



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 2020

“You must live with people to know their problems,
and live with God in order to solve them.”

–P. T. Forsyth

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

Call to Worship (*Unison*; adapted from Psalm 19:1-4,7-8)

The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard. Yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes.

Hymn 263 (p. 5) *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

Regent Square

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

Children's Moment

Some of us like trying new things; others of us might prefer to stay with the tried-and-true. This year, we're all trying new things, in new ways, aren't we? School is different, and so, too, the Children's Community Corner. I want to thank you for working with

Ms. Parsons to make last week's meeting such a success! I also want you to know that you were doing God's work—showing up, helping out, being present for others. Jesus does that for each of us, and one way we may say thanks is being present for others: in the classroom, on the ballfield, online, and in church.

Hymn 53 (p. 6) *O God, Who Gives Us Life*

Noel

Scripture Lesson

Exodus 20:1-20. Then God spoke all these words:

²I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

¹⁸When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, ¹⁹and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." ²⁰Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

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 One, we turn to you in prayer, bringing to you our hopes and fears, our dreams and doubts. Though we may have trouble giving expression to these things, we take assurance from believing that you know, even better than we do, what illuminates our souls, enflames our hearts, and causes our spirits to soar. And so, we pray, hear us, bless us, and save 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*)

God of life and love, in gratitude for the many gifts you have blessed us with—the church, the opportunity to engage in service and fellowship, and most of all, our savior and Lord Jesus—we present today’s offering. In his 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
17 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 (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 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@fcclb.org, or contact the church office or the Rev. Steve Silver directly.

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

263

Latin: 7th century
Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.
Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

1 Christ is made the sure foun-da - tion, Christ the head and cor - ner stone,
2 To this tem - ple, where we call thee, Come, O Lord of hosts, to - day!
3 Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants What they ask of thee to gain:
4 Laud and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Laud and hon - or to the Son,

Chos - en of the Lord and prec - ious, Bind - ing all the Church in one;
With thy wont - ed lov - ing - kind - ness Hear thy peo - ple as they pray;
What they gain from thee for - ev - er With the bless - ed to re - tain,
Laud and hon - or to the Spir - it, Ev - er Three and ev - er One;

Ho - ly Zi - on's help for - ev - er, And her con - fi - dence a - lone.
And thy full - est ben - e - dic - tion Shed with - in its walls al - way.
And here - af - ter in thy glo - ry Ev - er - more with thee to reign.
One in might, and One in glo - ry, While un - end - ing a - ges run. A - men.

The 2020 Lebanon CROP Walk Goes Virtual Today!

It's not too late to join this year's CROP Hunger Walk! Organized by CWS to fight hunger, food insecurity, and poverty worldwide, the CROP Walk now involves over 2000 communities.

Due to the pandemic, this year's walk is happening 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/.

53 O God, Who Gives Us Life

1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
 2 O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,
 3 O God of covenant and law, revealed in cloud and flame,

who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
 to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there:
 your mighty deeds evoke our awe; we dare not speak your name.

de-liver us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
 when we despair in wandering through wastes of empty lies,
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your people prove,

Help us to know your Spirit still is making all things new.
 re-fresh us with the living spring of hope that never dies.
 as on our hearts you write a new the covenant of love.

Christians often fail to appreciate how much we can learn about God from the Hebrew Scriptures. This text draws on a variety of passages that call attention to God's faithfulness toward the Chosen People and the promise of a new covenant written on the heart (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

TEXT: Carl P. Daw Jr., 1990
 MUSIC: English melody; arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1874
 Text © 1990 Hope Publishing Company

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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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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!

LISTEN'S HOLIDAY BASKETS—CHRISTMAS IN OCTOBER

For years FCC has participated in the Holiday Basket Program organized by Listen Community Services. The economic challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic have significantly increased the demand for this program, as families struggle to provide warm clothing for their children and food for holiday meals. Health precautions, however, preclude our familiar process of fulfilling gift requests. **So this year, Listen is doing all the shopping—with our help!**

Please consider a contribution (by 10/31) toward FCC's share in Listen's Holiday Basket Program, and thanks for helping to bring holiday cheer to local families and seniors!

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@fccleeb.org) with questions or to RSVP.*

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.



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

Ernie Drown, 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