



The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

“If God’s asking you to do something, He’s also promising to go with you.”

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

Call to Worship

Psalm 24

People: For he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

People: Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.

People: Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Leader: Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

People: Who is the King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle.

Leader: Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

People: Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory.

Hymn 114 (p. 5) *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* Truro

Prayer of Invocation

God, though we worship in places near and far 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

Have you ever noticed how many times God makes promises that are unmerited and unwarranted? This is what it means for God to be gracious to us. The generosity of the Lord is not because of anything we humans do. It is because God loves us and wants to help us. Please think about what this tells you about God and how you might copy God's behavior.

Hymn 449 (p. 6) *Show Us, O Lord, Your Steadfast Love*

Mendon

Scripture Lessons

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19. David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. ²David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. ³They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart ⁴with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark. ⁵David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals. [...] ^{12b}So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing; ¹³and when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. ¹⁴David danced before the Lord with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. ¹⁵So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

¹⁶As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.

¹⁷They brought in the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the Lord. ¹⁸When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts, ¹⁹and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.

Mark 6:14-29. ¹⁴King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's

wife.” ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, “Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.” ²³And he solemnly swore to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.” ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, “What should I ask for?” She replied, “The head of John the baptizer.” ²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.” ²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John’s head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

Sermon “Promises, Promises” Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 15 (p. 7) *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* Lobe den Herren

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 the following prayer:

Faithful, fulfilling God: we give thanks to you for your promises, which you have kept steadfastly. What you say you will do, you do. And for that we are grateful. Help us to not take your words lightly, to remember that your promises are given freely, though we have not merited them. Strengthen us to set aside our compulsions, our sense of entitlement, and our confusion of our own desires with your commitments. Further, let us be bold and ask that our promises be modeled on yours, and on those of Jesus.

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

Offertory *Fuga* Johann Caspar Ferdinand Fischer

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 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 132 (p. 8) *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* In Dulci Jubilo

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 *Toccata* Johann Pachelbel

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Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Susan Sorensen, Guest Organist • Brian Clancy, Tenor • Susan Pratt, Liturgist
Linda and Bob Gerlach, Phil Hammond, and Barbara Jones, Greeters/Ushers

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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 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.

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Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Based on Psalm 24

Georg Weissel, 1590-1635

Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

TRURO L.M.

Thomas Williams', "Psalmody Evangelica," 1789

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; Be - hold the
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide My heart to
 4 So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and

King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is
 tem - ple, set a - part From earth - ly use for
 thee; here, Lord, a - bide! Let me thy in - ner
 no - bler life be - gin; Thy Ho - ly Spir - it

draw - ing near; The Sav - ior of the world is here.
 heaven's em - ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 pres - ence feel; Thy grace and love in me re - veal.
 guide us on, Un - til the glo - rious crown be won. A - men.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH—SPECIAL UCC OFFERING

Inspired this year by a simple theme—“**Renew!**”—the Strengthen the Church offering supports the growth of ministry and local congregations across the country. By renewing older faith communities, building new ones, and funding fellowships for young, emerging leaders in our church, this program is vital to the health of our denomination.

Please give as you are able to this nationwide effort to support church growth. We will accept contributions (payable to FCC, memo “Strengthen the Church”) until Labor Day. Thank you!

Show Us, O Lord, Your Steadfast Love 449

(Psalm 85)

1 Show us, O Lord, your stead - fast love, and let your
2 Mer - cy and truth at last have met; jus - tice and
3 Lord, you will grant pros - per - i - ty; our land will

sav - ing grace be near; when we re - turn with o - pen
peace are rec - on - ciled. Truth has a - ris - en from the
yield its full in - crease. Jus - tice shall go be - fore your

hearts the Lord speaks peace and we will hear.
earth; jus - tice looked down from heaven and smiled.
face; the path - way for your feet is peace.

This paraphrase of the latter part of Psalm 85 includes some remarkable signs of God's reign: that mercy, truth, justice, and peace exist simultaneously and that the fruits of creation will be abundant. Because we still await that day, this psalm is often associated with Advent.

TEXT: Christopher L. Webber, 2008
MUSIC: German melody; harm. Lowell Mason, 1831
Text © 2008 Christopher L. Webber

MENDON
LM

Outdoor Service Planned for Sunday, July 25 (Rain Date 8/1)

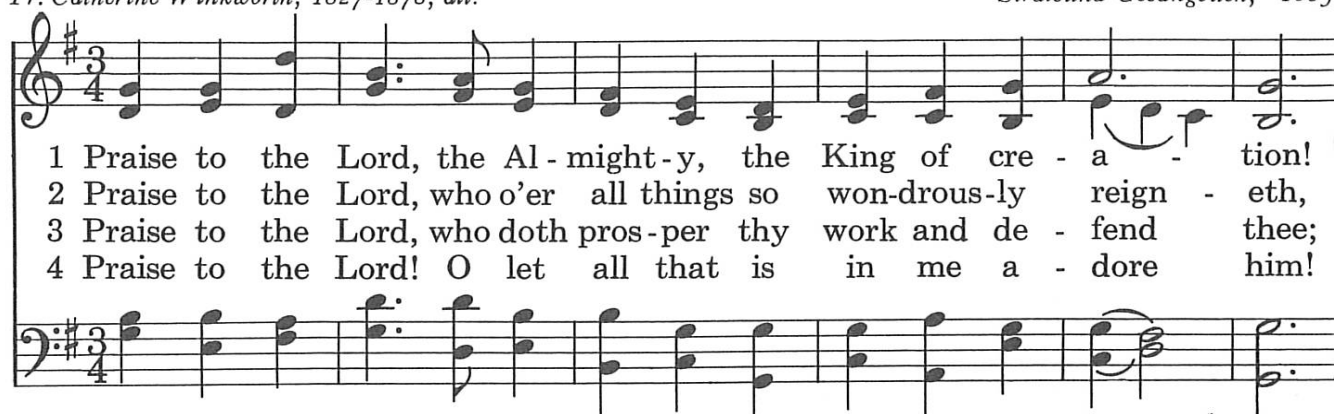
All are welcome to another of our open worship services in the fresh air on the church's front lawn. Masks and distancing, while still encouraged, will not be required for this outdoor service, and no RSVP is necessary. Folding chairs will be available, but you may bring your favorite lawn chair if you prefer. See you out front in two weeks!

