



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

TRINITY SUNDAY

May 30, 2021

“I didn’t need to understand the hypostatic unity of the Trinity;
I just needed to turn my life over to whoever came up with redwood trees.”

–Anne Lamott

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 5-9.

Prelude *Prelude No. 2 in G* Felix Mendelssohn

Call to Worship Psalm 29:1-4, 10-11

Leader: Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**People: Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy
splendor.**

Leader: The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD,
over mighty waters.

People: The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

Leader: The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king
forever.

**People: May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people
with peace!**

Hymn 251 (p. 5) *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty* Nicaea

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

Musical Offering “Oh! Had I Jubal’s Lyre” (from *Joshua*) George Frideric Handel

Children's Moment

Who likes a mystery? Chip and I enjoyed lots of mystery series when he was younger: *Nate the Great* is just one. If you like mysteries, I'd recommend those books. But I'd also suggest you consider Christianity. It has things like the Holy Spirit, whom we never see, and the Trinity.

The triune God—the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit, the God who is three-in-one—can be hard to grasp. So we think about what the Trinity signifies, the idea of God as love, as the God who seeks our relationship as his very being. Is that clear? I hope so. But is it also a mystery? If we're honest, yes. We humans can know a lot, but some things are beyond us—they are mysteries.

Hymn 246 (p. 6) *Come, Thou Almighty King*

Italian Hymn

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 6:1-8. In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." ⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

John 3:1-17. Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him....”

Sermon “Question and Answer Time” Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 247 (p. 7) *Holy God, We Praise Thy Name* Grosser Gott, wir loben dich

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.

Today we offer our ongoing prayers for Pete, Lloyd, Arlene, Evelyn, Barbara, Greg, Larry, Edith, Jan, Eileen, James, and Sandy.

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, Triune God, on this day we celebrate the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—doing so with gratitude that you have come to us. We confess that the mystery of faith is not so much to be found in your three-in-one nature, but in your love for all humanity, including us. When we do not feel loved, when we are alone, grappling with a search for meaning, enable us to remember that you love us, all of us, each of us.

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.

Offertory “So Shall the Lute and Harp Awake” (*Judas Maccabæus*) G. F. Handel

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*)

We come before you Triune God, our Creator, our Redeemer, our Comforter, thankful for all you have done for us, your people. With gratitude and devotion, we now offer our gifts, asking that they and those who present them be blessed to your service. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Hymn 249 (*pp. 8-9*) *Ancient of Days, Who Sittest Throned in Glory* Ancient of Days

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 *Postlude-Cantique* Théodore Dubois

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist • Beth Hilgartner, Soprano • Brian Clancy, Liturgist

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.

Reginald Heber, 1783-1826

NICAEA 11.12.12.10.
John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore thee,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide thee,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee;
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 Though the eye of sin - ful man thy glo - ry may not see;
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y;
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 On - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y;

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 Which wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 Per - fect in power, in love, and pur - i - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty! A - men.

Come, Thou Almighty King

246

Anonymous, c. 1757

ITALIAN HYMN 6.6.4.6.6.6.4.

Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796

1 Come, thou al - might - y King, Help us thy
2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, Gird on thy
3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, Thy sa - cred
4 To the great One in Three E - ter - nal

name to sing; Help us to praise: Fa - ther, all
might - y sword; Our prayer at - tend: Come, and thy
wit - ness bear In this glad hour! Thou who al -
prais - es be Hence ev - er - more! His sov - ereign

glo - ri - ous, O'er all vic - to - ri - ous, Come, and reign
peo - ple bless, And give thy word suc - cess; Spir - it of
might - y art, Now rule in ev - ery heart, And ne'er from
maj - es - ty May we in glo - ry see, And to e -

o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
ho - li - ness, On us de - scend.
us de - part, Spir - it of power.
ter - ni - ty Love and a - dore. A - men.

247

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

Attr. to Ignaz Franz, 1719-1790
Tr. Clarence Walworth, 1820-1900, alt.

GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH 7.8.7.8.7.7.
"Katholisches Gesangbuch," Vienna, c. 1774

In unison

1 Ho - ly God, we praise thy name; Lord of all, we
2 Hark, the glad ce - les - tial hymn, An - gel choirs a -
3 Lo! the ap - os - tol - ic train Joins thy sa - cred
4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it:

bow be - fore thee; All on earth thy scep - ter claim,
bove are rais - ing; Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
name to hal - low; Proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
Three we name thee, While in es - sence on - ly One;

All in heaven a - bove a - dore thee. In - fi - nite thy
In un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, Fill the heavens with
And the bless - ed mar - tyrs fol - low, And from morn to
Un - di - vid - ed God we claim thee, And a - dor - ing

vast do - main, Ev - er - last - ing is thy reign.
sweet ac - cord: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord.
set of sun, Through the Church the song goes on.
bend the knee While we sing our praise to thee. A - men.

249 Ancient of Days, Who Sittest Throned in Glory

William C. Doane, 1832-1913

ANCIENT OF DAYS 11.10.11.10.

J. Albert Jeffery, 1855-1929

In unison

1 An - cient of Days, who sit - test throned in glo - ry,
 2 O ho - ly Fa - ther, who hast led thy chil - dren
 3 O ho - ly Je - sus, Prince of peace and Sav - ior,
 4 O Ho - ly Ghost, the Lord and the Life - giv - er,
 5 O Tri - une God, with heart and voice a - dor - ing

To thee all knees are bent, all voic - es pray;
 In all the a - ges with the fire and cloud,
 To thee we owe the peace that still pre - vails,
 Thine is the quick - ening power that gives in - crease;
 Praise we the good - ness that doth crown our days;

Thy love has blessed the wide world's won - drous sto - ry
 Through seas dry - shod, through wea - ry wastes be - wil - dering;
 Still - ing the rude wills of men's wild be - hav - ior,
 From thee have flowed, as from a pleas - ant riv - er,
 Pray we that thou wilt hear us, still im - plor - ing

With light and life since E - den's dawn - ing day.
 To thee in rev - erent love, our hearts are bowed.
 And calm - ing pas - sion's fierce and storm - y gales.
 Our plen - ty, wealth, pros - per - i - ty, and peace.
 Thy love and fa - vor, kept to us al - ways. A - men.

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

NEXT 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!

FATHER'S DAY IS SHELTER SUNDAY

Every Father's Day (**June 20** this year), FCC makes a commitment to support the work of Upper Valley Habitat for Humanity, the local affiliate of an international, ecumenical ministry. Since 1986, Habitat has provided decent, affordable housing for deserving families who could not otherwise afford to buy a home. Families work alongside volunteers to build their own home, which they are then able to purchase at cost with a zero-interest mortgage.

If you'd like to honor the father(s) in your life with a contribution to Shelter Sunday, please contact the church office with your dedication information. Any amount is welcome, and directly supports building projects. Thanks! (Payable to FCC, memo "Shelter Sunday.")

All dedications must be received by noon on THURSDAY, JUNE 17, in order to be listed in the worship bulletin on FATHER'S DAY, JUNE 20. (Contributions accepted beyond that date.)

If you wish to have a joy, concern, or prayer request lifted up in the service, or if you know of someone who may need special prayers, a card or phone call, or some other form of pastoral care, please email prayer@fccleb.org or speak with Rev. Steve Silver directly.



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