



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2020

“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.”

—Theodore Roosevelt

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

Call to Worship (*Unison*; Psalm 145:8-14)

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The LORD is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made. All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your faithful shall bless you. They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power, to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds. The LORD upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.

Hymn 440 (*See below, p. 5*) *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

Materna

Prayer of Invocation

God, though we worship in places near and far today, we welcome your Spirit as it joins 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

This is a tough time. There's a pandemic and protests and politics. People can be nasty to others, to their neighbors, to complete strangers. They can think that just because

someone holds a different belief, it's okay to call them names or dismiss them. That's not the Christian way, no matter how much we might want to lash out. We need to speak up—Jesus calls us to do that—but we need to do so with love and charity, not venom and hate. I hope and pray you'll remember this over the years.

Hymn 437 (*See below, p. 6*) *My Country, 'Tis of Thee* (vv. 1-4)

America

Scripture Lesson

Mark 3:20-30. ²⁰[A]nd the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." ²²And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." ²³And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. ²⁷But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

²⁸"Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"—³⁰for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

Sermon *"A House Divided"* (*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, Max, Joanne, Kelee, Tammy, Arlene, Ruth, Ryle, Emily, John, Shirley, Dan, Roger, Evelyn, Jim, Beth, Susan, Barbara, Max, Greg, Terry, Larry, Bryan, Pat, Chris, and Edith.

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 reconciliation in this time of racial tension.

We pray for wisdom and humility from all our leaders.

Today we offer the following prayer:

Almighty God, on this weekend when we commemorate our nation's founding, we come to you to confess: to our fear, to our pride, to our selfishness, to our prizing

partisanship above the common good. We ask that you imbue us with the grace and the faith to live up to the highest ideals on which this country was founded, to make real the promise. Forgive us for the idolatry of the flag, for confusing our preferences with your will. Let us remember that we are called to be Christians, disciples of Jesus, animated by your Spirit above and beyond all else. Amen.

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*)

God of redemption, God of grace, God of love: we are blessed by you, who came to save us, empowering us to serve your people. Use our gifts of time, skills, and money to further your work in the world. In the name of your 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 433 (*See below, p. 7*) *God of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand* National Hymn

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!**

Suggestions for Upcoming MSA Survey—Last Call!

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!

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

440

Katharine Lee Bates, 1859-1929

MATERNA C.M.D.
Samuel A. Ward, 1848-1903

1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, For am - ber waves of grain,
 2 O beau - ti - ful for pil - grim feet, Whose stern, im - pas - sioned stress
 3 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved In lib - er - at - ing strife,
 4 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream That sees be - yond the years

For pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties A - bove the fruit - ed plain!
 A thor - ough - fare for free - dom beat A - cross the wil - der - ness!
 Who more than self their coun - try loved, And mer - cy more than life!
 Thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, Un - dimmed by hu - man tears!

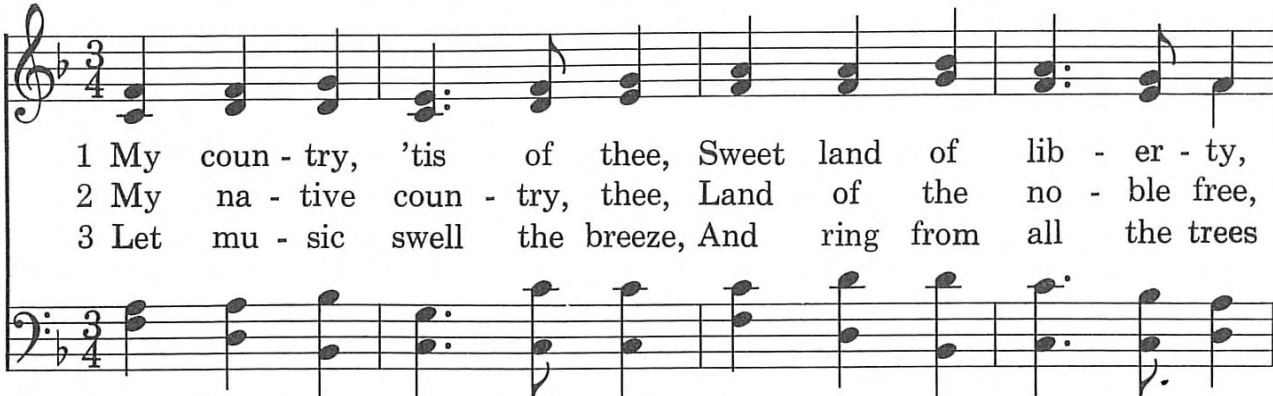
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,

And crown thy good with broth - er - hood From sea to shin - ing sea.
 Con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, Thy lib - er - ty in law.
 Till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, And ev - ery gain di - vine.
 And crown thy good with broth - er - hood From sea to shin - ing sea. A - men.


