



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Sixth Sunday of Easter • Mother's Day • Blanket Sunday

May 9, 2021

“The first duty of love is to listen.”

—Paul Tillich

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

Prelude

Andante in E-flat

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Call to Worship (Unison)

Psalm 98:4-9

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody. With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD. Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

Hymn 20 (p. 5)

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Mit Freuden zart

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

Today is Mother's Day, which is not on our church calendar—but it's important. Remember the Fifth Commandment? “Honor your father and your mother.” My

hope is not just that we will *honor* our moms, and those who have been mom figures to each of us, but also that we will *love* them, and remember all the good things they have done, not just today but throughout all our lives.

Hymn 290 (p. 6) *Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts*

Federal Street

Scripture Lessons

Acts 10:44-48. ⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

John 15:9-17. [Jesus continued,] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

Sermon “*Being a Friend*”

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 703 (p. 7) *Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me*

St Catherine

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:

Holy, nurturing God: we give thanks for the affection and grace you have shown us, the way in which you came to us, the path on which you guide us. We rejoice that you are always with us, even when we stumble or fail. Your love for all of your creation is both an inspiration and a warning to us. Help us to open our hearts to all people, to welcome the lost, to embrace the needy, to tend to the earth which you fashioned. And as we move ahead with our lives, let us always emulate your Son, our brother and savior, Jesus Christ.

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 Allemande, from *Pastorale*, BWV 590 Johann Sebastian Bach

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)

Bountiful God: You have poured out your love upon the world, offering grace, hope, and life to one and all. With joy and gladness, we now respond to your extravagant generosity by presenting our gifts and ourselves to you. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Hymn 388 (p. 8) *Help Us Accept Each Other* Aurelia

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

Choral Song

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

A gifted organist and composer, Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-76) was the illegitimate grandson of famed Methodist Charles Wesley. He composed the hymn tune "Aurelia" for The Church's One Foundation. Despite its title, Choral Song was an original organ composition.

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist • Brian Clancy, Tenor • Deb Scott, Liturgist

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@fccleeb.org, or contact the church office or the Rev. Steve Silver directly.

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

Please join the Board of Governors in this seasonal effort to tidy up the church yard—especially important this spring, as we prepare to reopen the church after a year's closure. We'll rake, trim hedges, and generally pick up around the grounds. Help us out with this important work!

We're Returning to Our Sanctuary on Pentecost Sunday, May 23

In-Person Worship at 10:00 (Remote Viewing Available on Zoom)—Wear Red!

Having surveyed vaccination progress and comfort levels among our congregation (all very favorable!), church leadership believes that it is safe to resume indoor, in-person worship with some basic precautions. It will have been 14 months since we closed for the pandemic—we're grateful for everyone's patience and perseverance, and we're joyful to return!

All worshipers will be required to wear masks at all times and observe physical distancing in the pews, as marked; singing and corporate prayer permitted only with masks. There will be no coffee hour, and we ask that social interaction and contact be kept to a minimum. Thank you for your cooperation—please contact the church office with any questions or concerns.

First New Members Since October 2019 to Be Received in Worship

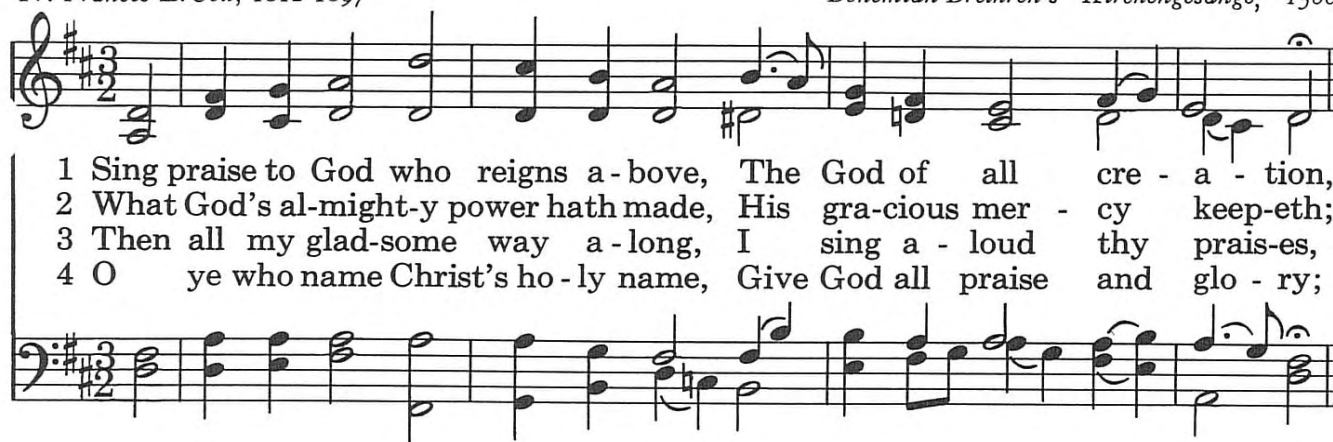
If you've been considering joining the church as a covenant member, we warmly invite you to do so on Pentecost! Please contact the church office or Steve Silver directly (silver@fccleeb.org).

