



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2020

“Politics are, like God’s infinite mercy, a last resort.”

–P. J. O’Rourke

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

Prelude Andante in D (with variations) F. Mendelssohn

Call to Worship (*Unison*; Psalm 99:1-5)

The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he! Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. Extol the LORD our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he!

Hymn 206 (p. 5) *Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim* Hanover

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

Are you a helper? I hope so. Helpers don’t often get the spotlight; that’s reserved for the people at the center of things. But helpers are really important. Orville and Wilbur Wright had each other, not to mention their sister Katherine. Your teachers have

paras in the classroom. And Jesus had the disciples. He also has you and me. Like Peter and all the others, we can help Jesus by sharing the Gospel, the good news of God's love, through words and deeds. So, be a helper—it's a way to be kind, and it's a way to show you are one of God's beloved people.

Hymn 348 (p. 6) *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

Olivet

Scripture Lessons

Exodus 33:12-23. ¹²Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' ¹³Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." ¹⁴He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." ¹⁵And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. ¹⁶For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

¹⁷The Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." ¹⁸Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." ¹⁹And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." ²¹And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; ²²and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; ²³then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

Matthew 22:15-22. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" ²¹They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Sermon

"In God We Trust?" (Recording available)

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 197 (p. 7)

At the Name of Jesus

King's Weston

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, and Jan.

We give thanks for the life of Claude, who passed away last week.

We pray for all those fighting the coronavirus, and for all who are ill.

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:

Lord of Lords, King of Kings: during this season of choosing, we have great responsibility. Endow us with the wisdom and the faith to make decisions that will be in the common interest, and not just our own. Help us to see what will benefit all people, and not just ourselves. Inspire in us memories of Jesus, who served all your people and not just himself, and let us do as he did.

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*)

Blessed God, in Jesus you have shared with us true life. In gratitude, we share our gifts, knowing that caring for others, here and far away, is part of the Way that our Savior showed us and wishes us to walk. In his name we pray, Amen.

Hymn 342 (p. 8) *Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor*

Rhuddlan

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.

Postlude

Scherzo

L. van Beethoven

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.

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.**

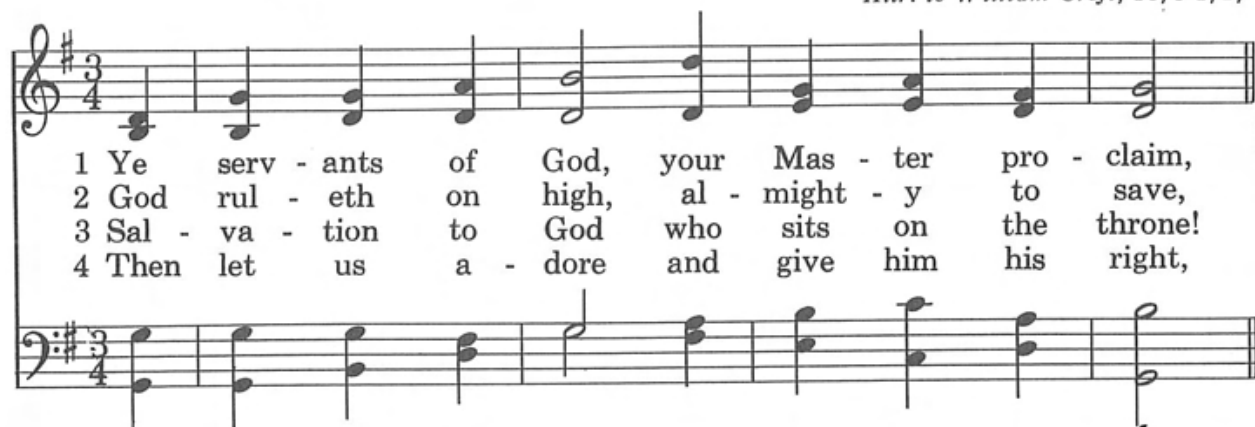
Please contribute as you're able to this vital mission program. You may either mail a check to FCC (memo "Neighbors in Need") or give online at www.ucc.org/nin. Thank you!

