



# First Congregational Church of Lebanon

*United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming*

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**Fifth Sunday of Easter • Mother's Day • Blanket Sunday**

May 10, 2020

“Easter is never deserved.”

–Jan Karon

*All hymns are included after the order of worship, on pages 5-9.*

**Prelude**      *Machs mit mir, Gott, nach deiner Güt*

J. G. Walther

**Call to Worship** (*Unison*; adapted from Psalm 31)

In you, O LORD, we seek refuge; do not let us ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver us. Incline your ear to us; rescue us speedily. Be a rock of refuge for us, a strong fortress to save us. You are indeed our rock and our fortress; for your name's sake lead us and guide us. Into your hand we commit our spirit; you have redeemed us, O LORD, faithful God. My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors. Let your face shine upon your servants; save us in your steadfast love.

**Hymn 70** (*See below, p. 5*)      *God Is Here! As We Your People Meet*

Abbot's Leigh

**Prayer of Invocation**

God, though we cannot be in one place for worship, we are still united in your Spirit. Lift up our worship, inspire our prayers, and infuse them with your grace, your love, and your power. We pray all these things in the name of your Son. 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

Today is Mother's Day, and it's a great time to say thank you to all of the moms, grandmothers, and other mother figures in our lives. One of the things about mothers is that they're always there for you, even when you've done something wrong. They'll always forgive you. That doesn't mean we should do bad things since we know we'll be forgiven, but it is good to know that when we mess up, there is someone who loves and forgives us. There's someone like that in the Bible, too: Jesus! He loves us and welcomes us and will always forgive us. Let's show we love him, and our moms, too, by trying to do our best. It's a great way we can say "thank you" and "I love you."

**Hymn 366 (See below, p. 6)**    *God of Our Life*

Sandon

## Scripture Lessons

**Acts 7:55-60.** <sup>55</sup>But filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" <sup>57</sup>But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup>Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup>Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

**John 14:1-14.** [Jesus said to the disciples,] "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going." <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

<sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

<sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than

these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

**Sermon**      “Room for You and Me” (*See separate document*)      Stephen R. Silver

**Hymn 624** (*See below, p. 7*)      *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art*      Toulon

### **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, Larry, and Terry.

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:

God of the Ages, we come to you in prayer, like women and men before us, bringing our hopes and dreams, our fears and worries to you. We do this knowing that whatever might be on our minds or in our hearts, nothing ought to be held back from you. Truly, we know that nothing can be kept from you, even though we might pretend otherwise. Forgive us our lack of faith, our waywardness, our stubbornness, and receive us into your presence, today and forevermore.

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

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*)

In Scripture we are told that we are a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people. We are called to this role so that Jesus might proclaim the wondrous acts of the One who called him to lead us from darkness into his marvelous light. In gratitude, we ask that our worship, our actions, and this offering serve to make known the power and Good News of God. In the name of our Risen Lord we pray, Amen.

Hymn 634 (*See below, p. 8*)    *To God Be the Glory*                      To God Be the Glory

## 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](mailto:prayer@fccleb.org), or contact the church office or the Rev. Steve Silver directly.

*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.*

### **Congregational Survey Coming Soon from MSA**

It has been over four years since we last surveyed the congregation about the mission partners that FCC supports. The Mission and Social Action Committee seeks everyone's input now in order to update our mission priorities. A new survey will be distributed in the coming weeks.

To help us prepare the survey, we invite your suggestions of local, national, and global organizations that you feel FCC seems most naturally suited to support. Please submit your suggestions to the church office. Thanks!

## God Is Here! As We Your People Meet

*Fred Pratt Green, 1978; alt.*

1 God is here! As we your peo-ple meet to of - fer praise and prayer,  
 2 Here are sym-bols to re - mind us of our life - long need of grace;  
 3 Here our chil-dren find a wel-come in the Shep - herd's flock and fold;  
 4 Sov - ereign God, of earth and heav-en, in an age of change and doubt

May we find in full - er mea-sure what it is in Christ we share.  
 Here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit, here the cross has cen - tral place.  
 Here as bread and wine are tak - en, Christ sus - tains us as of old.  
 Keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel, help us work your pur - pose out.