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

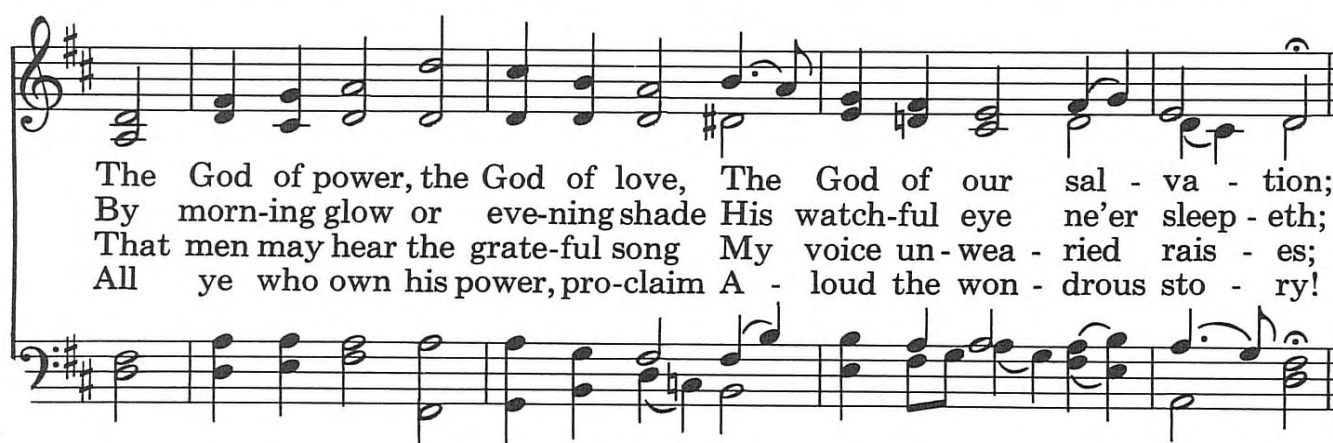
20

Johann J Schütz, 1640-1690
Tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812-1897

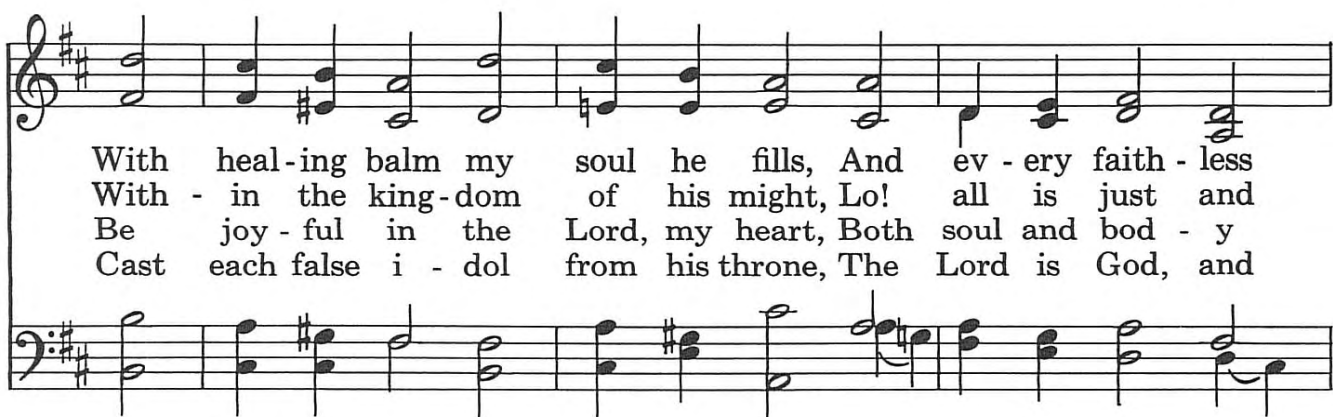
MIT FREUDEN ZART 8.7.8.7.8.8.7.
Bohemian Brethren's "Kirchengesänge," 1566



1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, The God of all cre - a - tion,
 2 What God's al-might-y power hath made, His gra-cious mer - cy keep-eth;
 3 Then all my glad-some way a - long, I sing a - loud thy prais-es,
 4 O ye who name Christ's ho - ly name, Give God all praise and glo - ry;



The God of power, the God of love, The God of our sal - va - tion;
 By morn-ing glow or eve-ningshade His watch-ful eye ne'er sleep - eth;
 That men may hear the grate-ful song My voice un-wea - ried rais - es;
 All ye who own his power, pro-claim A - loud the won - drous sto - ry!