LISTEN'S HOLIDAY BASKETS—CHRISTMAS IN OCTOBER

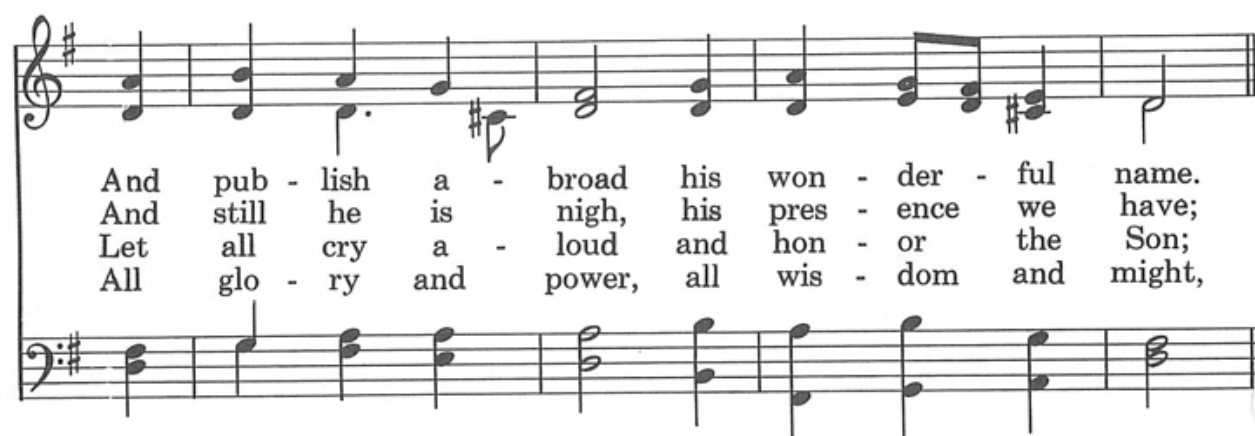
For years FCC has participated in the Holiday Basket Program organized by Listen Community Services. The economic challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic have significantly increased the demand for this program, as families struggle to provide warm clothing for their children and food for holiday meals. 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!

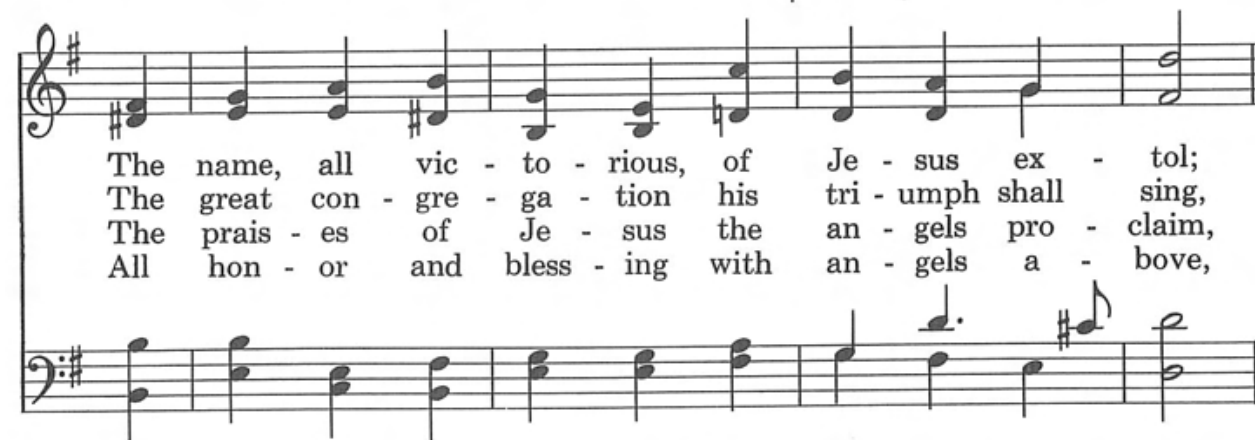
Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

