



# First Congregational Church of Lebanon

*United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming*

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## The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 29, 2021

“True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost.”

—Arthur Ashe

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

**Prelude** *Praeludium in D Major* Dieterich Buxtehude

**Call to Worship** Psalm 15

Leader: O LORD, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

**People: Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart;**

Leader: Who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;

**People: In whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear the LORD; who stand by their oath even to their hurt;**

Leader: Who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

**All: Those who do these things shall never be moved.**

**Hymn 68** (p. 5) *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* Ellacombe

### Prayer of Invocation

Lord, give us wisdom before we speak, understanding while we listen, sensitivity toward those we meet, and the perspective of your kingdom in which to see the things of this earth. Bring us to the day's ending, blessed through having shared this day's beginning. In Christ's name we ask this. Amen. *(Wild Goose Publishing)*

### 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

## Scripture Lessons

**Song of Solomon 2:8-13.** <sup>8</sup>The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. <sup>9</sup>My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice. <sup>10</sup>My beloved speaks and says to me: “Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; <sup>11</sup>for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. <sup>12</sup>The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. <sup>13</sup>The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

**James 1:17-27.** <sup>17</sup>Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

<sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

<sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

**Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23.** Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup>and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) <sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” <sup>6</sup>He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; <sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ <sup>8</sup>You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

[...] <sup>14</sup>Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

[...] <sup>21</sup>For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

**Sermon**

*“To Do”*

Gail T. Dimick

**Hymn 355 (p. 7)**

*Who Trusts in God, a Strong Abode*

Bishopgarth

### **Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer**

*As we hold our community members in prayer, please exercise care and discretion when sharing. Help us keep our prayer list current by contacting the church to add or remove names on the list.*

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

Today we also offer the following prayer:

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon those who gather this day, as we are the body of your Servant and the Spirit of your compassion. May we become the healing and hope the world longs for in our time. As you touch us with your life, may we be quick to speak of justice; as you pour grace into our hearts, may we be the doers of your Word, those whose hands are stained by generous acts of kindness: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, lifting the fallen to their feet, comforting all who are broken.

*(Thom Shuman)*

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**

*Adagio from Organ Sonata No. 3, op. 56*

Alexandre Guilmant

### **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*)

Generous, giving God, we offer our gifts to you in gratitude for all the blessings you rain down upon us. Your sunshine warms us, your earth feeds us, and your word nourishes us. More than these gifts of money, we give ourselves—our time and our energy—that we might be doers of your word and not just hearers only. We pray this in the name of Christ our Savior. Amen. *(James 1:17-27; United Methodist GBOD)*

Hymn 7 (p. 8)      *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*      St. Denio

### Benediction

Postlude      *Toccata in C Major*      Johann Pachelbel

### *Leading Worship This Week*

The Rev. Gail Temperley Dimick, Guest Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist • Brian Clancy, Tenor • Stacey Steele and Dominic Watson, 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](mailto:prayer@fccleb.org) or speak with Rev. Silver directly.*



Music  
at the  
Meetinghouse

## Live Music Returns to FCC!

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

Join us for this concert by acclaimed local pianist and teacher Elizabeth Borowsky and her mother Cecylia Barczyk, a cellist who has performed internationally. Elizabeth has given several wonderful concerts here and is excited to return to our Sanctuary! *Full program details are forthcoming.*

***Cameo Baroque: Benefit Concert for Hearts You Hold—Sunday, September 19, at 4:00***

Ernie Drown, Beth Hilgartner, Leslie Stroud, and Laurie Rabut share their considerable collective musicianship with us in a program featuring French Baroque chamber music. All Cameo events support a local non-profit, and this concert's beneficiary is **Hearts You Hold**, the Thetford-based organization that addresses the needs of immigrant and refugee families in the Upper Valley. All are invited to help further FCC's community mission while enjoying an excellent program!