With heal-ing balm my soul he fills, And ev - ery faith - less
 With - in the king-dom of his might, Lo! all is just and
 Be joy - ful in the Lord, my heart, Both soul and bod - y
 Cast each false i - dol from his throne, The Lord is God, and



mur-mur stills: To God all praise and glo - ry.
 all is right: To God all praise and glo - ry.
 bear your part: To God all praise and glo - ry.
 he a - lone: To God all praise and glo - ry. A - men.

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

290

Latin: 12th century
Tr. Ray Palmer, 1808-1887

FEDERAL STREET L.M.
Henry K. Oliver, 1800-1885

1 Je - sus, thou joy of lov - ing hearts, Thou 'fount of
2 Thy truth un - changed hath ev - er stood; Thou sav - est
3 Our rest - less spir - its yearn for thee, Wher - e'er our
4 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay; Make all our

life, thou light of men, From the best bliss that
those that on thee call; To them that seek thee,
change - ful lot is cast: Glad when thy gra - cious
mo - ments calm and bright; Chase the dark night of

earth im - parts We turn un - filled to thee a - gain.
thou art good; To them that find thee, all in all.
smile we see; Blest when our faith can hold thee fast.
sin a - way; Shed o'er the world thy ho - ly light. A - men.

The FCC Outing Club Is Back—Join Us on Signal Hill!


Sunday, June 6—Meet at Trailhead on Stevens Rd at 12:30 (Rain Date June 13)

Having been dormant during the pandemic, FCC's Outing Club returns next month, led as always by our in-house park ranger, Ron Bailey! This expedition follows a new, easier trail up

Signal Hill, traversing conservation land rich in local history and enjoying great views west toward Vermont from the summit. Meet at the trailhead on Stevens Rd (up from Hardy Hill Rd, at intersection with Alden Rd); bring a picnic lunch, water, bug spray, and appropriate clothing.

Bring your friends and share this experience of God's creation!

703 Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me




1 Je - sus, thy bound - less love to me no thought can
 2 O grant that noth - ing in my soul may dwell, but
 3 O Love, how gra - cious is thy way! All fear be -



reach, no tongue de - clare; O knit my thank - ful heart to
 thy pure love a - lone; O may thy love pos - sess me
 fore thy pres - ence flies; care, an - guish, sor - row melt a -



thee, and reign with - out a ri - val there! Thine whol - ly,
 whole, my joy, my trea - sure, and my crown! All cold - ness
 way wher - e'er thy heal - ing beams a - rise. O Je - sus,



thine a - lone, I'd live; my - self to thee en - tire - ly give.
 from my heart re - move; may ev - ery act, word, thought be love.
 noth - ing may I see, noth - ing de - sire, or seek, but thee.

John Wesley learned the original German hymn from the Moravians during his time in Savannah, Georgia, and translated all sixteen stanzas. The tune, named for a 4th-century martyr, comes out of the Roman Catholic revival movement of the mid-19th century.

Help Us Accept Each Other

388

Fred Kaan, 1974; alt.

John 15:12; 17:20–23; Eph. 4:1–6, 11–16

- 1 Help us ac-cept each oth-er
as Christ ac-cept-ed us;
teach us as sis-ter, broth-er,
each per-son to em-brace.
Be pres-ent, God, a-mong us,
and bring us to be-lieve
we are our-selves ac-cept-ed
and meant to love and live.
- 2 Teach us, O God, your les-sons,
as in our dai-ly life
we strug-gle to be hu-man
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for peo-ple,
for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them,
or as they may be-come.
- 3 Let your ac-cep-tance change us,
so that we may be moved
in liv-ing sit-u-a-tions
to do the truth in love;
To prac-tice your ac-cep-tance,
un-til we know by heart
the ta-ble of for-give-ness
and laugh-ter's heal-ing art.
- 4 God, for to-day's en-coun-ters
with all who are in need,
who hun-ger for ac-cep-tance,
for righ-teous-ness and bread,
Bring us new eyes for see-ing,
new hands for hold-ing on;
re-new us with your Spir-it;
God! Free us, make us one!

