



# First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

---

## The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2020

“It is more serious to lose hope than to sin.”

–John of Karpathos

*All hymns are included after the order of worship, on pages 5-8.*

### Call to Worship (*Unison*; adapted from Psalm 149)

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful. Let Israel be glad in its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King. Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre. For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with victory. Let the faithful exult in glory; let the high praises of God be in their throats. This is glory for all his faithful ones. Praise the LORD!

**Hymn 192** (*See below, p. 5*)    *The Day of Resurrection*

Lancashire

### 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

*While we are not meeting in person, all are encouraged to stay in touch with one another by phone, email, or written cards. If you wish to organize a Zoom conference or phone meeting, please contact the Rev. Steve Silver (603-448-4281/silver@fccleb.org), and he'll get you set up and ready to go.*

### Children's Moment

It's back-to-school time. Are you excited to see friends? Favorite teachers? Are you looking forward to being back in class? This year is different from any other year any of us have known, whether we're kids or adults. Things can seem strange. That's normal. One way of dealing with this feeling of weirdness is to seek comfort and

strength from our families, from our God. During these days, as you adjust to a new way of doing things, remember that you are not alone! Others are dealing with the same stuff—and God will be with you through it all.

**Hymn 8** (*See below, p. 6*)

*Praise to the Living God*

Diademata

### Scripture Lesson

**Exodus 12:1-14.** The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup>This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. <sup>4</sup>If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. <sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. <sup>6</sup>You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. <sup>7</sup>They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. <sup>8</sup>They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. <sup>10</sup>You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <sup>11</sup>This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. <sup>12</sup>For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup>The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

<sup>14</sup>This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

**Sermon**      *“The Importance of Ritual” (See separate document)*

Stephen R. Silver

### Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

*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, Arlene, Ruth, Evelyn, Jim, Barbara, Greg, Jon, Larry, Edith, Jon, Jan, and Claude.

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 and healing in this time of racial tension.

We pray for wisdom and humility from all our leaders.

Today we offer the following prayer:

God of the passing years, we give thanks that you are always with us. As we age, as we move, as we begin new careers, as we return to school, change often seems to be the only constant in our lives. We confess that at times we forget this is not true—for you are steadfast, you are our rock, you are the true constant. When all is hectic and disordered, you are comforting us, you are holding us, and you are providing us with a safe harbor amid the stormy seas of life. With grateful hearts, we thank you and ask that you give us the strength to provide assurance to others, as you provide it to us.

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's mission, ministry, and ongoing work in and for the community. Please mail in your offering as you are able.*

### **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 God, gathered together this day we give thanks for the presence of Jesus among us, rejoicing in the healing, the renewal, and the reconciliation he brings to us. Now, with joyful hearts, we present this morning's offering as a sign of our commitment to share these blessings with our sisters and brothers, wherever they may be. In the name of the resurrected Christ 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 506 (See below, p. 7) Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table

Copeland

### 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 communion 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 on-site, indoor worship and other events at FCC remain suspended through at least Sunday, October 18, at which point Church Council will reassess COVID-19 concerns.*

# The Day of Resurrection

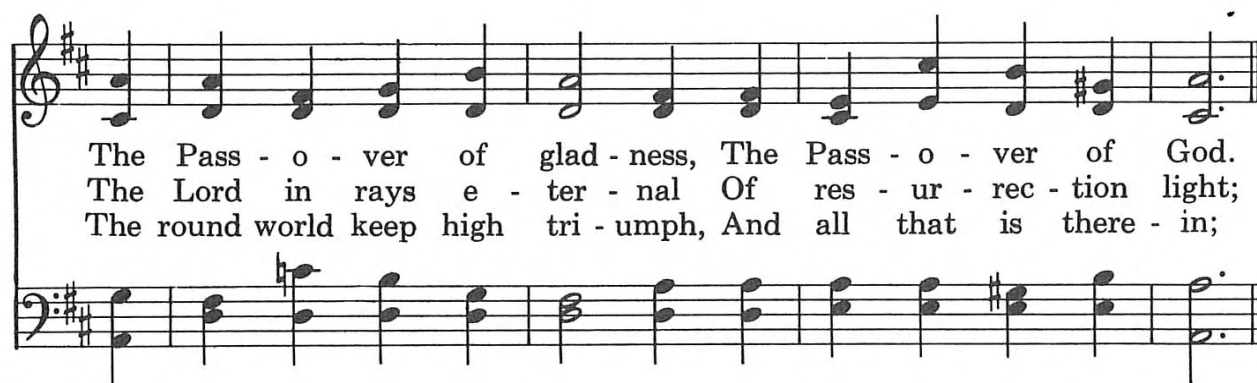
192

*John of Damascus, c.696-c.754*  
*Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.*