HANOVER 10.10.11.11.
Attr. to William Croft, 1678-1727


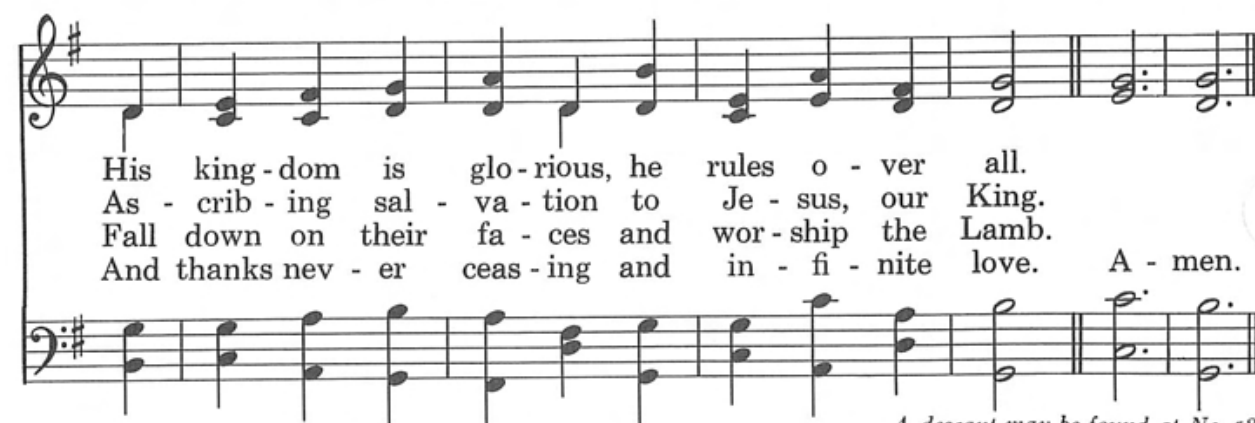
1 Ye serv - ants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim,
2 God rul - eth on high, al - might - y to save,
3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne!
4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right,



And pub - lish a - broad his won - der - ful name.
And still he is nigh, his pres - ence we have;
Let all cry a - loud and hon - or the Son;
All glo - ry and power, all wis - dom and might,



The name, all vic - to - rious, of Je - sus ex - tol;
The great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall sing,
The prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,
All hon - or and bless - ing with an - gels a - bove,



His king - dom is glo - rious, he rules o - ver all.
As - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our King.
Fall down on their fa - ces and wor - ship the Lamb.
And thanks nev - er ceas - ing and in - fi - nite love. A - men.

A descant may be found at No. 584

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

348

Ray Palmer, 1808-1887, alt.

OLIVET 6.6.4.6.6.6.4.
Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

1 My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3 While life's dark maze I tread, And griefs a - round me spread,
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold; sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray; Take all my
 My zeal in - spire; As thou hast died for me, Oh, may my
 Be thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day; Wipe sor - row's
 Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -

guilt a - way; Oh, let me from this day Be whol - ly thine.
 love to thee Pure, warm, and changeless be, A liv - ing fire.
 tears a - way; Nor let me ev - er stray From thee a - side.
 trust re - move; Oh, bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul. A - men.

The Lebanon CROP Walk Continues Virtually Until October 25!

It's not too late to support this year's CROP Hunger Walk, which continues virtually for another week. Begun in 1969 as a single walk in Bismarck, ND, and now involving over 2000 communities annually, the CROP Walk fights hunger, food insecurity, and poverty worldwide. Due to the pandemic, individuals and small groups are walking on their own, but you may still walk, donate, or both! **All contributions should be made online.**

Walk!—Register at www.crophungerwalk.org/lebanonnh/. Then, invite sponsors to donate.

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

Caroline M. Noel, 1817-1877

KING'S WESTON 6.5.6.5.D.

R. Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

In unison

1 At the name of Je - sus Ev - ery knee shall bow,
 2 At his voice cre - a - tion Sprang at once to sight
 3 Hum-bled for a sea - son, To re - ceive a name
 4 Bore it up tri - umph - ant, With its hu - man light,
 5 In your hearts en - throne him; There let him sub - due

Ev - ery tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now;
 All the an - gel fa - ces, All the hosts of light,
 From the lips of sin - ners, Un - to whom he came.
 Through all ranks of crea - tures, To the cen - tral height,
 All that is not ho - ly, All that is not true.