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

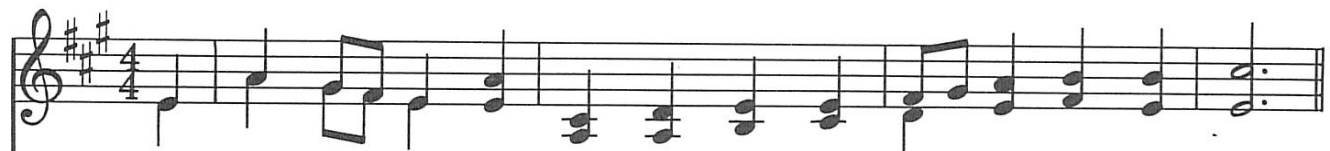
***Classicopia: Elizabeth Borowsky and Jessica Deskin—Saturday, October 2, at 7:30***

# I Sing the Mighty Power of God

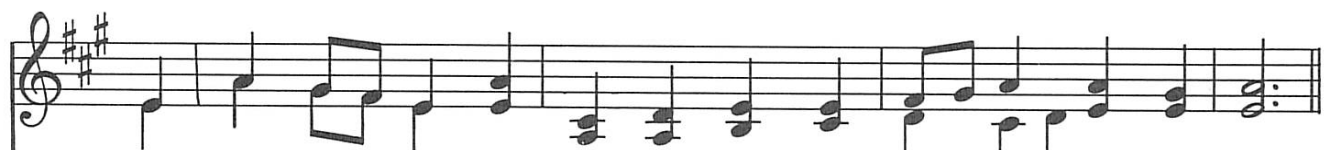
68

Isaac Walls, 1674-1748, *all.*


ELLACOMBE C.M.D.  
"Gesangbuch," Württemberg, 1784



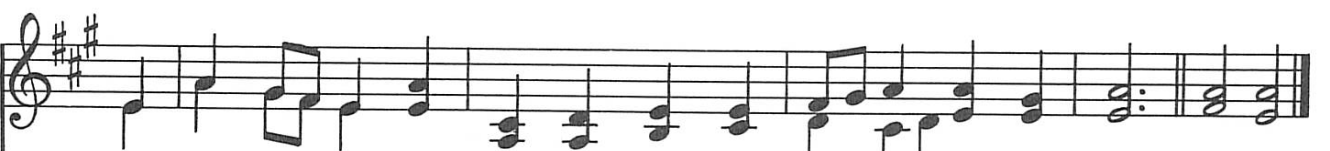
1 I sing the might-y power of God, That made the moun-tains rise,  
2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord, That filled the earth with food;  
3 There's not a plant or flower be - low, But makes thy glo - ries known;



That spread the flow - ing seas a - broad, And built the loft - y skies.  
He formed the crea-tures with his word, And then pro-nounced them good.  
And clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, By or - der from thy throne,



I sing the wis-dom that or-dained The sun to rule the day;  
Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, Wher-e'er I turn my eye:  
While all that bor-rows life from thee Is ev - er in thy care,



The moon shines full at his com-mand, And all the stars o - bey.  
If I sur-vey the ground I tread, Or gaze up-on the sky!  
And ev - ery-where that man can be, Thou, God, art pres-ent there. A-men.

# For the Beauty of the Earth

66

*Folliott S. Pierpont, 1835-1917, alt.*

DIX 7.7.7.7.7.  
*Abridged from a chorale by  
Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872*

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, For the beau - ty of the skies,  
2 For the beau - ty of each hour Of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's de - light,  
4 For the joy of hu - man love, Broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,

For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,  
For the mys - tic har - mo - ny Link - ing sense to sound and sight,  
Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, For all gen - tle thoughts and mild,

Lord of all, to thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise. A - men.

The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with the piano accompaniment providing harmonic support. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

