



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

August 2, 2020

“Your life as a Christian should make non-believers question their disbelief in God.”

–Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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

Call to Worship (*Unison*; Psalm 17:1,5-7,15)

Hear a just cause, O LORD; attend to my cry. Give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit. My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped. I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me, hear my words. Wondrously show your steadfast love, O savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand. As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake I shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness.

Hymn 28 (*See below, p. 5*) *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Dix

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

If you could suggest one thing that people might do to remember you, what would it be? Jesus told the disciples that they should share bread and the cup, to share what we now know as the Lord's Supper. It tells us a lot about Jesus that he didn't ask them to

go around citing his speeches or trying to replicate his miracles. Instead, he told them to engage in fellowship, to share food, and to remember that he loved them.

That's pretty remarkable—and it's a cue for each of us to ask how we would like to be remembered and why.

Hymn 502 (See below, p. 6) *Dear God, Embracing Humankind*

Rest

Scripture Lessons

Genesis 32:22-31. ²²The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." ²⁹Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." ³¹The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

Matthew 14:13-21. ¹³Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Sermon *"Wrestling with the Almighty" (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 maintain our weekly prayer list by contacting Rev. Silver or the church office to confirm names on the list or remove them.*

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, Jon, Larry, Bryan, Pat, Edith, and Jon.

We pray for Jan, a friend of Deb Scott's from Mirror Lake Church, who is suffering from numerous cardiac-related issues. May she and her family experience comfort.

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:

God of our forebears, you were with them in all of their struggles: for freedom, for courage, for faith. We know that you are with us, too. Sometimes, though, it is hard for us to keep the faith. The worries of the world seem too great, our personal situations too burdensome. Help us remember that it is in these moments that we most need you. Though the walk of faith may be long, we know its destination is priceless, for we are heading to you.

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*)

Generous God, as we come together today in friendship and service, we present these gifts as a sign of our commitment to be a faithful community, dedicated to spreading your good news and serving your people. In Jesus' name 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:
7 Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo - ry be to you, O Lord most
11 High. Bless-ed is the one that comes in the name of the
15 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho -
20 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.

Outdoor Service Planned for Next Sunday! (Rain Date 8/16)

On August 9 we hope to worship together on FCC's front lawn. We ask for your understanding as we consider what it means to resume worship in person—safety measures, changes in liturgical practice, singing and communal prayer, etc. **Those attending will have to RSVP in advance** and follow requirements such as health and symptom screening, physical distancing, and mask use. We will not have coffee hour following the service. **To RSVP, or ask any questions, please contact the church office or Rev. Steve Silver (silver@fccleb.org).**

For the Beauty of the Earth

St. 1–3, Folllott S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.

St. 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the splen - dor of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 4 For the good that love in - spires, for a world where none ex - clude,

For the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
 Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
 For a faith that nev - er tires, and for ev - ery heart re - newed,

Refrain

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

Folllott S. Pierpoint, author of numerous hymns, penned these verses near his native city of Bath, England, on a late spring day when flowers were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice.

Tune: DIX 7.7.7. with refrain
 Conrad Kocher, 1838
 Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

PLYMOUTH'S PILGRIMS: THEIR CHURCH, THEIR WORLD, AND OURS

Four-week Class on Zoom—Tuesdays, August 4-18, at 7:00 pm (RSVP)

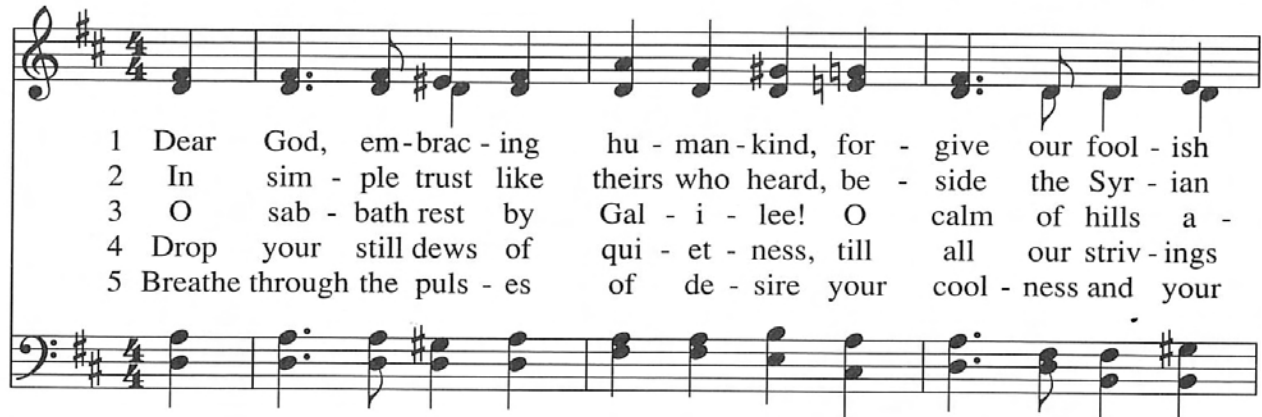
Join us for an exploration of the Pilgrims on the 400th anniversary of their arrival in America, using a Congregational Library curriculum created for the occasion. This is a great opportunity to learn about our forebears in faith, what they actually believed and did, whom they met upon arriving in the New World, and how their experience impacts us today. Readings and other materials will be provided, and each session will offer a lively discussion. *There is no cost to participate and all materials are free. Questions/RSVP to Rev. Steve Silver at silver@fclub.org.*

