



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021

“To love our neighbor in charity is to love God in man.”

—St. Francis of Sales

All hymns are included after the order of worship, on pages 5-9.

Prelude

Prelude on Brother James' Air

Searle Wright

Call to Worship (Unison)

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Hymn 223 (p. 5)

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Azmon

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 meeting, please contact the church office.

Children's Moment

We all have memory prompts—there are things, some big and others small, that will help us recall events that happened long before. Today's Call to Worship, Psalm 23, is

one of those reminders for me: hearing these words, I am led to remember funerals we have done at church; a service I led in Maine when I preached on the passage; and just a general sense of comfort. The 23rd Psalm is beloved by many, a source of comfort and God's love that sustains the faithful in tough times. It's also familiar, one of the Bible passages most everyone knows or at least recognizes.

I hope that each of us has things that prompt happy memories, that provide us with assurance, and that may lead us to recognize that our God is one who has been with his people throughout history, even when things were tough.

Hymn 80 (p. 6) *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

St. Columba

Scripture Lessons

Acts 4:5-12. ⁵The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' ¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

John 10:11-18. ¹¹[Jesus said,] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

Sermon *"Are You a Sheep or a Shepherd?"*

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 327 (p. 7) *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

Bradbury

Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

As we hold our community members in prayer, please exercise care and discretion when sharing, as what seems public for you may be private for others. Help us keep our weekly prayer list current by contacting Rev. Silver or the church office to confirm or remove names on the list.

On this day we offer our ongoing prayers for Pete, Lloyd, Arlene, Ruth, Evelyn, Barbara, Greg, Larry, Edith, Jan, Eileen, and James.

We pray for all those fighting the coronavirus or other illnesses, whether of mind, body, or spirit.

We pray for the healthcare workers and first responders who are on the front line dealing with this pandemic.

We pray for all those struggling with financial challenges, reduced hours and unemployment, and fears about the future.

Finally, we offer the following prayer:

God who keeps us a shepherd would: we are grateful that we are not alone, that as we make our way through life, you are with us, guiding us along the way to the still waters. Help us to be alert to your direction, to listen to you when you beckon us to turn away from danger or deliver us from the valley of the shadow of death. Help us to have the confidence to know that we are all in need of a shepherd. Stop us from straying, but lead us to you.

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

Chorale Prelude on a Melody by Orlando Gibbons

Healey Willan

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*)

Shepherd God,

Whether we are confident, whether we are lost,

You care for us, you guide us, you love us.

In times of joy, in times of sorrow,

You care for us, you guide us, you love us.

In all the seasons of our lives,

You care for us, you guide us, you love us.

With faith, with gladness, with hope, we offer these gifts, a sign of our gratitude. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Hymn 366 (p. 8) *God of Grace and God of Glory*

Cwm Rhondda

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

Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr, BWV 677

Johann Sebastian Bach

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist • Brian Clancy, Tenor • Dawn Troutman, Liturgist

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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.

Please note that on-site, indoor worship and other events at FCC remain suspended until Pentecost Sunday, May 23. However, we are optimistic that we may safely resume in-person worship in our Sanctuary in some form, that day or soon after. Stay tuned for details!

Spring Clean-Up Day—Saturday, May 22, 9:00 am (Rain Date 6/5)

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

223

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

AZMON C.M.

Carl G. Gläser, 1784-1829

Mason's "Modern Psalmody," 1839

1 O for a thou-sand tongues to sing My great Re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, As-sist me to pro-claim,
3 Glo-ry to God and praise and love Be ev-er, ev-er given

The glo-ries of my God and King, The tri-umphs of his grace!
To spread through all the earth a-broad The hon-ors of thy name.
By saints be-low and saints a-bove, The Church in earth and heaven. A-men.

Mother's Day Is Blanket Sunday

We are pleased to participate once again in Church World Service's CWS BLANKETS program, a special mission project that provides blankets and other essential supplies to people in crisis worldwide. (For more information on this program, please visit www.cwsblankets.org.)

If you'd like to honor or remember the mother(s) in your life with a contribution to CWS Blankets, please contact the church (church@fccleeb.org) with your dedication information. The suggested minimum is \$10, but any amount is welcome! (Payable to FCC, memo "Blanket Sunday")

All dedications must be received by noon on THURSDAY, MAY 6, in order to be included in the worship bulletin on MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 9. (Contributions may be sent in after that date.)

Thanks to your generous contributions, CWS is able to "blanket the world with love."

Introducing SHARE: Supporting and Helping Asylees and Refugees

Virtual Open Houses on April 26, May 7, May 20—Contact FCC for Registration

SHARE is a new local nonprofit dedicated to bringing asylum seekers to the Upper Valley and providing them with host families and support services—taking over work begun by UVIP which our congregation has supported for several years now. If you'd like to learn more about SHARE's plans and ways you can volunteer, visit an Open House, email sharevtnh@gmail.com, or contact Kathy Beckett (beckettkathleen7@gmail.com/860-392-9306).

Please join the local effort to welcome immigrants and refugees into our community!

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

80

Second Tune

Based on Psalm 23
Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877

ST. COLUMBA 8.7.8.7
Ancient Irish Melody

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, With

good - ness fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
ran - somed soul he lead - eth, And where the ver - dant
yet in love he sought me, And on his shoul - der
thee, dear Lord, be - side me: Thy rod and staff my


I am his, And he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gen - tly laid, And home re - joic - ing brought me.
com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me. A - men.

o Thou spread'st a table in my sight,
Thy unction grace bestoweth,
And O what transport of delight
From thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
Within thy house forever.

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us


Attr. to Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847

BRADBURY 8.7.8.7.D.
William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868



1 Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us, Much we need thy ten-der care;
2 We are thine; do thou be - friend us; Be the guard-ian of our way;
3 Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor; Ear - ly let us do thy will;



In thy pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, For our use thy folds pre-pare.
Keep thy flock; from sin de - fend us; Seek us when we go a - stray.
Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, With thy love our bos-oms fill.



Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, thine we are;
Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Hear thy chil-dren when they pray;
Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still;



Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Hear thy chil-dren when they pray.
Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still. A-men.

God of Grace and God of Glory

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Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1878-

CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

John Hughes, 1873-1932

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, On thy pec - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; Bend our pride to
 4 Set our feet on loft - y pla - ces; Gird our lives that
 5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion To the e - vils

pour thy power; Crown thine an - cient church's sto - ry; Bring her bud to
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us, Free our hearts to
 thy con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, Rich in things and
 they may be Arm - ored with all Christ - like gra - ces In the fight to
 we de - plore; Let the search for thy sal - va - tion Be our glo - ry

glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,
 faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,
 poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,
 set men free. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,
 ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,

For the fac - ing of this hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.
 For the liv - ing of these days, For the liv - ing of these days.
 Lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, Lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 That we fail not man nor thee, That we fail not man nor thee.
 Serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, Serv - ing thee whom we a - dore. A - men.



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

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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, Children's Community Corner
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