



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

October 25, 2020

“The way of love is a commitment to seeking the good and well-being of others. When we truly do that, we are all blessed. In fact, if we all made the commitment—to loving beyond our nationality, our ethnicity, our politics, our religion, or any other difference—we and the earth itself would be blessed.”

—Michael B. Curry

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

Prelude *Allegro from Sonata for Flute and Piano* L. van Beethoven

Call to Worship (Unison; Psalm 90:1-6)

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn us back to dust, and say, “Turn back, you mortals.” For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night. You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

Hymn 16 (p. 5) *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* Praise My Soul

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

This Saturday is Halloween, which, as I'm sure you know, will be different this year. I hope you'll still have the chance to get some candy and wear a costume in a socially-distanced way. But did you know it's also an "Eve"? That's right! Just like Christmas Eve, but this time it's All Hallow's Eve, which ultimately became known as Halloween. All Saints' Day follows on Sunday, and we'll remember the saints who came before us. So, I hope you'll remember that Halloween didn't get its start simply as a day for trick-or-treating but as an important part of the Christian calendar.

Hymn 228 (p. 6) *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Beecher

Scripture Lessons

Deuteronomy 34:1-12. Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mt. Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, ²all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, ³the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. ⁴The Lord said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants'; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there." ⁵Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord's command. ⁶He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. ⁷Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. ⁸The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

⁹Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses.

¹⁰Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. ¹¹He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, ¹²and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

Matthew 22:34-46. ³⁴When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" ³⁷He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

⁴¹Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question:

⁴²"What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son

of David.” ⁴³He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, ⁴⁴“The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet””? ⁴⁵If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Sermon	<i>“Love, Actually” (Recording available)</i>	Stephen R. Silver
Hymn 313 (p. 7)	<i>Like a Tree Beside the Waters</i>	Silver Creek

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 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:

God of life and love: you have called us into relationship with you and others. Holy, challenging, filled with meaning, always developing, these ties are never static but are dynamic. They need nurturing, offer sustenance, and bring us closer to the One who came into this world full of grace, grounded in love, and holding Creation in his heart. Let us not only thank but emulate the Christ, as we love you and our brothers and sisters.

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

Offertory	<i>Aria from Suite Antique</i>	J. Rutter
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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 immeasurable bounty: you have blessed us with much, more than we can even name. In gratitude, we present this morning's offering as a sign of our desire to share with others what you have shared with us. In Jesus's name we pray, Amen.

Hymn 576 (p. 8) *For the Healing of the Nations*

Westminster Abbey

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

Polonaise

L. van Beethoven

Leading Worship This Morning

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • Leslie Stroud, Flute • Brian Clancy, Liturgist

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.**

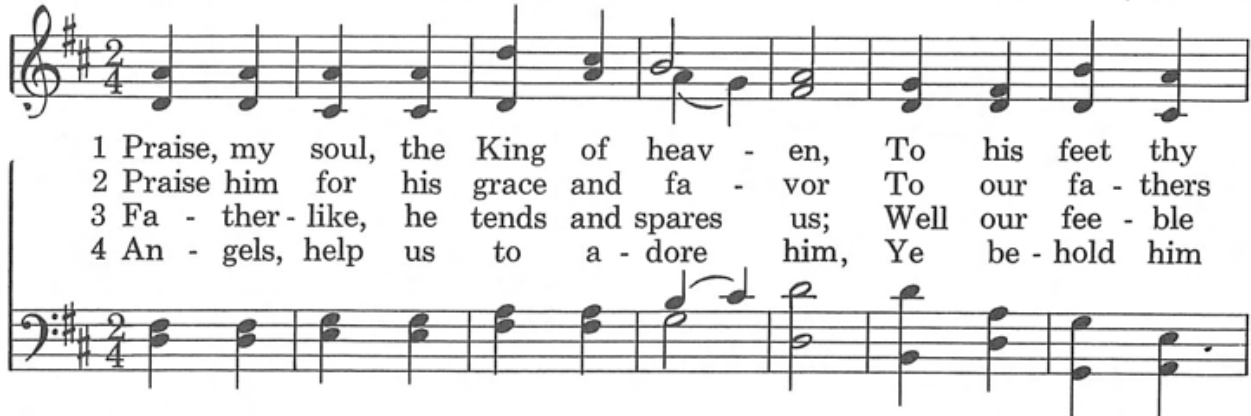
Please contribute as you're able to this vital mission program. You may either mail a check to FCC (memo "Neighbors in Need") or give online at www.ucc.org/nin. Thank you!

