



The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

“In Jesus we find we are loved with all our limitations,
by God whose love has no limits.”

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 5-7.

An Wasserflüssen Babylon, BWV 653

Johann Sebastian Bach

Psalm 125

Leader: Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved,
but abides forever.

People: As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people,
from this time on and forevermore.

Leader: For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous,
so that the righteous might not stretch out their hands to do wrong.

People: Do good, O LORD, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts.

All: But those who turn aside to their own crooked ways the LORD will lead away with evildoers. Peace be upon Israel!

Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him

Hyfrydol

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

How was your summer vacation? Did it differ from years past? Mine was good, and different in some ways, but I got a chance to relax and renew, to engage in some good Sabbath practices. The Sabbath is a big deal in Scripture. We remember that God took

a day off after creating the world, and then got back to work. We are called to emulate God—not necessarily to think we are doing what God does, but to remember that we can all use a break, and when we're done resting, we can resume our work, with a sense of possibility and strength.

Hymn 397 (p. 6) *Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak*

Canonbury

Scripture Lessons

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23. A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold. ²The rich and the poor have this in common: the Lord is the maker of them all.

[...] ⁸Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail. ⁹Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.

[...] ²²Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate; ²³for the Lord pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them.

Mark 7:24-37. ²⁴From there [Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

Sermon *"Did Jesus Really Say That?"*

Stephen R. Silver

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, 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:

Almighty God, on this weekend when we honor our nation's working men and women, let us recall that while not all work is glamorous, it is dignified. In this past year we have been reminded of how those less glamorous jobs, the ones we might take for granted, are central to the functioning of our society. Let us value all workers, and let us recall that all are your children—that alone gives each person importance. Let us never forget that Jesus did not call executives to be his disciples but laborers, that all are called to be Christians, disciples of our Lord, animated by your Spirit above and beyond all else. Amen.

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

Communion No. 1, op. 15, no. 1

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)

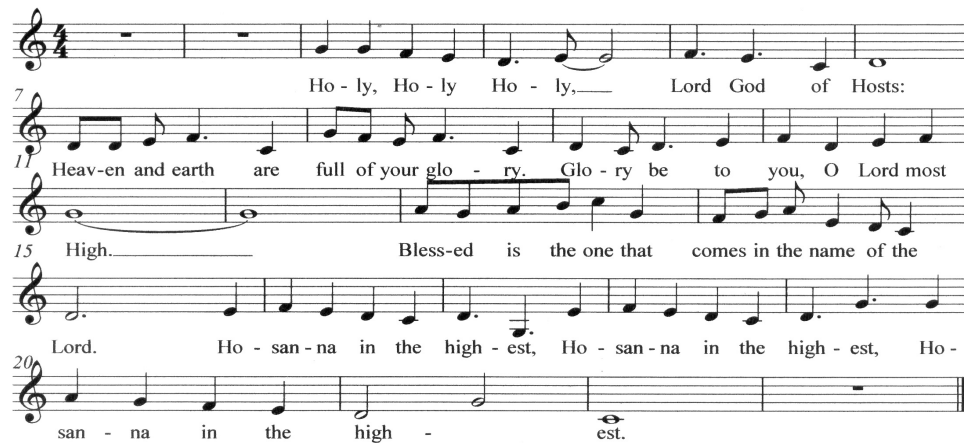
Lord of All Creation: you have called us all, Jew and Gentile, male and female, to be your people. We have heard, and we respond: Yes! We will be your people, ready to serve, prepared to build your Kingdom. With these gifts we offer a pledge of our commitment to follow your way, the Way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

For communion, you are invited to have some bread and juice on hand. We will share in the bread and cup at the appointed time. If you would like to receive a blessing, please let the officiant know.