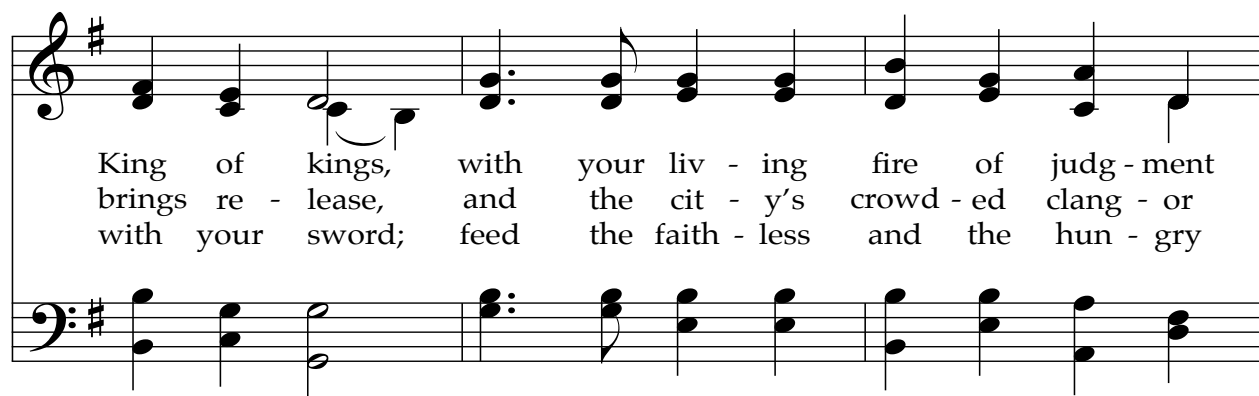
'Tis the Fa - ther's pleas - ure We should call him Lord,
 Thrones and dom - i - na - tions, Stars up - on their way,
 Faith - ful - ly he bore it, Spot-less to the last,
 To the throne of God - head, To the Fa - ther's breast;
 Crown him as your cap - tain In temp - ta - tion's hour;

Who from the be - gin - ning Was the might - y Word.
 All the heaven-ly or - ders, In their great ar - ray.
 Brought it back vic - to - rious, When from death he passed;
 Filled it with the glo - ry Of that per - fect rest.
 Let his will en-fold you In its light and power. A-men.

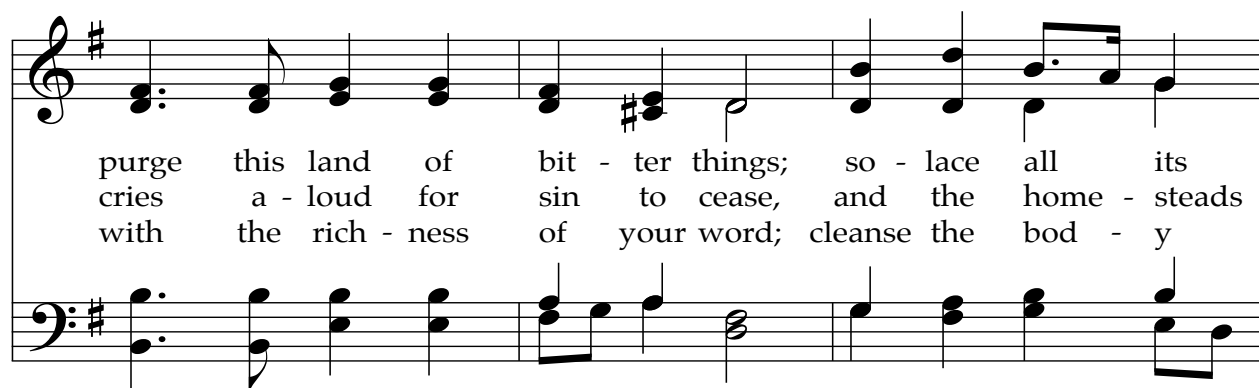
342 Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor



1 Judge E - ter - nal, throned in splen - dor, Lord of lords and
 2 Still the wea - ry folk are pin - ing for the hour that
 3 Crown, O God, your own en - deav - or; cleave our dark - ness



King of kings, with your liv - ing fire of judg - ment
 brings re - lease, and the cit - y's crowd - ed clang - or
 with your sword; feed the faith - less and the hun - gry



purge this land of bit - ter things; so - lace all its
 cries a - loud for sin to cease, and the home - steads
 with the rich - ness of your word; cleanse the bod - y



wide do - min - ion with the heal - ing of your wings.
 and the wood - lands plead in si - lence for their peace.
 of this na - tion through the glo - ry of the Lord.

More than a century after it was written, this plea for national purification has lost none of its power, nor has the need for social justice grown less acute. It is set to a traditional Welsh tune named for a long-inhabited town in north Wales overlooking the River Clywd.



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