## 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!*



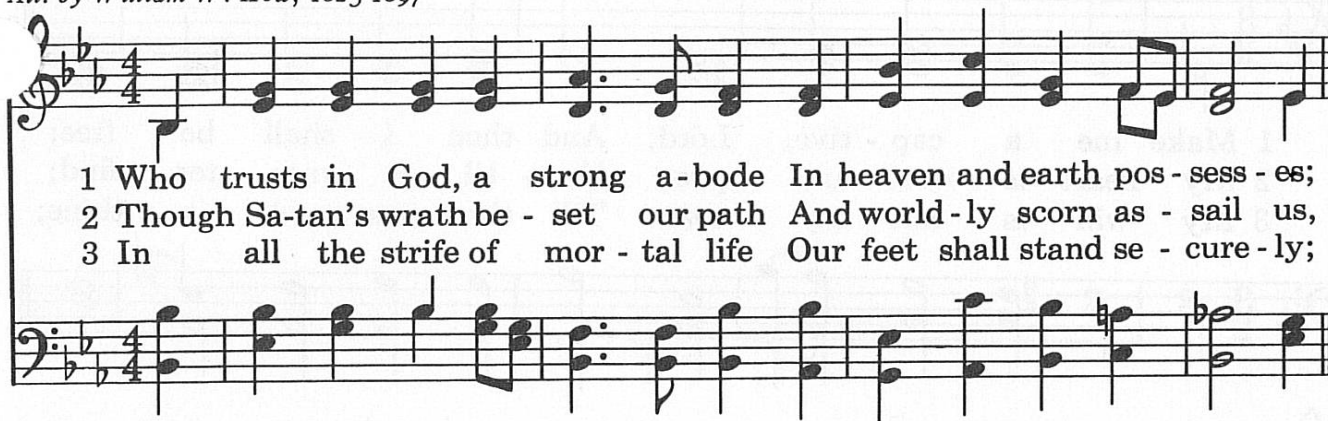
# Who Trusts in God, a Strong Abode

355

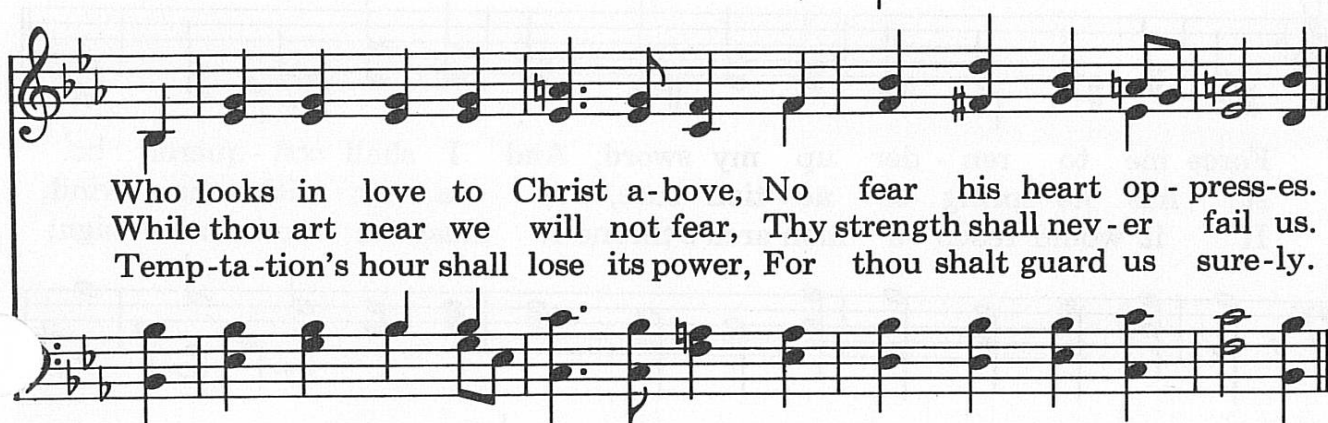
## Second Tune

Joachim Magdeburg, c.1525-?  
Tr. B. H. Kennedy, 1804-1889  
Alt. by William W. How, 1823-1897

