



The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 6-9.

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| Prelude | <i>Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr</i> , BWV 662 | Johann Sebastian Bach |
|---------|---|-----------------------|

Call to Worship Psalm 111

Leader: Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

People: Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

Leader: Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

People: He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the LORD is gracious and merciful.

Leader: He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.

People: He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.

Leader: The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

People: They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

Leader: He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name.

All: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.

Hymn 16 (p. 6) *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* Praise My Soul

Prayer of Invocation

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life. Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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

In today's lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures, God asks the young King Solomon what he wants God to do for him, and Solomon asks for wisdom, so he can be a good king. This is a little like someone asking you: "What superpower would you like to have?" You might answer: "It would be cool to fly." Or "I want super-strength." Solomon could have asked to be rich, or to live forever, or to always win any war he started, but he asked to be wise, so he could be a good king.

Solomon is a good example for us: he asked God for something so he could better *for other people*, not just for himself. Now, I can't give you a superpower, so it doesn't make sense for me to ask you which one you want, but I do believe that God gives each of us unique, special, one-of-a-kind gifts. So this morning, I'll ask you to think about what *your* superpower is: what gift or talent has God given you that you can use to help other people? I asked a friend's granddaughter this, and she told me: "My superpower is kindness." I thought that was a very good one. So... what's yours?

Hymn 418 (p. 7) *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

Maryton

Scripture Lessons

1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14. ^{2:10}Then David slept with his ancestors, and was buried in the city of David. ¹¹The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. ¹²So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established. [...]

^{3:3}Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. ⁴The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. ¹⁴If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life.”

Ephesians 5:15-20. ¹⁵Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 6:51-58. ⁵¹[Jesus continued, “...]I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” ⁵³So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” [...]

Sermon

“Live Wisely”

Beth Hilgartner

Hymn 83 (p. 8)

If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee

Neumark

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.

*The congregation is invited to respond together (in **bold**) during the following prayer litany:*

Let us give thanks to our gracious and loving God, for the gifts so freely bestowed on us; and let us pray for the grace and strength to work toward peace and reconciliation, which God desires among all the peoples of the earth.

We thank you, God, for the beauty and wonder of creation, for trees and mountains, lakes and rivers, for the sky, and the stars, and the sea; and we pray that you will help us to become and remain good stewards of the earth. **God, hear our prayer.**

We thank you, God, for our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends; and we pray that you will help us to be mindful of and responsive to the needs of those less fortunate. **God, hear our prayer.**

We thank you, God, for minds to think, hearts to love, and hands to serve; and we pray that you will help us always to use these gifts in ways that foster peace and commonweal among all of your beloved children. **God, hear our prayer.**

We thank you, God, for health and strength to work, and for leisure to rest and play; and we pray that you will help us minister to those who are sick, disabled, unemployed, overworked, bereaved, oppressed, in prison, beset by violence, or in any need or trouble. **God, hear our prayer.**

We thank you, God, for risks taken, for burdens shouldered, for those disappointments and failures which lead us to acknowledge our dependence upon you; and we pray that you will help us to heed and embrace the tasks you have for us, and strengthen us to do your will. **God, hear our prayer.**

We thank you, God, for the brave and courageous, patient in suffering and faithful in adversity, and for all valiant seekers after truth, liberty and justice; and we pray that you will help us to emulate their example in our own lives. **God, hear our prayer.**

We thank you, God, for this community of faith, for the opportunity to come together and worship you with one another; and we pray that you will help us cling to that which we have in common, and overcome that which divides us. **God, hear our prayer.**

Grant us all the gift of your presence and guidance, so that we may know always that we are walking in your sight, and in the company of our brothers and sisters, who are also your beloved children. In the Name of God, **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 *Sonata in D Major, K. 287*

Domenico Scarlatti

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*)

Gracious and loving God, all that we have comes from you: accept this offering, remembering in your love those who have brought it and the ministry which it supports. Let your blessings abound, so that all who gather here, and those beyond these walls, may feel the power of your love, and be moved to work for reconciliation and justice, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 527 (p. 9) *We Offer Christ*

Charterhouse

Benediction

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Postlude

Rondeau

Jean-Joseph Mouret

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Beth Hilgartner, Guest Preacher

Ernie Drown, Organist • Brian Clancy, Tenor • Phil Hammond, Liturgist

Linda Gerlach and Sue Pratt, Ushers • Bob Gerlach, Zoom Greeter

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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.