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

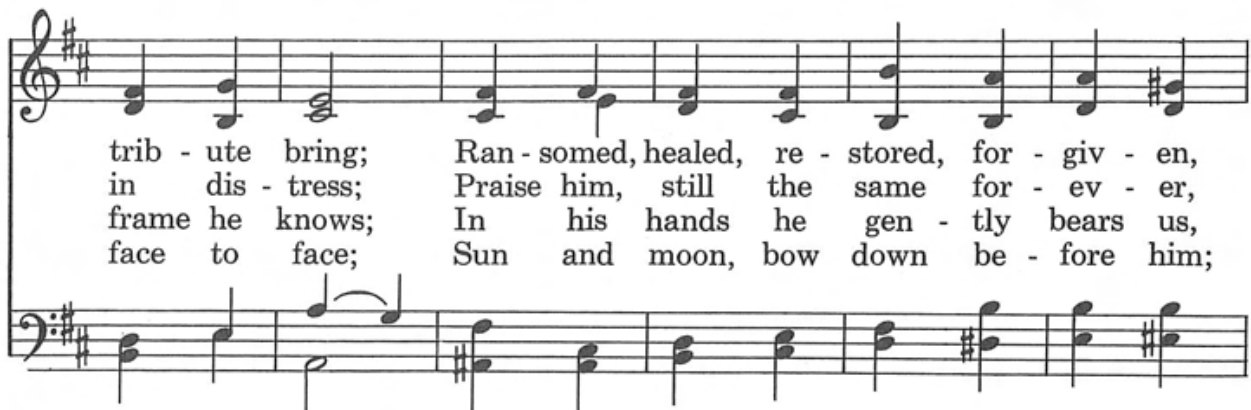
16

Based on Psalm 103
Henry F. Lyle, 1793-1847

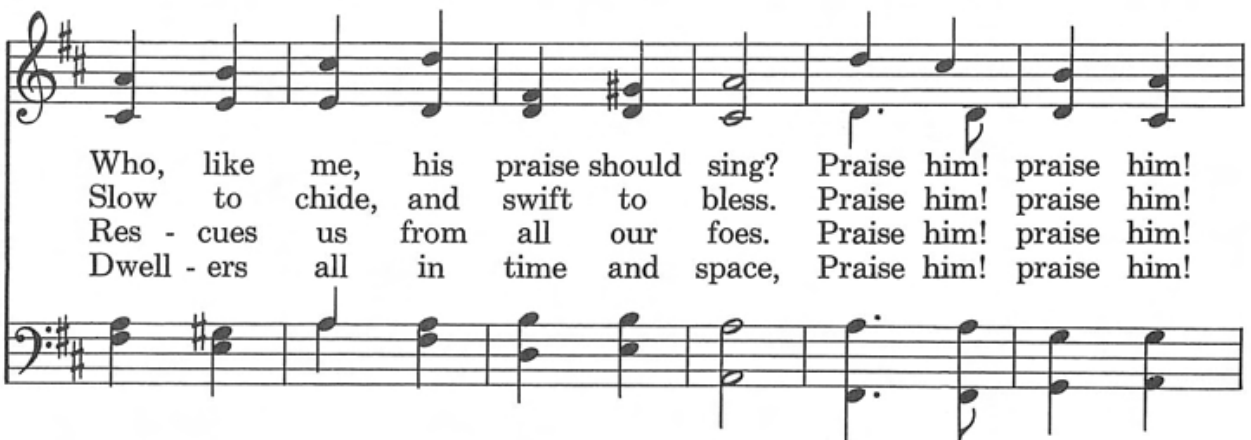
PRAISE MY SOUL 8.7.8.7.8.7.
John Goss, 1800-1880



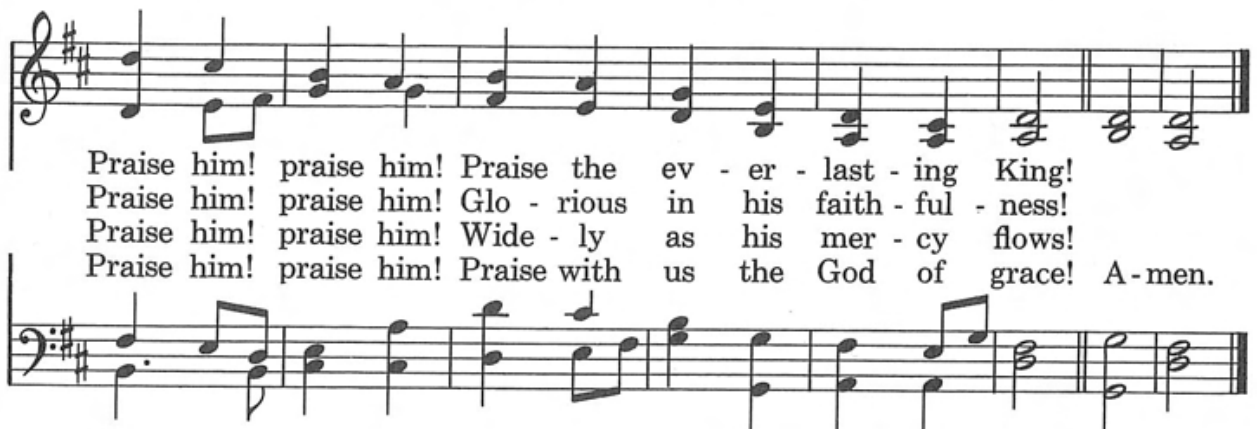
1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en, To his feet thy
2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor To our fa - thers
3 Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; Well our fee - ble
4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him, Ye be - hold him



