



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2020

“How do we learn to pray? By praying.”

—Justin Welby

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

Call to Worship (*Unison*; adapted from Psalm 78:1-4)

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

Hymn 429 (p. 5) *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

Melita

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@fcclb.org), and he'll get you set up and ready to go.

Children's Moment

It's hard to believe that it's already fall! The nights are longer, the days cooler, and soon, before we know it, Advent will be here and then Christmas. But before we rush through this season, let's enjoy it. The foliage, apple cider, trick-or-treating (whatever

that will look like this year)—all are part of the fabric of Creation, of God’s world. Let’s give God thanks for making this world for us, and let’s work to take care of it, and share its blessings with others.

Hymn 223 (p. 6) *What Wondrous Love Is This*

Wondrous Love

Scripture Lessons

Exodus 17:1-7. From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” ⁴So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

Matthew 21:23-32. ²³When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’” ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’” ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

Sermon

“Says Who?” (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, 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:

Holy Giver of Life, as the seasons turn, we watch the harvest come in and the leaves turn. We know that nothing in this world is forever—with the exception of you and the love you make possible. In these challenging times, help us to hold onto what is true and good. Let us not succumb to despair or resignation, but seize on the hope made flesh in your son, our savior, teacher, and friend.

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*)

Bountiful God, you have given us living water in Jesus, who through his teaching, preaching, healing, and love showed us how we ought to live. Take this morning's offering as a sign of our renewed commitment to follow his way. In the name of the one who came to save us we pray. Amen.

Hymn 195 (p. 8) *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

Coronation

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, or contact the church office or the Rev. Steve Silver directly.

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 this year by the vision and Holy Spirit of Pentecost.

Please consider giving to this effort to support church growth nationwide. You may either mail a check to FCC (memo "Strengthen the Church") or give online at www.ucc.org/stc. Thank you!

Neighbors in Need—Special Mission Offering

The UCC's Neighbors in Need program supports ministries of justice and compassion across the country. Two-thirds of the collection is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries for a range of local and national initiatives, advocacy efforts, direct service projects, and the fight against systemic injustice. The rest goes to the Council for American Indian Ministries, sustaining a proud tradition of aiding Native American populations. **This year, NIN is focused on serving our immigrant neighbors and their communities.**

Please contribute as you're able to this vital mission program. You may either mail a check to FCC (memo "Neighbors in Need") or give online at www.ucc.org/nin. Thank you!

William Whiting, 1825-1878, *alt.*MELITA 8.8.8.8.8.
John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, Whose arm doth bind the
 2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word, The winds and waves sub -
 3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood Up - on the cha - os
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and power! Our breth - ren shield in

rest - less wave, Who bidd'st the might - y o - cean deep Its
 mis - sive heard, Who walk - edst on the foam - ing deep, And
 dark and rude, Who bad'st its an - gry tu - mult cease, And
 dan - ger's hour; From rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, Pro -

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep, O hear us when we
 calm a - mid its rage didst sleep, O hear us when we
 gav - est light, and life, and peace, O hear us when we
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; Thus ev - er - more shall

cry to thee, For those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee, For those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee, For those in per - il on the sea.
 rise to thee Glad hymns of praise from land and sea. A - men.

*John 19:17; Rev. 5:13**19th century, United States; alt.
First published in Mercer's Cluster, 1836*

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul! O my soul! What
 2 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to
 3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is
 God and to the Lamb, I will sing; To God and to the
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! And when from death I'm

this! that Christ should come in bliss to bear the heav-y cross for my
 Lamb who is the great I Am, while mil-lions join the theme, I will
 free, I'll sing and joy-ful be, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the heav-y cross for my soul!
 sing, I will sing; while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on!

This anonymous folk hymn, with its modal (dorian) tune, has appeared in many versions. William Walker, compiler of Southern Harmony, one of the most important nineteenth-century tune books in the United States, lived and died in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Tune: WONDROUS LOVE 12.9.12.12.9.
 (CHRISTOPHER)
*Appendix to Wm. Walker's Southern Harmony, c. 1843
 Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1993*

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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.

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun Doth his suc -
 2 For him shall end - less prayer be made, And prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue Dwell on his

ces - sive jour - neys run; His king - dom stretch from
 throng to crown his head; His name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song, And in - fant voic - es

shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise With ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on his name. A-men.

The 2020 Lebanon CROP Walk Goes Virtual on October 4

Every year thousands of walkers across the country join the **CROP Hunger Walk**, organized by Church World Service to fight hunger, food insecurity, and poverty worldwide. First held in Bismarck, ND, in October 1969, the CROP Walk now involves over 2000 communities.

Due to the pandemic, this year's walk will happen virtually—we will still walk, but only in small groups in our own neighborhoods. We won't have our usual hot lunch at FCC, but participants will gather on Zoom. **All contributions should be made online, not through FCC.**

Walk!—Walk on your own or form a small group with family and friends, and register online at www.crophungerwalk.org/lebanonnh/. Then, invite sponsors to donate in your name.

Donate!—Sponsor a walker, or give directly online at www.crophungerwalk.org/lebanonnh/.

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

First Tune

Edward Perronet, 1726-1792
 All. by John Rippon, 1751-1836

CORONATION C.M.
 Oliver Holden, 1765-1844



1 All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
 2 Crown him, ye mar - tyrs of our God, Who from his al - tar call;
 3 Ye seed of Is - ra - el's chosen race, Ye ran - somed of the fall,
 4 Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe, On this ter - res - trial ball,
 5 O that, with yon - der sa - cred throng, We at his feet may fall;

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, And crown him Lord of all.
 Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod, And crown him Lord of all.
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, And crown him Lord of all.
 To him all maj - es - ty as - crite, And crown him Lord of all.
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, And crown him Lord of all.

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, And crown him Lord of all.
 Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod, And crown him Lord of all.
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, And crown him Lord of all.
 To him all maj - es - ty as - crite; And crown him Lord of all.
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, And crown him Lord of all. A - men

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Uncovering Racism—A Racial-Justice Reading Group (Wednesdays, 6:30)

We believe that as Christians, we are called to work for racial justice. The faith perspective of *Uncovering Racism*, by Kathryn Goering Reid and Stephen Breck Reid, helps us see how racism persists as an issue we must all confront. *All are invited to participate! Books provided free of charge, but advance reservation is required. Please email Rev. Steve Silver (silver@fcclb.org) with questions or to RSVP.*



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