Dutch theologian Fred Kaan was ordained in the United Reformed Church in England and Wales and has served as an international church administrator. Author of more than 200 hymns, Kaan frequently has addressed contemporary issues in his texts.

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.
Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

Words Copyright © 1975 by Hope Publishing Company

Used and reproduced under license 734395-A from OneLicense, valid 4/13/2021–4/12/2022.

Celebrate the Children's Community Corner—Children's Sunday, June 13

After this challenging year, the **Children's Community Corner** and its adult volunteers are excited to lead worship and mark the end of the school year. We'll lift up our congregation's kids and what they have learned this year, and we very much hope you'll join us to share this special moment in our church's communal life!

If you're interested in participating or have questions, please contact Nan Parsons (nlp3721@yahoo.com/603-863-8354) or the church office.

Introducing SHARE: Supporting and Helping Asylees and Refugees

Virtual Open House on 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. 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!



Happy Mother's Day!

Thanks to all who gave to **CWS BLANKETS** this year! With your generous contributions, to the glory of God and in loving honor or memory of those listed below, Church World Service will **blanket the world with love!**

IN HONOR OF...

Our daughters-in-law, Kristalyn Belding and Nicole Belding—*Kathy and Warren Belding*

DeAnn Clancy, Sandy Driscoll, and Amy Driscoll—*Grace, Katie, and Brian Clancy*

All of our family's mothers—*Marcia Corkins and Pete Mason*

Ike's mom, Betty Adams; Ike's aunt, Terri Reese; and our "daughters" Kim Cook and

Heidi Preston—*Linda and Ike Jacobs* / Linda Jean—*Isaac*

Every one of the wonderful mothers or mother-figures in our congregation—*Barbara Jones*

My mother, Suzette Ragan—*Valerie Nevel*

Genevieve Kirkpatrick (Grandma Chick), Shawna Osmer (Mommy), Louise Parsons (G.G.),

Tami Kirkpatrick, and Marcia Corkins—*Nan Parsons and Kailyn Rappaport*

Mothers in our family: Kathy, Phyllis, Auntie Em, Aunt Jeanie, Deb, and Deserai—*Deb and Jon Scott*

Mommy (Deserai), Ama, Grammy Kimball, Grandma Debbie, Nanny, Great Grandma Phyllis,
and Great Grandma Kathy—*Xavi and Walter Scott*

JoAnn Smith, Ruth Silver, and Rachel Silver—*Chip and Steve Silver*

Juliet Marion, phenomenal mother and grandmother; and our bonus mothers and grandmothers
we have gained at FCC—*Stacey and Dominic*

Alana Natcher—*Dawn Troutman*

IN MEMORY OF...

My mother and grandmothers—*Ron Bailey*

Laura Place—*Kathy and Warren Belding*

Our mothers, Dorothy Ford and Lula Bennett—*Ginny and Lloyd Bennett*

Our mothers, Priscilla Avery and Charlotte Mason—*Marcia Corkins and Pete Mason*

Laura W. Place—*Sue and Ken Gould and Family*

Our mothers, Emily Pike and Ruth Hammond; Gloria's grandmothers, Grace Maloon and
Ethel Pike; and Phil's grandmothers, Alice Miles and Harriet Hammond—*Gloria and Phil Hammond*

Linda's mom, Barbara Sumner; Linda's Gram, Ruby Sumner; Linda's aunt, Betty Sumner King;
Alicia King; Donna King Castle; and dear friends Laura Place, Betty Howard, Closey Dickey,
and Helen Smith—*Linda and Ike Jacobs*

My friend Millie Hubbard—*Valerie Nevel*

Beatrice Parsons (Naunta), Stelle Shaw (Nana), Natalie Perriello—*Nan Parsons and Kailyn Rappaport*

My mother, Helen Walling—*Susan Pratt*

Our mothers, Bess B. Lewis and Mary M. Sargent—*Barbara and Gordon Sargent*

Our grandmothers: Lona, Naomi, Aya, Florence, Daisy, Nellie, and Bernice—*Deb and Jon Scott*

My mother, Helen K. Smith—*Kenneth W. Smith, MD*

My mother, Isabelle Fitzpatrick Smith, and grandmothers, Helen Kelley Smith and
Isabelle Saalwaechter Fitzpatrick—*Rachel Fitzpatrick Smith-Jones*

Grandma Gladys; Aunts Doris, Sonia, Dulcey, and Heather—*Stacey and Dominic*

Barbara Chamberlain and Cora Troutman—*Dawn Troutman*



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, 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