trib - ute bring; Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
in dis - tress; Praise him, still the same for - ev - er,
frame he knows; In his hands he gen - tly bears us,
face to face; Sun and moon, bow down be - fore him;




Who, like me, his praise should sing? Praise him! praise him!
Slow to chide, and swift to bless. Praise him! praise him!
Res - cues us from all our foes. Praise him! praise him!
Dwell - ers all in time and space, Praise him! praise him!



Praise him! praise him! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King!
Praise him! praise him! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!
Praise him! praise him! Wide - ly as his mer - cy flows!
Praise him! praise him! Praise with us the God of grace! A - men.


Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.
John Zundel, 1815-1882



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
3 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us all thy life re - ceive;
4 Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; Pure and spot - less let us be;



Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, All thy faith - ful mer - cies crown;
Let us all in thee in - her - it, Let us find thy prom - ised rest;
Sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
Let us see thy great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in thee;



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in heaven we take our place,



Vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
End of faith, as its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
Pray, and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
Till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise. A - men.

Jer. 17:7-8

Unison

James F. D. Martin, 1992

1 Like a tree be-side the wa-ters, nur-tured by your lov-ing care,
 2 Like a tree be-side the riv-er, draw-ing life from ho-ly streams,
 3 We, be-side the liv-ing wa-ters, drink from your e-ter-nal life.

We, O God, your sons and daugh-ters, your en-dur-ing wit-ness bear.
 Fill us with your love for-ev-er; re-cre-ate our hopes and dreams.
 Give to all, your sons and daugh-ters, faith that ris-es o-ver strife.

In each pass-ing gen-er-a-tion may your voice of love be heard.
 Through the storms of life sus-tain us by the wis-dom of your grace.
 O Liv-ing God, most glo-rious, strength-en us for life to-day.

Bless, we pray, this con-gre-ga-tion with your ho-ly, liv-ing Word.
 May the chang-ing of the sea-sons find us in your warm em-brace.
 By the hope of time-less prom-ise guide your church up-on the Way.

James Martin wrote this text at the invitation of Campbellsport (Wisconsin) United Church of Christ for the celebration of its 125th anniversary year in 1993. Ordained to the United Church of Christ in 1980, Martin has served as pastor to churches in Wisconsin.

Tune: SILVER CREEK 8.7.8.7.D.
 Roy Hopp, 1989
 Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

For the Healing of the Nations

Fred Kaan, 1965

1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, God, we pray with
 2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
 3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
 4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
 earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of
 all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
 dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
 bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.
 care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.
 quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.
 sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

Fred Kaan's most widely published text was first sung at Pilgrim Church in Plymouth, England, at a service of worship marking Human Rights Day in 1965. It has been used for many subsequent occasions, including the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY 8.7.8.7.8.7.
 Henry Purcell, c. 1680
 Arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1842

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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!

Operation Christmas Child—National Collection Week: November 16-23

We are once again supporting Operation Christmas Child, an annual campaign run by Samaritan's Purse that ships shoeboxes full of supplies and toys to children around the world. Gloria and Phil Hammond have so generously managed our collection at FCC in recent years.

This year we invite you to build a shoebox online before the week of November 16-23.

For more information on this year's virtual operation and to build your shoebox online, please visit www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/. Thanks!

The Virtual Lebanon CROP Walk Closes This Weekend

Last chance to support this year's virtual version of the CROP Hunger Walk! 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/.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH—INVEST IN THE VISION

The UCC's Strengthen the Church offering supports the growth of local congregations and ministry across the country. Renewing older faith communities, building new ones, and funding fellowships for young, emerging church leaders, the program is vital to our denomination.

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!

Please note that Church Council has suspended on-site, indoor worship and other events at FCC until January, continuing to follow abundant caution amid 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