander off a bit, but the dog will dart out and bring the stray sheep back to the larger flock. There's no growling, no biting, no overtly threatening behavior; the sheep dog just gets the job done. Now, you and I can be like sheep, and Jesus is our shepherd. He's constantly rounding us up, and unlike real sheep, we sometimes wander far, far away. But Jesus will always look for us, because he loves us. We might want to make our shepherd's job a bit easier, by paying attention to him, and to the clues he drops around us in the Bible and in the form of family, friends, and church, and other people we look up to. Getting lost isn't fun; fortunately, God will always find us.

Hymn 327 (See below, p. 6) *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

Bradbury

Scripture Lessons

Acts 2:42-47. ⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

John 10:1-10. "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

On this day we offer our ongoing prayers for Pete, Lloyd, Jessica, Martha, Micah, Joanne, Max, Kelee, Tammy, Arlene, Ruth, Ryle, Emily, John, Shirley, Dan, Roger, Jim, Beth, Evelyn, Susan, Barbara, Max, Greg, and Larry.

We remember Charles Coe, son of Leora Coe, who passed away this week. We pray for his wife Margaret and their children and extended family.

We pray for all those struggling with financial challenges, reduced hours and unemployment, and fears about the future.

We pray for the healthcare workers and first responders who are on the front line dealing with this pandemic.

We pray for wisdom and humility from all our leaders.

Today we offer the following prayer:

Loving God, you have gathered us as a shepherd would, thinking not of yourself but of your charges. Though there are times that we wander and stray, we fear getting lost. We think that we know what is best, that we have all the right answers, but in truth, we do not. We have turned from the Way of your Son, and in doing so, we have lost our way. Help us, we pray, to find our way back to you, to the life you wish for us, to your everlasting peace, and comfort, and love. We pray all of these things in the name of 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

In times like this, it is especially fitting that we remember those who are without, those who are often ignored, those who are in need. In this spirit, we invite your support of this church, its mission, and its ministry. Please mail in your offering as you are able, in support of this church's continuing work in and for the community.

Doxology (*Unison*)

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*)

Holy Shepherd, with gratitude for the Resurrection, we offer our gifts, declaring ourselves to be Easter people. With gratitude for the new life we have received in Jesus, we rededicate ourselves to serving you and your people with our time, our skills, our money. In the name of your Risen Son we pray. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

For communion, you are invited to have some bread and juice on hand. We will share in the bread and cup at the appointed time. If you would like to receive a blessing, please let the officiant know.

Invitation and Communion Prayer

Sanctus

Ho - ly, Ho - ly Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts:
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo - ry be to you, O Lord most
High. Bless-ed is the one that comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est, Ho - san-na in the high - est, Ho -
san - na in the high - est.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (*Unison*)

Because the broken bread has meant our healing, because the outpoured cup has meant our life, because our common sharing has meant the communion of our souls, and because we have here been graced by your presence, God, we give you thanks and pray that our lives may be renewed in the life and the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn 347 (See below, p. 7) *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* Linstead

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 companionship of the Holy Spirit, this day and forevermore. Amen.

Joys, Concerns, and Prayer Requests

If you wish to have a **joy, concern, or prayer request** lifted up in the service, or if you know of anyone who may need special prayers, a card or phone call, or some other form of pastoral care, please email prayer@fccleb.org, or contact the church office or the Rev. Steve Silver directly.

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

80

Second Tune

Based on Psalm 23
Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877

ST. COLUMBA 8.7.8.7
Ancient Irish Melody

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, With

good - ness fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
ran - somed soul he lead - eth, And where the ver - dant
yet in love he sought me, And on his shoul - der
thee, dear Lord, be - side me: Thy rod and staff my

I am his, And he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gen - tly laid, And home re - joic - ing brought me.
com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me. A - men.