* Memorial Service for Jim Oronte (1953-2021)—Saturday, August 28, 11:00, at FCC *



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Live Music Returns Today to FCC!

Classicopia: Broadway Violin—Today! August 15, at 1:00

Pianist Dan Weiser brings live music back to our Sanctuary with violinist Timothy Schwarz and a selection of Broadway arrangements from the 1920s to the 1980s. Originally broadcast online last year, the program features favorite songs by Gershwin, Rodgers, Sondheim, Bernstein, Webber, and more. Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; for tickets and more, visit classicopia.org.

The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, September 10 and 24, October 8 and 22, at 7:30

Elizabeth Borowsky, Piano, and Cecylia Barczyk, Cello—Saturday, September 18, at 4:00

Cameo Baroque Fall Benefit Concert—Sunday, September 19, at 4:00


Classicopia: Elizabeth Borowsky and Jessica Deskin—Saturday, October 2, at 7:30

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven



16

Based on Psalm 103
Henry F. Lyle, 1793-1847



PRAISE MY SOUL 8.7.8.7.8.7.
John Goss, 1800-1880





1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en, To his feet thy
2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor To our fa - thers
3 Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; Well our fee - ble
4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him, Ye be - hold him


trib - ute bring; Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
in dis - tress; Praise him, still the same for - ev - er,
frame he knows; In his hands he gen - tly bears us,
face to face; Sun and moon, bow down be - fore him;

Who, like me, his praise should sing? Praise him! praise him!
Slow to chide, and swift to bless. Praise him! praise him!
Res - cues us from all our foes. Praise him! praise him!
Dwell - ers all in time and space, Praise him! praise him!

Praise him! praise him! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King!
Praise him! praise him! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!
Praise him! praise him! Wide - ly as his mer - cy flows!
Praise him! praise him! Praise with us the God of grace! A - men.



O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee

418

Washington Gladden, 1836-1918

MARYTON L.M.
H. Percy Smith, 1825-1898

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with thee In low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move By some clear,
3 Teach me thy pa - tience; still with thee In clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray Far down the

paths of serv - ice free; Tell me thy se - cret, help me
win - ning word of love; Teach me the way - ward feet to
dear - er com - pa - ny, In work that keeps faith sweet and
fu - ture's broad - ening way, In peace that on - ly thou canst

bear The strain of toil, the fret of care.
stay, And guide them in the home - ward way.
strong, In trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.
give, With thee, O Mas - ter, let me live. A - men.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH—SPECIAL UCC OFFERING

Inspired this year by a simple theme—“**Renew!**”—Strengthen the Church supports the growth of local ministry across the country. By renewing older congregations, building new ones, and funding fellowships for young leaders, 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!

Thanks for Doing Your Part to Fill the Cart!

AUGUST—non-perishable food and personal-care items for LISTEN COMMUNITY SERVICES

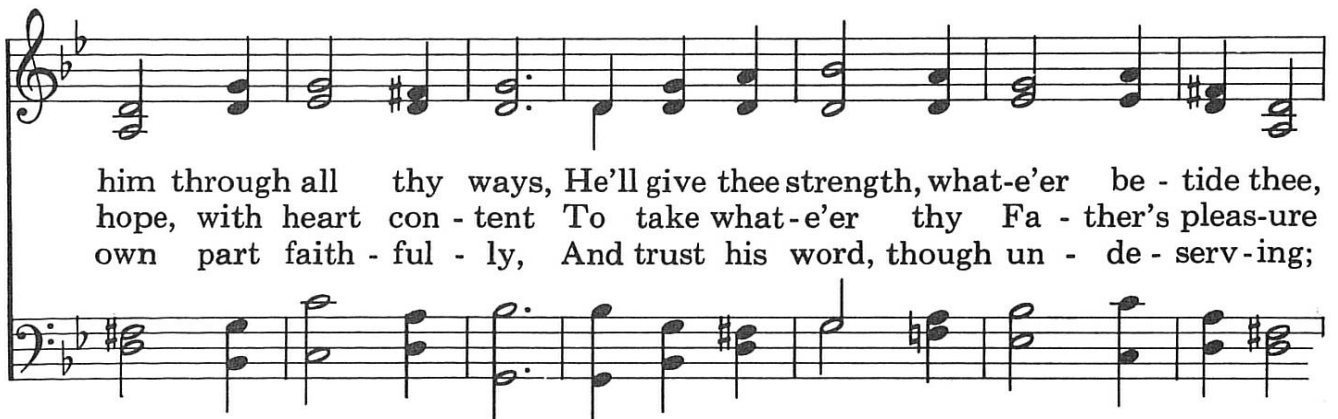
If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee

Georg Neumark, 1621-1681
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

NEUMARK 9.8.9.8.8.8.
Melody by Georg Neumark, 1621-1681



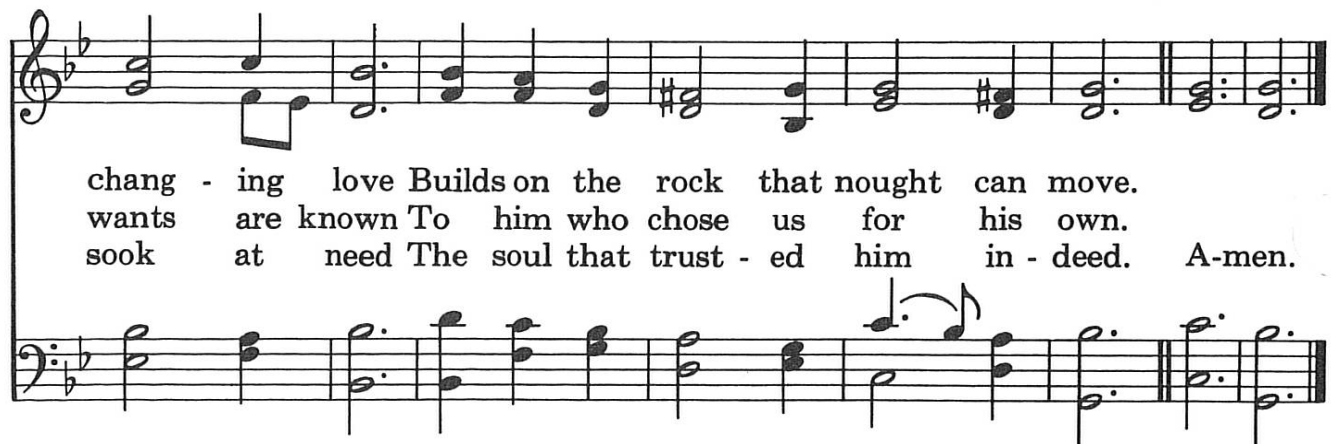
1 If thou but suf - fer God to guide thee, And hope in
2 On - ly be still, and wait his lei - sure In cheer - ful
3 Sing, pray, and keep his ways un - swerv - ing; So do thine



him through all thy ways, He'll give thee strength, what-e'er be - tide thee,
hope, with heart con - tent To take what-e'er thy Fa - ther's pleas-ure
own part faith - ful - ly, And trust his word, though un - de - serv-ing;



And bear thee through the e - vil days; Who trusts in God's un -
And all - de - serv - ing love have sent; Nor doubt our in - most
Thou yet shalt find it true for thee; God nev - er yet for -



chang - ing love Builds on the rock that nought can move.
wants are known To him who chose us for his own.
sook at need The soul that trust - ed him in - deed. A-men.

We Offer Christ

527

Brian Wren, 1986

1 We of-fer Christ to all the world a-round us, born in - to faith,
 2 We of-fer Christ from all our best tra - di - tions, by grace a - lone,
 3 We of-fer Christ the bar - ri - er - be - strid - er, whose full-ness far
 4 We of-fer Christ and, God-be-loved, our Sav - ior now of - fers us,

re - leased from pride and shame; Em-braced by love, we show how
 a - mazed and strange-ly warmed, Cre - a - ted e - qual, stirred by
 ex - ceeds our lo - cal view, Whose Spir - it, breath - ing deep in
 born of the Spir - it's kiss, to love cre - a - tion and cre -

love has found us; at peace with God, we speak our Sav - ior's name.
 free - dom - vi - sions, self - crit - i - cal, pre-pared to be re - formed.
 ev - ery cul - ture, brings Christ to us, the same, yet strange-ly new.
 a - tion's Lov - er, with skill, com-pas-sion, jus - tice, care and peace.

"We Offer Christ" was commissioned by St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Orangeburg, South Carolina, for its 150th anniversary. The opening phrase derives from John Wesley's advice to Thomas Coke as he departed for America: "Offer them Christ."

Tune: CHARTERHOUSE 11.10.11.10.
 David Evans, 1927

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 HYMNARY, 1927.



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