



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 28, 2020

“True hospitality is marked by an open response to the dignity of each and every person. Henri Nouwen has described it as receiving the stranger on his own terms, and asserts that it can be offered only by those who ‘have found the center of their lives in their own hearts.’”

–Kathleen Norris

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

Call to Worship (*Unison*; Psalm 89:1-2,15-18)

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Happy are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light of your countenance; they exult in your name all day long, and extol your righteousness. For you are the glory of their strength; by your favor our horn is exalted. For our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel.

Hymn 16 (*See below, p. 5*) O That I Had a Thousand Voices O dass ich tausend...

Prayer of Invocation

God, who joins us together in and through your Spirit, we lift up our worship to you. Inspire our prayers and infuse all we do and offer with your grace, your love, and your power. Be with us during this service, we pray, 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

Do your parents or teachers ever tell you to do something? I'm sure the answer is yes. And I'm pretty sure that when they do the same thing that they're asking you to do, it's much more convincing. Jesus is like those people. He never failed to do what he asks us to do. Remember this when it seems inconvenient to reach out to someone or to be kind or to help out. It's what Jesus would have us do—just as he did.

Hymn 182 (See below, p. 6) *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

Kingsfold

Scripture Lessons

Romans 6:12-23. ¹²Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. ¹³No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, ¹⁸and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

²⁰When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²²But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 10:40-42. ⁴⁰[Jesus continued,] “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

Sermon *“Just Reward” (See separate document)*

Stephen R. Silver

Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

Note: As we hold our community members in prayer, please help us ensure that our weekly prayer list is current by contacting Rev. Silver or the church office with any changes.

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, Terry, Larry, Bryan, Pat, and Chris.

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:

Holy One, throughout the ages faithful men and women have been inspired and sustained by the example of Jesus and the workings of the Spirit. Though we may not always give our thanks to you, O God, for these life-giving gifts, we ask that you know we are grateful. Though we may at times fail to do what is right and help those in need, though we may be selfish or otherwise distracted from the Gospel, we pray that you will always help us to return to the Way of the Christ—to act as your people, not just in name, but in deeds large and small.

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

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*)

Wondrous God: We remember with gratitude how you showed our forebears hospitality, how you provided them with a home, how you gave them food in the desert. We thank you for these generous acts, and we offer our gifts of welcome, of shelter, of sustenance to our brothers and sisters, your beloved children. Amen.

Hymn 840 (*See below, p. 8*) *When Peace Like a River (It Is Well...)* Ville du Havre

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.

Please note that we have extended our suspension of on-site worship services and other events through at least Sunday, August 30, as we maintain caution amid COVID-19 concerns. Contact the church for more information, or assistance using the Zoom teleconferencing application.

Fellowship Through Food—Sharing Meals in Tough Times

Would you enjoy having a meal provided by a friend? If you're weary of adding dinner to your to-do list, are overwhelmed with your child's home-schooling, or are experiencing a loss of income, we'd like to help by dropping off a meal. If any of these scenarios speaks to you—or if you enjoy cooking and would like to provide a meal—the Deacons invite you to email Steve Silver (silver@fccleb.org) or call the church office (603-448-4281). **Let's help each other!**

MSA Needs Your Input for Its Upcoming Congregational Survey

The Mission and Social Action Committee seeks everyone's input about the mission partners that FCC supports, in order to update our priorities. An MSA survey will soon be distributed.

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!

16 O That I Had a Thousand Voices

1 O that I had a thou-sand voic - es to praise my
 2 Let ev - ery power in me im - plant - ed, a - rise, keep
 3 You for - est leaves so green and ten - der that dance for
 4 All crea-tures that have breath and mo - tion, that throng the

God with thou-sand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord re -
 si - lence now no more; put forth the strength that God has
 joy in sum - mer air; you mead - ow grass - es, bright and
 earth, the sea, the sky, come, share with me my heart's de -

joic - es, would then pro-claim in grate-ful songs to all, wher -
 grant - ed! Your no - blest work is to a - dore! O soul and
 slen - der; you flowers so fra - grant and so fair: you live to
 vo - tion; help me to sing God's prais - es high! My ut - most

ev - er I might be, what great things God has done for me!
 bod - y, join to raise with heart-felt joy our Mak - er's praise!
 show God's praise a - lone. Join me to make God's glo - ry known!
 powers can nev - er quite de - clare the won - ders of God's might!

The German original of this hymn contained too many stanzas to sustain a unified theme. The four selected here place humankind in the midst of creation and form an effective song of praise to the Creator. As the tune name suggests, the music was later composed for these words.

182 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;

lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
 the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
 look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad; I
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream; my
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and

found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.
 thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
 in that light of life I'll walk till trav - eling days are done.

Each stanza here pairs an invitation from Jesus with a response from the narrator. These three invitations recall how Jesus welcomed those who were heavy laden (Matthew 11:28), offered living water (John 4:10-14), and identified himself as the light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5).

703 Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

1 Je - sus, thy bound - less love to me no thought can
 2 O grant that noth - ing in my soul may dwell, but
 3 O Love, how gra - cious is thy way! All fear be -

reach, no tongue de - clare; O knit my thank - ful heart to
 thy pure love a - lone; O may thy love pos - sess me
 fore thy pres - ence flies; care, an - guish, sor - row melt a -

thee, and reign with - out a ri - val there! Thine whol - ly,
 whole, my joy, my trea - sure, and my crown! All cold - ness
 way wher - e'er thy heal - ing beams a - rise. O Je - sus,

thine a - lone, I'd live; my - self to thee en - tire - ly give.
 from my heart re - move; may ev - ery act, word, thought be love.
 noth - ing may I see, noth - ing de - sire, or seek, but thee.

John Wesley learned the original German hymn from the Moravians during his time in Savannah, Georgia, and translated all sixteen stanzas. The tune, named for a 4th-century martyr, comes out of the Roman Catholic revival movement of the mid-19th century.

840

When Peace like a River

It Is Well with My Soul

1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives: O the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought. My
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the

taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well with my soul;
 It is well with my soul;

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Vill du Havre'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 11/8. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The melody is primarily composed of chords and dotted notes. The lyrics are: 'it is well; it is well with my soul.'

This text is a remarkable expression of faith born of grief. The author, an active Presbyterian layman who had just lost four daughters in a tragic shipwreck, wrote it while sailing to Paris to meet his wife, who had survived. The tune was named for the ship that sank.

TEXT: Horatio G. Spafford, 1876, alt.
MUSIC: Philip P. Bliss, 1876

VILLE DU HAVRE
11.8.11.9 with refrain



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