



# First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

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## The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2020

“Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?”

—Corrie ten Boom

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

### Prelude

*God's Time Is the Best Time* (from BWV 106)

J. S. Bach

### Call to Worship (*Unison*; Psalm 78:1-7)

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. He established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children; that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

Hymn 391 (p. 5)     *Be Thou My Vision*

Slane

### 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

One of the neatest things of this past Halloween was seeing the Batmobile drive through our neighborhood. If you've ever seen the old Batman show, you know what it looks like. For me, this was a little bit of unexpected joy brought into my life. The driver of that car probably didn't know it, but he had a real-life superpower and he was using it to help others. I'd like you to think about the ways you can make others smile, how you can help them experience a bit of joy, how you can use your very own God-given superpowers to make this world a better place.

Hymn 397 (p. 6)      *Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak*

Canonbury

## Scripture Lesson

**Matthew 25:1-13.** [Jesus said,] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' <sup>12</sup>But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Sermon      *"Be Prepared" (See separate document)*

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 418 (p. 7)      *O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee*

Maryton

## 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 or other illnesses, whether of mind, body, or spirit.

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 God, we come to you bringing our hopes and our fears, our thanks and our desires, our questions and our certainties, our deepest needs and our unknown wants. We do this marked by sin, redeemed by service, looking to be the makers of our fates but knowing that in the end matters lie beyond our control. As we contemplate this messy, wondrous, grace-filled world, we give thanks, for your gifts, for your patience, for your love of all creation.

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**

*Remembering those who are without, who are in need, who are often ignored, we invite your support of our ongoing ministry in and for the community. Please mail in your offering as you are able.*

**Offertory**                      “Prière” (Sept Pièces pour Orgue, no. 5)

T. Dubois

### **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)**

Lord of life and love: we give thanks for the many blessings in our lives, those seen and unseen. Help us to share what we have received with others, just as Jesus shared everything with us. In your Son's name we pray, Amen.

**Hymn 423 (p. 8)**      *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life* (vv. 1-4)

Germany

## 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

*Rejoice Greatly*

J. L. Krebs

*Johann Ludwig Krebs (1713-80) was J. S. Bach's final and most gifted student. His life was hard; he never landed a successful position, and he died in penury in Altenburg, Germany.*

### *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.

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### **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/](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/). Thanks!*

### **THE CHRISTMAS FUND**

In December we will accept donations to the UCC's Christmas Fund, also known as the Fund for the Veterans of the Cross or Emergency Fund. This program offers compassionate, grateful support for retired clergy and their families with pension, healthcare, and emergency assistance.

*Please contribute as you're able to this vital denominational offering, either by check to FCC (memo "Christmas Fund") or online at [www.pbucc.org/index.php/christmas-fund-home](http://www.pbucc.org/index.php/christmas-fund-home). Thanks!*

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*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.*

Ancient Irish

Tr. by Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935

SLANE 10.10.9.10.

Traditional Irish Melody

Harm. by David Evans, 1874-1948

In unison

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,  
 4 High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

Nought be all else to me save that thou art.  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
 Thou mine in - her - it - ance, now and al - ways;  
 May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
 Thou my great Fa - ther, I thy true son;  
 Thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.  
 High King of heav - en, my treas - ure thou art.  
 Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all. A - men.

# Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

397

Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879

CANONBURY L.M.

Arr. from Robert A. Schumann, 1810-1856

1 Lord, speak to me, that I may speak In  
 2 O strength - en me, that while I stand Firm  
 3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach The  
 4 O fill me with thy full - ness, Lord, Un -

liv - ing ech - oes of thy tone; As thou hast sought, so  
 on the rock, and strong in thee, I may stretch out a  
 pre - cious things thou dost im - part; And wing my words, that  
 til my ver - y heart o'er - flow In kin - dling thought and

let me seek Thy err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.  
 lov - ing hand To wres - tlers with the trou - bled sea!  
 they may reach The hid - den depths of man - y a heart!  
 glow - ing word, Thy love to tell, thy praise to show! A - men.

## Neighbors in Need—Mission Offering Continues

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 initiatives, service projects, and advocacy efforts. The rest goes to the Council for American Indian Ministries, sustaining a 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](http://www.ucc.org/nin). Thank you!*

# O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee

418

Washington Gladden, 1836-1918

MARYTON L.M.

H. Percy Smith, 1825-1898

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with thee In low - ly  
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move By some clear,  
 3 Teach me thy pa - tience; still with thee In clos - er,  
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray Far down the

paths of serv - ice free; Tell me thy se - cret, help me  
 win - ning word of love; Teach me the way - ward feet to  
 dear - er com - pa - ny, In work that keeps faith sweet and  
 fu - ture's broad - ening way, In peace that on - ly thou canst

bear The strain of toil, the fret of care.  
 stay, And guide them in the home - ward way.  
 strong, In trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.  
 give, With thee, O Mas - ter, let me live. A - men.

Frank Mason North, 1850-1935

GERMANY L.M.

Gardiner's "Sacred Melodies," 1815

1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, Where sound the  
 2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, On shad - owed  
 3 From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, From wom - an's  
 4 The cup of wa - ter given for thee Still holds the

cries of race and clan, A - bove the noise of self - ish  
 thresh-olds dark with fears, From paths where hide the lures of  
 grief, man's bur - dened toil, From fam - ished souls, from sor - rows'  
 fresh - ness of thy grace; Yet long these mul - ti - tudes to

strife, We hear thy voice, O Son of man.  
 greed, We catch the vi - sion of thy tears.  
 stress, Thy heart has nev - er known re - coil.  
 see The sweet com - pas - sion of thy face. A - men.





**First Congregational Church of Lebanon**

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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

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](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)**