Here, as in the world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
 Here in hon - es - ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
 Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
 Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

*Though he retired in 1969, this distinguished British poet has continued to write hymns. In addition to administering several circuits and local congregations, Fred Pratt Green published plays, translations, and poems. Emory University in Atlanta awarded him an honorary doctorate.*

Tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH 8.7.8.7.D.  
 Cyril V. Taylor, 1941

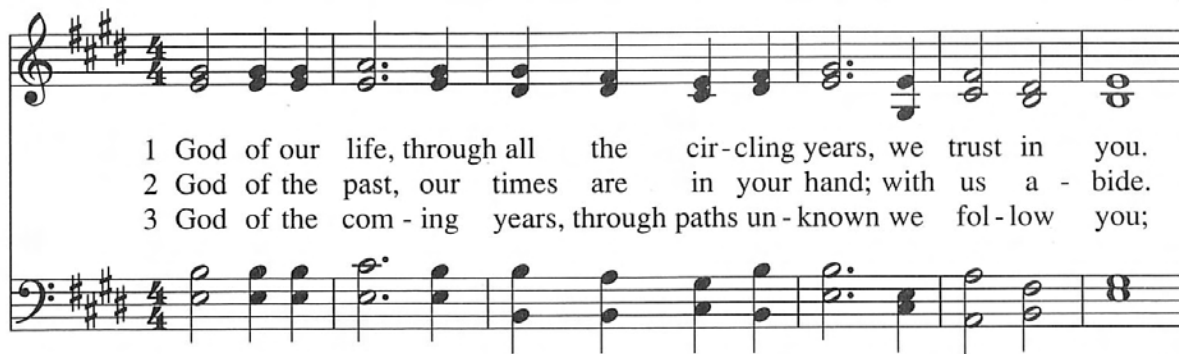
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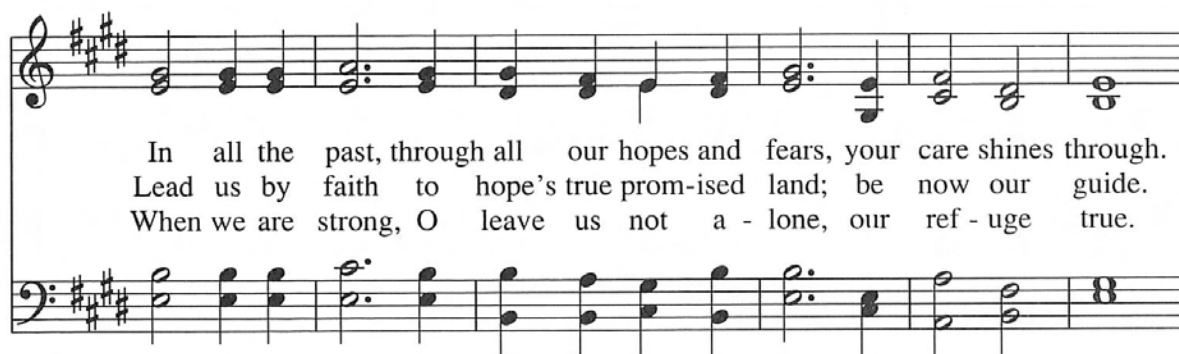
# God of Our Life

366

*Hugh T. Kerr, 1916; alt.*



1 God of our life, through all the cir-cling years, we trust in you.  
2 God of the past, our times are in your hand; with us a - bide.  
3 God of the com - ing years, through paths un - known we fol - low you;



In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, your care shines through.  
Lead us by faith to hope's true prom-ised land; be now our guide.  
When we are strong, O leave us not a - lone, our ref - uge true.



With each new day, when morn - ing lifts the veil,  
Bless us in times of dark - ness and of light,  
Be now for us in life our dai - ly bread,



We own your mer - cies, God, which nev - er fail.  
Then faith's fair vi - sion chang-es in - to sight.  
Our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

*Hugh Kerr was educated in Canada and the United States and was a pioneer in religious broadcasting. He wrote this hymn for the fiftieth anniversary of Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, where he had a long tenure as pastor.*

Tune: SANDON 10.4.10.4.10.10.  
Charles Henry Purday, 1860  
For another harmonization, see 466