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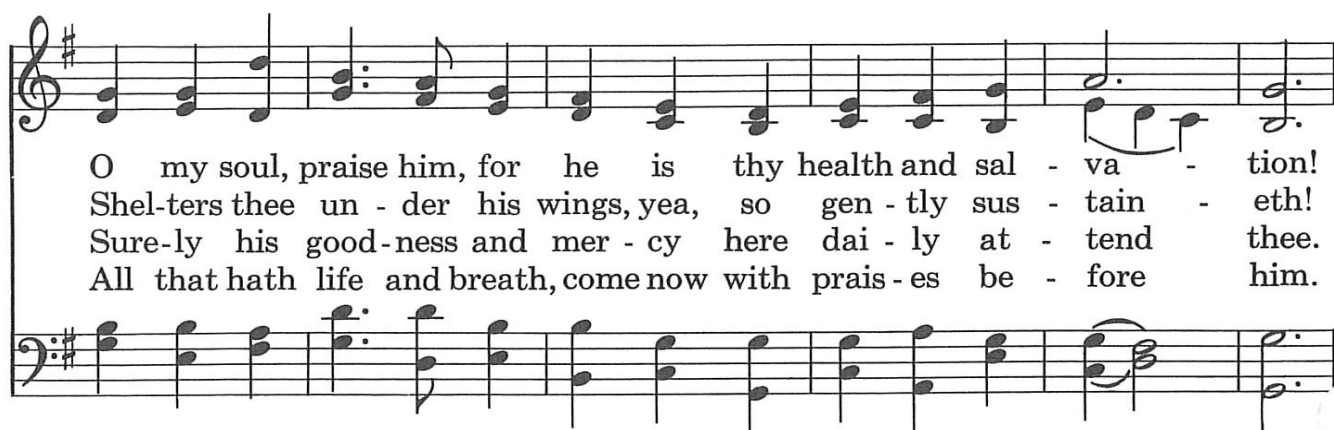
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Joachim Neander, 1650-1680
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

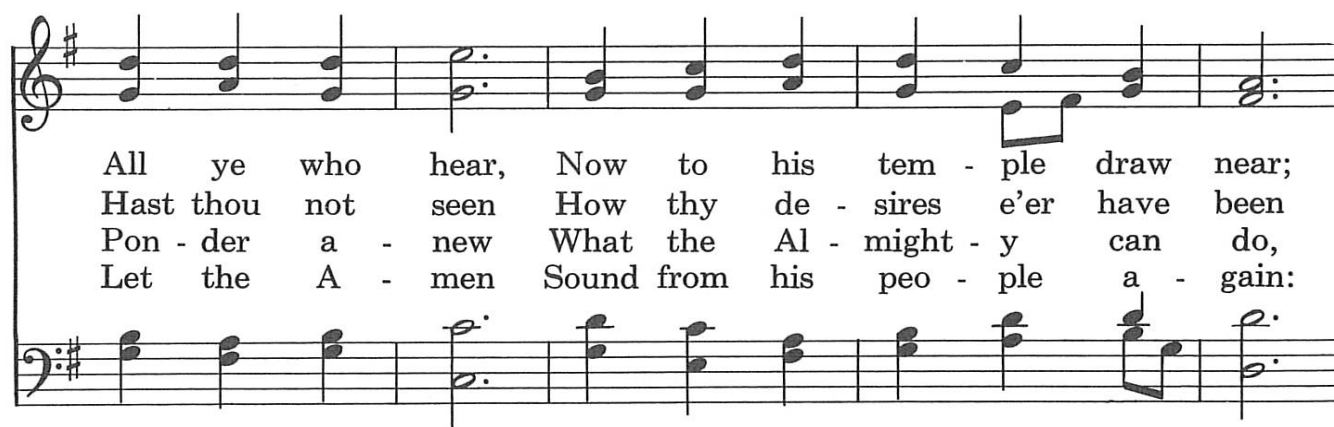
LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8.
"Stralsund Gesangbuch," 1665



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre-a-tion!
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign-eth,
3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy work and de-fend thee;
4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a-dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal-va-tion!
Shel-ters thee un-der his wings, yea, so gen-tly sus-tain-eth!
Sure-ly his good-ness and mer-cy here dai-ly at-tend thee.
All that hath life and breath, come now with prais-es be-fore him.



All ye who hear, Now to his tem-ple draw near;
Hast thou not seen How thy de-sires e'er have been
Pon-der a-new What the Al-might-y can do,
Let the A-men Sound from his peo-ple a-gain:



Join me in glad ad-o-ra-tion!
Grant-ed in what he or-dain-eth?
If with his love he be-friend thee.
Glad-ly for aye we a-dore him. A-men.

132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.



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 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