



# First Congregational Church of Lebanon

*United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming*

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## The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 18, 2021

“A good reminder: The church is primarily  
a hospital for sinners, not a museum for saints.”

–Tim Keller

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

### Prelude

*Pastorale, op. 19*

César Franck

### 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 343 (p. 5)      *In Heavenly Love Abiding*

Nyland

### 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

I hope you're having a good summer, and you're taking a break and getting some rest. The Gospel tells us that that's what Jesus wanted for his disciples.

Taking a break doesn't mean goofing off. It means taking some time to clear your head, to refresh yourself, to recharge your batteries.

God thought this so important that taking a day of rest, the Sabbath, was included in the Ten Commandments. As you get older, you'll find many things clamoring for your attention and your time. I pray you always remember that part of being faithful is taking a break. God wants it for us. Jesus wants it for us. So, let's rest!

**Hymn 327** (p. 6)      *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

Bradbury

### Scripture Lessons

**2 Samuel 7:1-14a.** Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. <sup>12</sup>When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup>He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup>I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me.

**Mark 6:30-34, 53-56.** <sup>30</sup>The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup>He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. <sup>32</sup>And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. <sup>33</sup>Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. <sup>34</sup>As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. [...]

<sup>53</sup>When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat.  
<sup>54</sup>When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, <sup>55</sup>and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. <sup>56</sup>And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

**Sermon**

*“A House for God”*

Stephen R. Silver

**Hymn 423** (p. 7)

*Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life*

Germany

### **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, Jimmy, and Jean.

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:

Ever-present and ever-loving God, we are grateful for your presence among us.

Though the temple is no more, you have shown us it is not necessary. Your spirit abides with us, even though you do not live in a house of our making. Help us to create a community, a world, in which you may dwell, one in which we do not worry about appearances or elegance but instead focus on holiness and sanctity.

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**

*Te lucis ante terminum*, op. 38, no. 6

Marcel Dupré

## 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*)

God of our mothers and fathers, you were with them, as you are with us. For your steadfastness, for your abiding presence, we give our thanks. Help us to be present for those in need, for those who are alone, for those struggling, in the way you are present for each of us. Now, we ask that you take these gifts as a sign of our commitment to care for your people, to do as you do. Amen.

Hymn 320 (p. 8)      *The Church of Christ in Every Age*

Wareham

## 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      “Rigaudon” from *Idoménée*

André Campra

\* \* \*

## *Leading Worship This Week*

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist • Barb Jones, Liturgist • Dawn Troutman, Greeter/Usher

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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@fccleeb.org](mailto:prayer@fccleeb.org) or speak with Rev. Silver directly.*

## **Outdoor Service Next 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 next week!

# In Heavenly Love Abiding

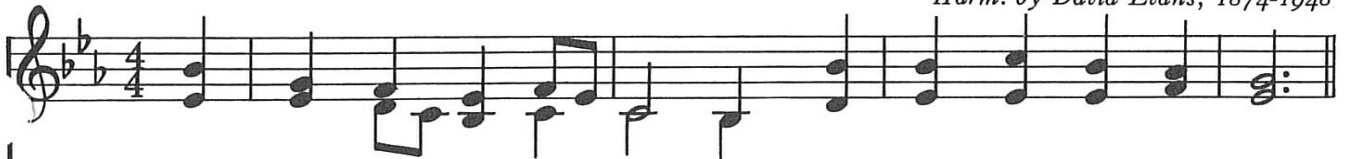
343

Anna L. Waring 1823-1910

NYLAND 7.6.7.6.D.

Traditional Finnish Melody

Harm. by David Evans, 1874-1948



1 In heaven-ly love a - bid - ing, No change my heart shall fear,  
2 Wher - ev - er he may guide me, No want shall turn me back;  
3 Green pas - tures are be - fore me, Which yet I have not seen;



And safe is such con - fid - ing, For noth - ing chang-es here.  
My shep-herd is be - side me, And noth - ing can I lack.  
Bright skies will soon be o'er me, Where the dark clouds have been.