Dear God, Embracing Humankind

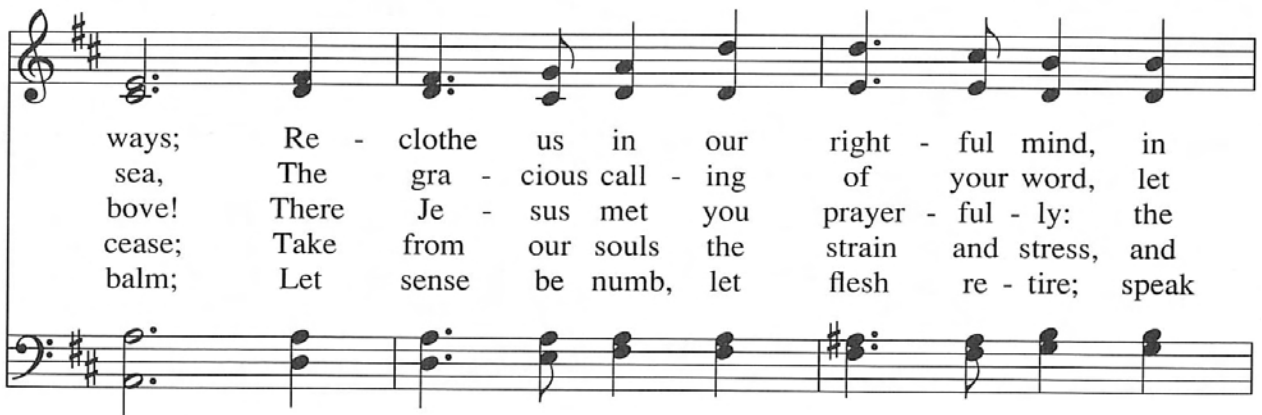
502

John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872; alt.

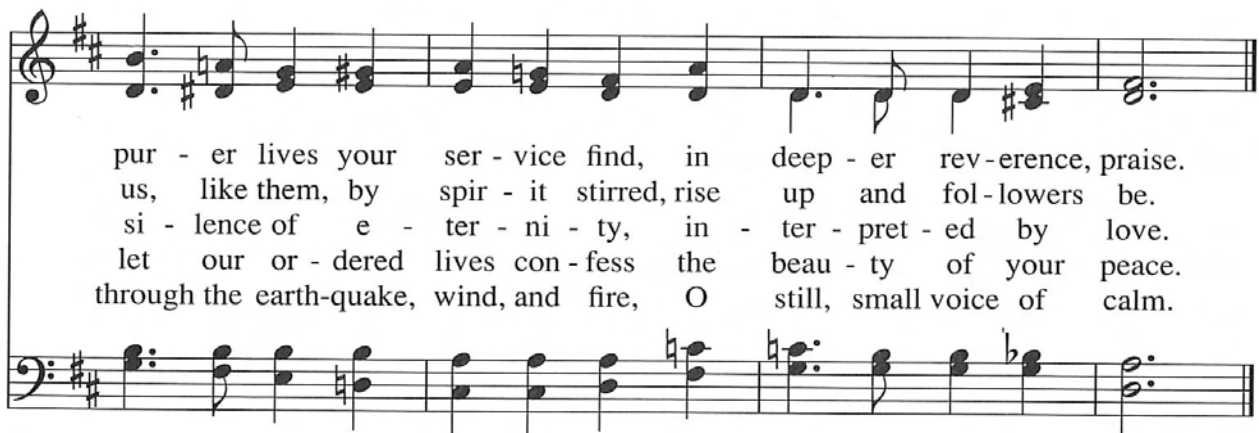
Mark 1:16–20; Matt. 14:22–23; 1 Kings 19:11–12



1 Dear God, em-brac - ing hu - man - kind, for - give our fool - ish
2 In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, be - side the Syr - ian
3 O sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee! O calm of hills a -
4 Drop your still dews of qui - et - ness, till all our striv - ings
5 Breathe through the puls - es of de - sire your cool - ness and your



ways; Re - clothe us in our right - ful mind, in
sea, The gra - cious call - ing of your word, let
bove! There Je - sus met you prayer - ful - ly: the
cease; Take from our souls the strain and stress, and
balm; Let sense be numb, let flesh re - tire; speak



pur - er lives your ser - vice find, in deep - er rev - erence, praise.
us, like them, by spir - it stirred, rise up and fol - lowers be.
si - lence of e - ter - ni - ty, in - ter - pret - ed by love.
let our or - dered lives con - fess the beau - ty of your peace.
through the earth-quake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm.

In his poem "The Brewing of Soma," New England poet John Greenleaf Whittier compares frenzied ecstasies of a sect of Hindu priests to the noisy Christian revivals he found so offensive. This hymn of quiet worship is from the final stanzas.

Tune: REST 8.6.8.8.6.
Frederick C. Maker, 1887
Alternate tune: REPTON
(repeating last phrase)

Uncovering Racism—A Racial-Justice Reading Group (Dates/Times TBD)

We believe that as Christians, we are called to work for racial justice. To help us better do this work, we will read *Uncovering Racism*, by Kathryn Goering Reid and Stephen Breck Reid. This short but powerful book, written from a faith perspective, will help us see how racism persists as an issue we must grapple with. *All are invited to participate! Books provided free of charge, but reservations are required in advance. Please email Rev. Steve Silver (silver@fcclb.org) with questions or to RSVP.*

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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First Congregational Church of Lebanon

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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