Samuel F. Smith, 1808-1895

AMERICA 6.6.4.6.6.6.4.

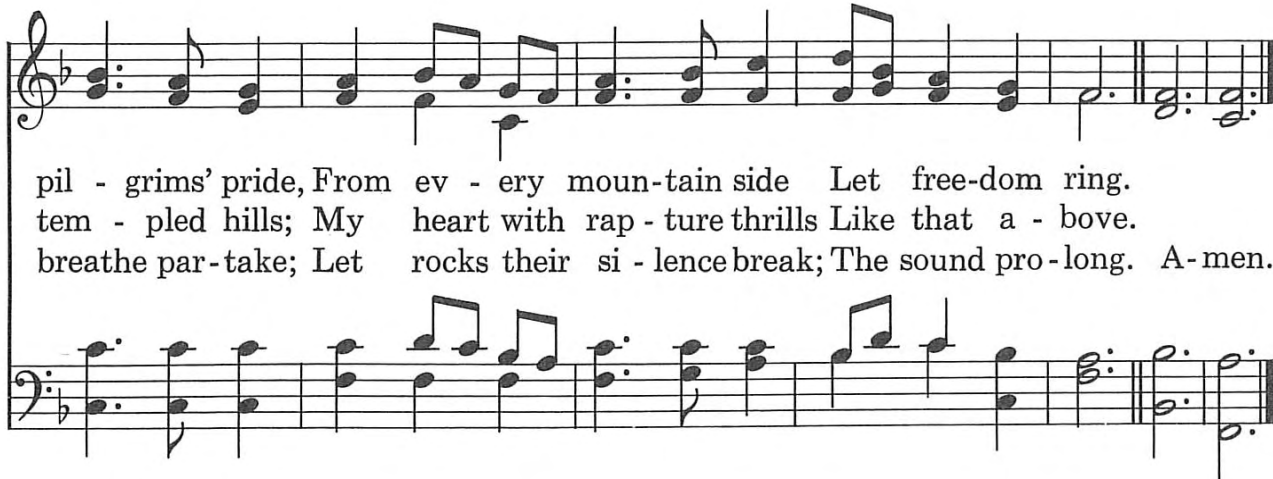
Source Unknown



1 My coun - try, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of lib - er - ty,
 2 My na - tive coun - try, thee, Land of the no - ble free,
 3 Let mu - sic swell the breeze, And ring from all the trees



Of thee I sing; Land where my fa - thers died, Land of the
 Thy name I love; I love thy rocks and rills, Thy woods and
 Sweet free-dom's song; Let mor - tal tongues a - wake; Let all that



pil - grims' pride, From ev - ery moun-tain side Let free-dom ring.
 tem - pled hills; My heart with rap - ture thrills Like that a - bove.
 breathe par-take; Let rocks their si - lence break; The sound pro-long. A-men.

4 Our father's God, to thee,
 Author of liberty,
 To thee we sing;
 Long may our land be bright
 With freedom's holy light;
 Protect us by thy might,
 Great God, our King.

Daniel C. Roberts, 1841-1907

NATIONAL HYMN 10.10.10.10.

George W. Warren, 1828-1902

Trumpets, before each stanza (optional)

1 God of our fa - thers, whose al-might-y hand
 2 Thy love di - vine hath led us in the past;
 3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti - lence,
 4 Re - fresh thy peo - ple on their toil-some way;

Leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
 In this free land by thee our lot is cast;
 Be thy strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense;
 Lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;

Of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies,
 Be thou our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and stay,
 Thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease;
 Fill all our lives with love and grace di - vine,

Our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.
 Thy word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.
 Thy boun-teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
 And glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine. A - men.



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