The storm may roar with - out me, My heart may low be laid,  
His wis - dom ev - er wak - eth; His sight is nev - er dim;  
My hope I can - not meas - ure; The path to life is free;




But God is round a - bout me, And can I be dis-mayed?  
He knows the way he tak - eth, And I will walk with him.  
My Sav - ior has my treas - ure, And he will walk with me. A-men.



## 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.

Frank Mason North, 1850-1935

GERMANY L.M.  
Gardiner's "Sacred Melodies," 1815

1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, Where sound the  
 2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, On shad - owed  
 3 From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, From wom - an's  
 4 The cup of wa - ter given for thee Still holds the

cries of race and clan, A - bove the noise of self - ish  
 thresh-olds dark with fears, From paths where hide the lures of  
 grief, man's bur - dened toil, From fam - ished souls, from sor - rows'  
 fresh - ness of thy grace; Yet long these mul - ti - tudes to

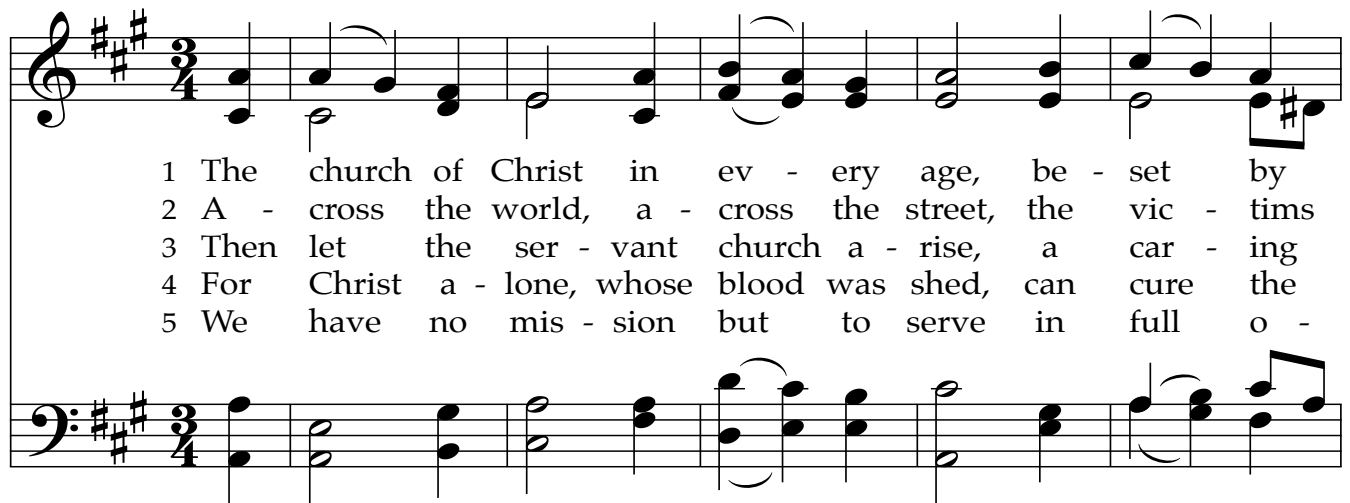
strife, We hear thy voice, O Son of man.  
 greed, We catch the vi - sion of thy tears.  
 stress, Thy heart has nev - er known re - coil.  
 see The sweet com - pas - sion of thy face. A - men.

## 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!*

# 320 The Church of Christ in Every Age



1 The church of Christ in ev - ery age, be - set by  
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims  
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing  
4 For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the  
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its  
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for  
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's  
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to  
be - dience to our Lord: to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.  
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.  
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.  
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.  
out re - serve, and spread Christ's lib - er - at - ing word.

In this challenging text by a British Methodist minister, the odd-numbered stanzas develop the image of "the servant church," while the second surveys the many needs and the fourth describes the true source of strength for the task.

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1969  
MUSIC: William Knapp, 1738  
Text © 1971 Hope Publishing Company

WAREHAM  
LM

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**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](mailto: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](mailto:church@fccleb.org) • [prayer@fccleb.org](mailto:prayer@fccleb.org) • [music@fccleb.org](mailto:music@fccleb.org) • [www.fccleb.org](http://www.fccleb.org)**