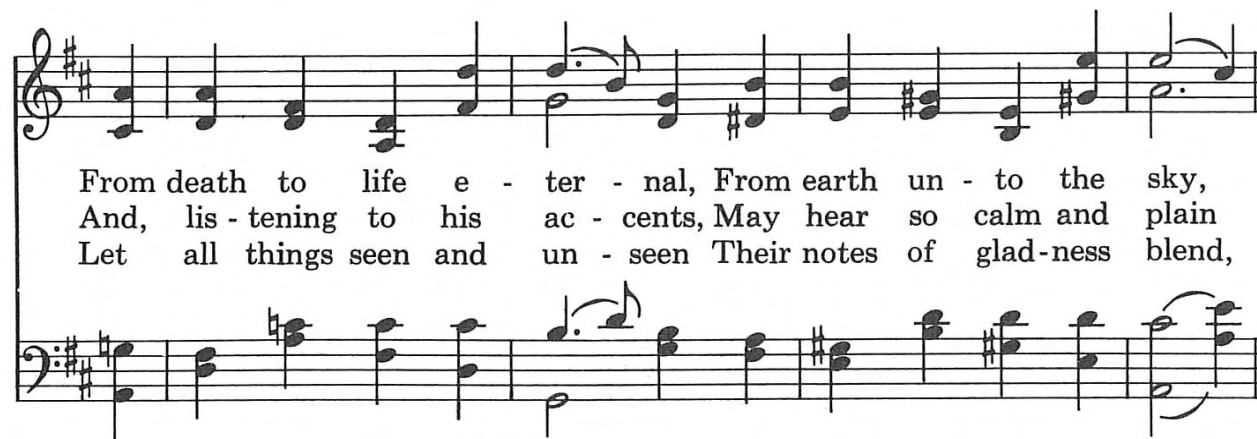
LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6.D.  
*Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879*



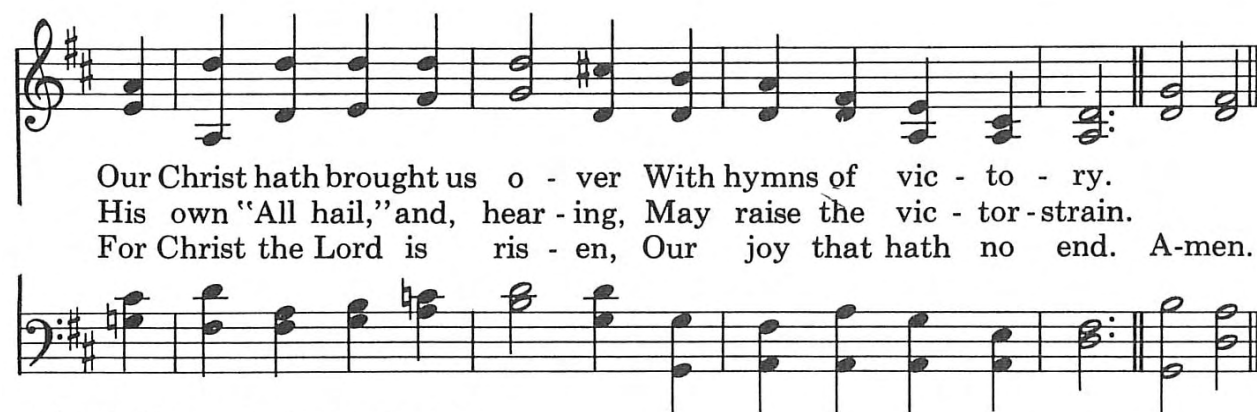
1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;  
 2 Our hearts be pure from e - vil, That we may see a - right  
 3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful, Let earth her song be - gin,



The Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, The Pass - o - ver of God.  
 The Lord in rays e - ter - nal Of res - ur - rec - tion light;  
 The round world keep high tri - umph, And all that is there - in;



From death to life e - ter - nal, From earth un - to the sky,  
 And, lis - tening to his ac - cents, May hear so calm and plain  
 Let all things seen and un - seen Their notes of glad - ness blend,



Our Christ hath brought us o - ver With hymns of vic - to - ry.  
 His own "All hail," and, hear - ing, May raise the vic - tor - strain.  
 For Christ the Lord is ris - en, Our joy that hath no end. A-men.

*A lower setting may be found at No. 375*  
*Alternative tune, GREENLAND, No. 190*

RESURRECTION

## Praise to the Living God

Ps. 84:1-2

Curtis Beach, 1966; alt.

1 Praise to the liv - ing God, the God of love and light, Whose  
 2 Praise to the liv - ing God, from whom all things de - rive, Whose  
 3 Praise to the liv - ing God, who knows our joy and pain, Who  
 4 Praise to the liv - ing God, a - round, with - in, a - bove, Be -

word brought forth the myr - iad suns and set the worlds in flight;  
 Spir - it formed up - on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;  
 shares with us our com - mon life, the sa - cred and pro - fane.  
 yond the grasp of hu - man mind, but whom we know as love.

Whose in - fi - nite de - sign, which we but dim - ly see, Per -  
 Who caused them to e - volve, un - wit - ting, toward God's goal, Till  
 God toils wher-e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill; And  
 In these tu - mul-tuous days, so full of hope and strife, May

vades all na - ture, mak - ing all a cos - mic u - ni - ty.  
 hu - man-kind stood on the earth, as liv - ing, think - ing souls.  
 deep with - in the hu - man heart God leads us for - ward still.  
 we bear wit - ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

Curtis Beach, born into a family of several generations of ministers, was educated at Harvard University, the Boston University School of Theology, and the University of Southern California. A minister in the United Church of Christ, Beach authored *The Gospel of Mark: Its Making and Meaning*.

Tune: DIADEMATA S.M.D.  
 George J. Elvey, 1868

# 506 Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table!

1 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries  
 2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -  
 3 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand  
 4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to

that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;  
 ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled  
 dif - ferent ways, but they share one thing in com - mon:  
 be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,

some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -  
 with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -  
 they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has in -  
 who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and

vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they  
 ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his  
 vit - ed north and south and east and west to con - verge a -  
 breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!—and then pass - es



This text celebrates the radical hospitality that characterizes Christ's welcome, which transcends time and reaches in all directions (Matthew 8:11 / Luke 13:29). Saints of old are, like us, people in need of forgiveness, and the response to such pardon is "thanks and praise."

TEXT: Thomas H. Troeger, 2000  
MUSIC: Michael Corzine, 2000  
Text © 2002 Oxford University Press  
Music © 2000 Michael Corzine

COPELAND  
8.7.8.7.D

Used and reproduced under license 734395-A from OneLicense, valid 4/13/2020–4/12/2021.

## STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH—INVEST IN THE VISION

The UCC's Strengthen the Church special offering supports the growth of ministry and local congregations across the country. Renewing older faith communities, building new ones, and funding fellowships for young, emerging leaders in our church, the program is vital to the health of our denomination—inspired by the vision and Holy Spirit of Pentecost.

*Please contribute as you're able to this nationwide effort to support church growth. Thank you!*

## Uncovering Racism—A Racial-Justice Reading Group (Starts Wed 9/16)

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 advance reservation is required. Please email Rev. Steve Silver (silver@fccleb.org) with questions or to RSVP.*

## Outdoor Service Planned for Sunday, September 20 (Rain Date 9/27)

In two weeks we will again worship together on FCC's front lawn. As in August, we ask for your understanding as we resume in-person worship with safety measures and changes in liturgical practice. **Attendees will have to RSVP in advance** and follow requirements such as health screening, physical distancing, and mask use. There will be no coffee hour.

*To RSVP, or ask any questions, please contact the church office or Rev. Steve Silver.*





**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)**