

First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ - Open and Affirming

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

June 27, 2021

"We are not necessarily doubting that God will do the best for us; we are wondering how painful the best will turn out to be."

-C. S. Lewis

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 5-8.

Prelude

Abendlied, op. 150, no. 2

Josef Rheinberger

Call to Worship Psalm 130

Leader: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

People: Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Leader: If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

People: But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

Leader: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

People: My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

Leader: O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

People: It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Hymn 6 (p. 5)

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above

Lyons

Prayer of Invocation

God, though we worship in different locations today, we know your Spirit is with us, joining us together as one people. Lift up our worship, inspire our prayers, infuse them with your grace, your love, your power. We pray this 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

Children's Moment

It's okay to be sad. That's one of the lessons in Scripture. When things go wrong, when a loved one is sick or even dies, when we see people treating other people unfairly, it's okay to be sad. We may mourn, we may feel pain or loss. But we are not alone. God is with us. And we will need to move on with our lives, not be lost in our grief. We can do honor to Jesus, to loved ones, and to our circumstances by making the most of the opportunities we have been given by God.

Hymn 793 (p. 6) O Christ, the Healer

Erhalt uns, Herr

Scripture Lessons

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27. After the death of Saul, when David had returned from defeating the Amalekites, David remained two days in Ziklag. [...]

¹⁷David intoned this lamentation over Saul and his son Ionathan. ¹⁸(He ordered that The Song of the Bow be taught to the people of Judah; it is written in the Book of Jashar.) He said: ¹⁹Your glory, O Israel, lies slain upon your high places! How the mighty have fallen! ²⁰Tell it not in Gath, proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon; or the daughters of the Philistines will rejoice, the daughters of the uncircumcised will exult. ²¹You mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew or rain upon you, nor bounteous fields! For there the shield of the mighty was defiled, the shield of Saul, anointed with oil no more. ²²From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan did not turn back, nor the sword of Saul return empty. ²³Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely! In life and in death they were not divided; they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions. ²⁴O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you with crimson, in luxury, who put ornaments of gold on your apparel. ²⁵How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan lies slain upon your high places. ²⁶I am distressed for you, my brother Ionathan; greatly beloved were you to me; your love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women. ²⁷How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

Mark 5:21-43. ²¹When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. ²²Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet ²³and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live." ²⁴So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. ²⁵Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." ²⁹Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the

crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" ³¹And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?" ³²He looked all around to see who had done it. ³³But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

³⁵While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" ³⁶But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." ³⁷He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. ³⁸When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." ⁴⁰And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" ⁴²And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. ⁴³He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Sermon "The Meaning of Mark in Just 23 Verses" Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 796 (p. 7) We Come to You for Healing, Lord

Land of Rest

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 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, Sandy, and Jimmy.

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

Today we also offer this prayer, adapted from a tweet by Pope Francis:

How often we leave the Lord in a corner, at the bottom of the boat of life, to wake Him only in a moment of need! Let us ask for the grace of a faith that never tires of seeing the Lord, of knocking at the door of his heart.

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

Largo, from Cello Sonata in G Minor, op. 65

Frédéric Chopin

Doxology (Unison)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,

Praise God, all creatures here below,

Praise God above, ye heavenly host,

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

We come to you, O God, as the summer starts, filled with joy and enthusiasm. We look forward to this time of renewal and restoration, mindful of the great gifts we have received from you. Let us remember those without, those in need, those looking for comfort and support, those whom Jesus calls us to be with. Let these gifts be a symbol of our commitment to love your people. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Hymn 212 (p. 8)

O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns

Charterhouse

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

Arioso for Cello and Organ, op. 55

Gustav Merkel

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor • Linda Jacobs, Liturgist Ernie Drown, Organ • Margaret Gilmore, Cello • Brian Clancy, Tenor Susan Pratt, Barbara Teeter, and Dawn Troutman, Usher/Greeters

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This prayer for wholeness of body, mind, and spirit considers not only the infirmities of individuals but also those of localities, societies, and nations. In the midst of such widespread need, worshiping communities are called to continue Christ's healing work in the world.

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1967, alt.

MUSIC: Klug's Geistliche Lieder, 1543; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1725

Text © 1969 Hope Publishing Company

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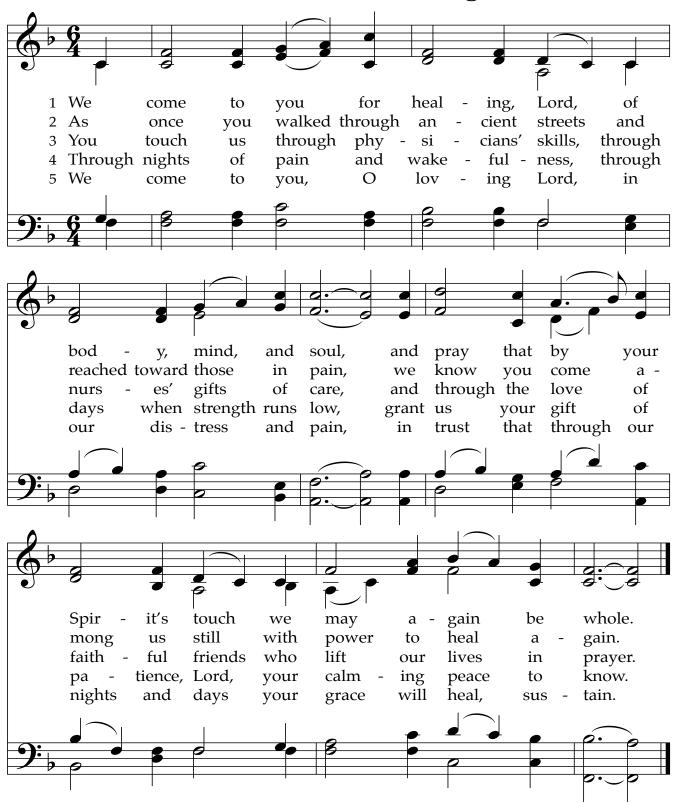
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Joys, Concerns, and Prayer Requests

If you wish to have a joy, concern, or prayer request lifted up in the service, or if you know of 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. Silver directly.

We Come to You for Healing, Lord 796



Unlike many hymns on the theme of healing, this text appropriately includes the ministry of medical personnel as instruments of God's healing activity. It also acknowledges that illness is not limited to physical symptoms, but involves mental, emotional, and spiritual dimensions.

TEXT: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 2002

LAND OF REST

MUSIC: American folk melody; arr. Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938 Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.

(alternate harmonization, 691)

Music Arr. © 1938, ren. The H. W. Gray Company (admin. Alfred Music Publishing)

O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns



This text, written for a Convocation of Urban Life in America, was chosen by The Hymn Society for publication in Five New Hymns on the City. Bradford Webster, a Methodist minister, served churches in his native New York state for forty years.

Tune: CHARTERHOUSE 11.10.11.10.

David Evans, 1927



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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