# I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art 624

1 I greet thee, who my sure Re - deem - er art,  
 2 Thou art the King of mer - cy and of grace,  
 3 Thou art the life, by which a - lone we live,  
 4 Thou hast the true and per - fect gen - tle - ness;  
 5 Our hope is in no oth - er save in thee;

my on - ly trust and Sav - ior of my heart,  
 reign - ing om - ni - po - tent in ev - ery place:  
 and all our sub - stance and our strength re - ceive;  
 no harsh-ness hast thou and no bit - ter - ness.  
 our faith is built up - on thy prom - ise free;

who pain didst un - der - go for my poor sake;  
 so come, O King, and our whole be - ing sway;  
 sus - tain us by thy faith and by thy power,  
 O grant to us the grace we find in thee,  
 Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,

I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.  
 shine on us with the light of thy pure day.  
 and give us strength in ev - ery try - ing hour.  
 that we may dwell in per - fect u - ni - ty.  
 that in thy strength we ev - er - more en - dure.

The original French text, sometimes attributed to John Calvin, seems to be a Protestant reworking of a Roman Catholic hymn, not a typical practice for him. Yet this text and tune (adapted from GENEVAN 124) clearly date from the early years of the Reformed tradition.

# 634 To God Be the Glory

1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!  
2 Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;

who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,  
but pur - er and high - er and great - er will be

and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.  
our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

This American gospel song became popular in England in the late 19th century, then returned to this country in the mid-20th century with the Billy Graham crusades. Its continuing popularity may well be due to the freedom from subjective considerations in its praise of God.



*Refrain*

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!

The first line of the refrain features a treble and bass staff in E-flat major (three flats). The treble staff has a melody of eighth notes with stems pointing up, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment of eighth notes with stems pointing down. The lyrics are centered under the notes.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the peo - ple re - joice!

The second line continues the musical pattern with the same treble and bass staves. The lyrics are centered under the notes.

O come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the Son,

The third line of the refrain continues the musical pattern. The lyrics are centered under the notes.

and give him the glo - ry: great things he has done!

The fourth line of the refrain concludes the musical phrase with a double bar line. The lyrics are centered under the notes.



## *Happy Mothers' Day!*

Thanks to all who gave to **CWS BLANKETS** this year! With your generous contributions, to the glory of God and in honor or memory of those listed below, Church World Service will...

*Blanket the World with Love!*

### *IN HONOR OF...*

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

My two special daughters, Jennifer and Amy—*Marcia Corkins*

All mothers, who are going through so much in this difficult time—*Marcia Corkins and Pete Mason*

Ike's mom, Betty Adams; Ike's aunt, Terri Reese; our daughter, Carey Jacobs; our son, Craig Jacobs; and our dear friend Laura Place—*Linda and Ike Jacobs*

My wonderful partner, Marcia—*Pete Mason*

My mother, Suzette Ragan—*Valerie Nevel*

Deb, Shea, Karen, Grammy Kimball, Nanny, Grandma Kathy, and Grandma Phyllis—*Deserai and Walter Scott*

JoAnn Smith and Ruth Silver—*Chip, Rachel, and Steve Silver*

Rachel Silver—*Chip and Steve Silver*

Juliet Marion, mother and grandmother extraordinaire, God's gift to our family—*Stacey Steele and Dominic Watson*

### *IN MEMORY OF...*

My mother, Leta Fortmiller—*Lola Baldwin*

My mother, Priscilla—*Marcia Corkins*

Linda's mom, Barbara Sumner; Linda's Gram, Ruby Sumner; Linda's aunt, Betty Sumner King; and dear friends Betty Howard, Gracie Morse, and Debbie Wentworth—*Linda and Ike Jacobs*

Marilyn, my wife for 65 years—*Pete Mason*

My friend Millie Hubbard—*Valerie Nevel*

My mother, Helen Walling, and Marilyn Glazer—*Susan Pratt*

Our mothers, Bessie B. Lewis and Mary M. Sargent—*Barbara and Gordon Sargent*

My mother, Helen K. Smith—*Dr. Kenneth W. Smith*

Gladys (grandmother and great-grandmother); Doris (grand-aunt); and Heather, Dulcey, and Sonia (aunts)—*Stacey Steele and Dominic Watson*



**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](mailto: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](mailto:church@fccleb.org) • [prayer@fccleb.org](mailto:prayer@fccleb.org) • [music@fccleb.org](mailto:music@fccleb.org) • [www.fccleb.org](http://www.fccleb.org)**