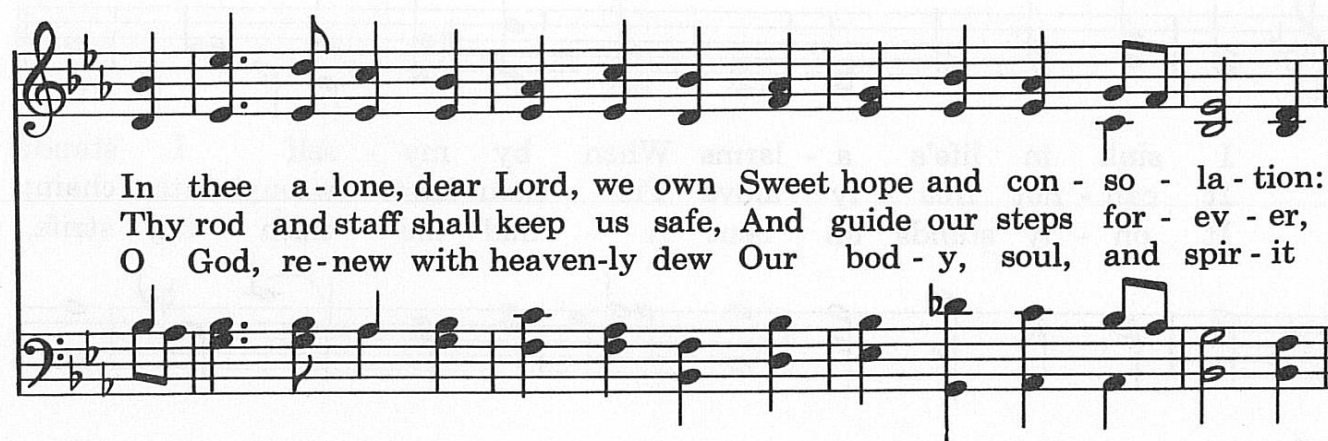
BISHOPGARTH 8.7.8.7.D.  
Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842-1900



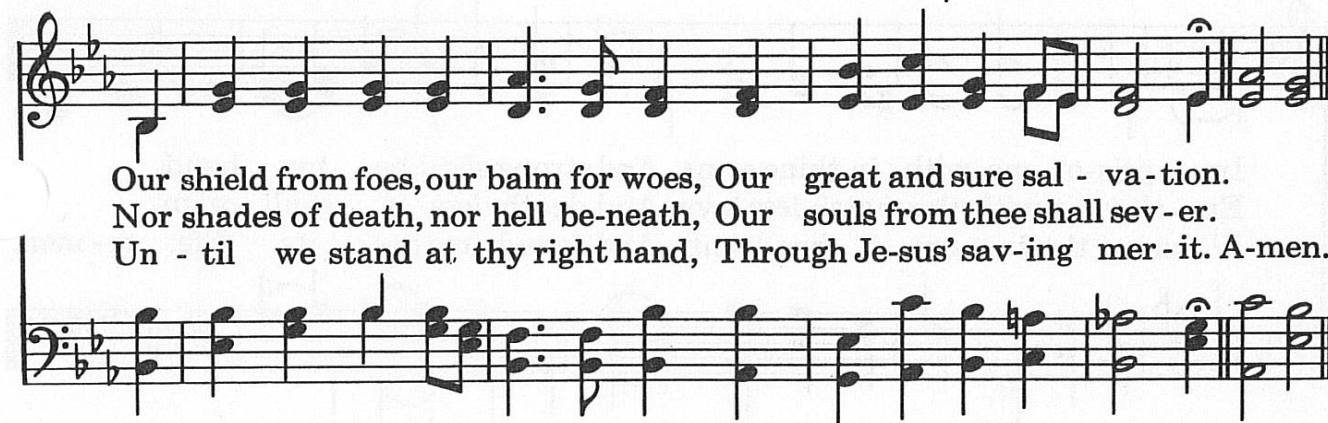
1 Who trusts in God, a strong a-bode In heaven and earth pos-sess-es;  
2 Though Sa-tan's wrath be-set our path And world-ly scorn as-sail us,  
3 In all the strife of mor-tal life Our feet shall stand se-cure-ly;



Who looks in love to Christ a-bove, No fear his heart op-press-es.  
While thou art near we will not fear, Thy strength shall nev-er fail us.  
Temp-ta-tion's hour shall lose its power, For thou shalt guard us sure-ly.



In thee a-lone, dear Lord, we own Sweet hope and con-so-la-tion:  
Thy rod and staff shall keep us safe, And guide our steps for-ev-er,  
O God, re-new with heaven-ly dew Our bod-y, soul, and spir-it



Our shield from foes, our balm for woes, Our great and sure sal-va-tion.  
Nor shades of death, nor hell be-neath, Our souls from thee shall sev-er.  
Un-til we stand at thy right hand, Through Je-sus' sav-ing mer-it. A-men.