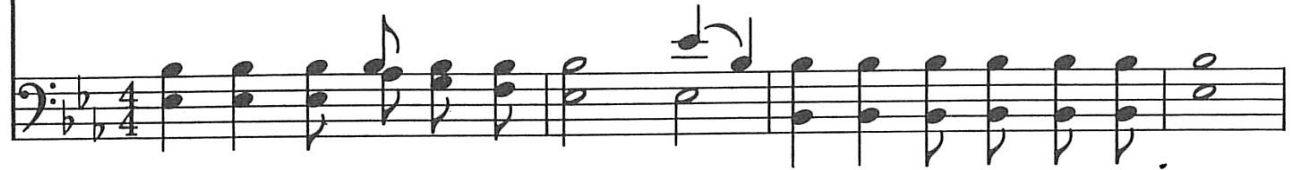
o Thou spread'st a table in my sight,
Thy unction grace bestoweth,
And O what transport of delight
From thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
Within thy house forever.

Attr. to Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847

BRADBURY 8.7.8.7.D.
William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

1 Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us, Much we need thy ten-der care;
 2 We are thine; do thou be - friend us; Be the guard-ian of our way;
 3 Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor; Ear - ly let us do thy will;



In thy pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, For our use thy folds pre-pare.
 Keep thy flock; from sin de - fend us; Seek us when we go a - stray.
 Bless-ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, With thy love our bos-oms fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, Bless-ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, thine we are;
 Bless-ed Je - sus, Bless-ed Je - sus, Hear thy chil-dren when they pray;
 Bless-ed Je - sus, Bless-ed Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still;



Bless-ed Je - sus, Bless-ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, Bless-ed Je - sus, Hear thy chil-dren when they pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, Bless-ed Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still. A-men.



Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Luke 10:1-9

Fred Kaan, 1975; alt.

C F G Dm G C G

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em-ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,

C F G Dm7 C G C

bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex-press.
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - ery-where!

Refrain (first time *p*, second time *f*)

C C7 F Dm G C F C

Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!

This hymn came into being when composer Doreen Potter asked poet Fred Kaan to write a text for her adaptation of a Jamaican folk melody. It was first used at the World Council of Churches Assembly in Nairobi (1975), and in Vancouver (1983).

Tune: LINSTEAD L.M. with refrain
 Jamaican folk song
 Adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975

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Mother's Day Is Blanket Sunday

We are pleased once again to participate in Church World Service's CWS BLANKETS, a special mission project that provides blankets and essential supplies to people in crisis worldwide. (For more information on this program, please visit www.cwsblankets.org.)

If you'd like to honor or remember the mother(s) in your life with a contribution to CWS Blankets, please contact the church (603-448-4281 or church@fccleb.org) with your dedication information. The suggested minimum is \$10, but any amount is welcome! (*Payable to FCC, memo "Blanket Sunday"*)

All dedications must be received by noon this WEDNESDAY, MAY 6 in order to be included in the worship bulletin next Sunday, MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 10.

Thanks to your generous contributions, CWS is able to "blanket the world with love."

One Great Hour of Sharing: "Invest in Futures"—Special UCC Mission Offering

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

We will continue to collect this offering throughout the coming weeks. Please consider a contribution as you are able, and thanks! (Payable to FCC, with "OGHS" in the memo line.)

Do Your Part to "Fill the Cart"—From Home!

We are no longer collecting items for our shopping cart, but local need is as urgent as ever.

Listen's food pantry on Hanover Street (next to Sacred Heart Church) continues to accept non-perishable donations, and they are serving to-go meals during the week in White River. However, the closure of the Listen Store is a huge financial loss. The Haven, too, has seen rising demand at their food pantry and would greatly appreciate financial donations as well.

In lieu of filling our cart, please consider making a contribution directly to Listen, the Haven, the UV Humane Society, or another local organization that serves the needs of our community. Thanks to everyone for fighting local poverty and food insecurity!

LISTEN: listencs.org • THE HAVEN: uppervalleyhaven.org • UV HUMANE SOCIETY: uvhs.org

Please note that we have suspended on-site worship services and other events through at least Sunday, May 31, following community guidelines. Contact the church office for information about particular events or assistance using the Zoom teleconferencing application.



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

Susan Sorensen, Interim 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)

603-448-4281 • church@fccleb.org • prayer@fccleb.org • music@fccleb.org • www.fccleb.org