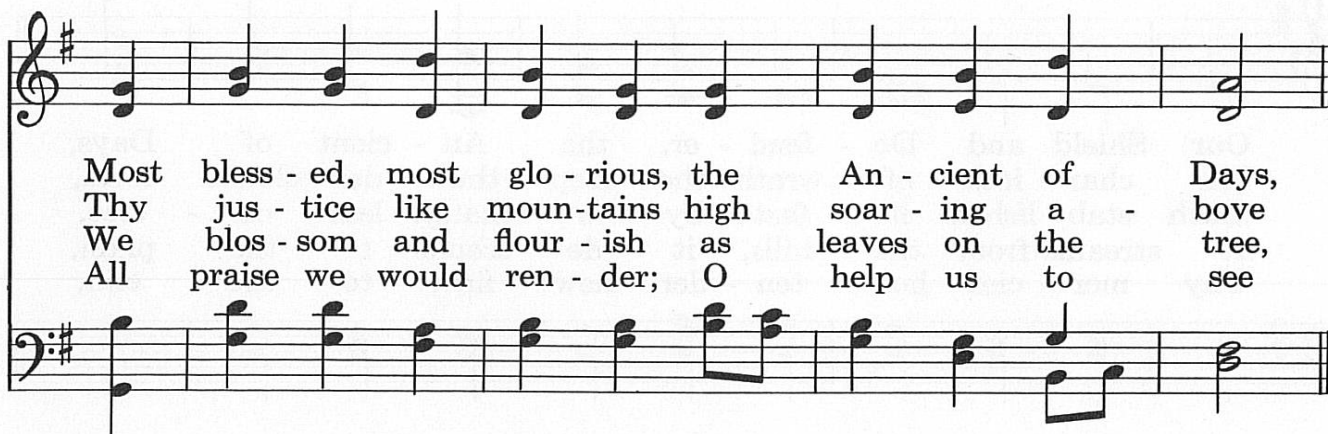
## Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Walter C. Smith, 1824-1908, *all.*ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.  
*Welsh Hymn Melody*

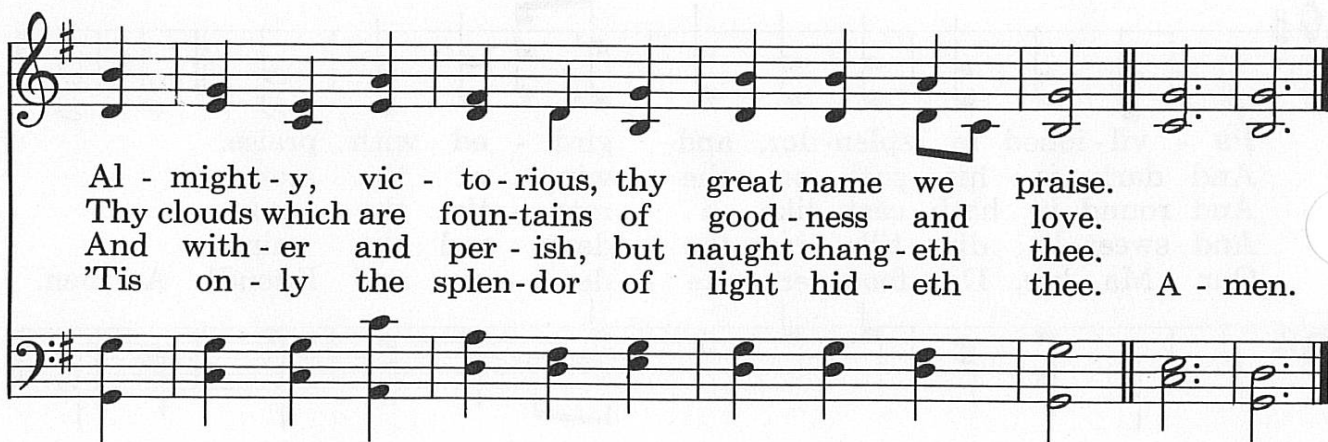

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all, life thou giv - est to both great and small;  
 4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,



In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,  
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see



Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.  
 Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 And with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee. A - men.





**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)**