Invitation and Communion Prayer

Sanctus



Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

Because the broken bread has meant our healing, because the outpoured cup has meant our life, because our common sharing has meant the communion of our souls, and because we have here been graced by your presence, God, we give you thanks and pray that our lives may be renewed in the life and the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn 576 (p. 7) *For the Healing of the Nations*

Westminster Abbey

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

Offertoire sur les Grands Jeux

François Couperin

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist • Chris Chase, Liturgist

Corrine Erskine and Barb Teeter, Ushers • Linda Jacobs, Zoom Greeter

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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Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him

Based on Psalm 148

"Foundling Hospital Collection," 1796

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7.D.

Melody by Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887



1 Praise the Lord! ye heavens, a - dore him; Praise him, an - gels, in the height;
 2 Praise the Lord! for he is glo - rious; Nev - er shall his prom-ise fail;



Sun and moon, re-joice be - fore him; Praise him, all ye stars of light.
 God hath made his saints vic - to - rious; Sin and death shall not pre-vail.



Praise the Lord! for he hath spo - ken; Worlds his might-y voice o - beyed;
 Praise the God of our sal - va - tion! Hosts on high, his power pro-claim;



Laws which nev - er shall be bro - ken For their guid-ance he hath made.
 Heaven, and earth, and all cre - a - tion, Laud and mag - ni - fy his name. A-men.



Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

397

Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879

CANONBURY L.M.

Arr. from Robert A. Schumann, 1810-1856

1 Lord, speak to me, that I may speak In
 2 O strength - en me, that while I stand Firm
 3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach The
 4 O fill me with thy full - ness, Lord, Un -

liv - ing ech - oes of thy tone; As thou hast sought, so
 on the rock, and strong in thee, I may stretch out a
 pre - cious things thou dost im - part; And wing my words, that
 til my ver - y heart o'er - flow In kin - dling thought and

let me seek Thy err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.
 lov - ing hand To wres - tlers with the trou - bled sea!
 they may reach The hid - den depths of man - y a heart!
 glow - ing word, Thy love to tell, thy praise to show! A - men.

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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") through Labor Day. Thank you!

For the Healing of the Nations

Fred Kaan, 1965

1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, God, we pray with
 2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
 3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
 4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
 earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of
 all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
 dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
 bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.
 care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.
 quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.
 sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

Fred Kaan's most widely published text was first sung at Pilgrim Church in Plymouth, England, at a service of worship marking Human Rights Day in 1965. It has been used for many subsequent occasions, including the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY 8.7.8.7.8.7.
 Henry Purcell, c. 1680
 Arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1842

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Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Live Music Returns to FCC!

All in the Sanctuary; masks and distanced seating required.

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

Join us for a celebration of virtuosity with internationally known cellist Cecylia Barczyk and her daughter, local pianist and teacher Elizabeth Borowsky. The program includes François Francoeur, Ludwig van Beethoven, Ernest Bloch, and Francis Poulenc. Elizabeth has given several wonderful concerts here and is excited to return to our Sanctuary! *Admission by free-will donation.*

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, in this case **Hearts You Hold**, a Thetford-based organization that tries to meet the needs of immigrant and refugee families in the Upper Valley. All are invited to help further FCC's ministry while enjoying an excellent program! *Admission by free-will donation.*

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

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

KICK-OFF SUNDAY IS SEPTEMBER 19!

In two weeks we will celebrate a new program year for the **Children's Community Corner**—and weather permitting, we'll do it outside on FCC's front lawn! We are still working out the details, but we'd like to take advantage of warmer weather while we still can. Masks outside will be optional but strongly encouraged.

Come celebrate our children as they start a new year at school and at church!

The 2021 Lebanon CROP Walk—Sunday, October 10

Every year thousands of walkers across the country join the **CROP Hunger Walk**, organized by Church World Service to fight hunger, food insecurity, and poverty worldwide. First held in Bismarck, ND, in October 1969, the CROP Walk has become a community event in over 2000 towns, as churches and other local organizations collaborate to attract sponsors, advocate for hunger relief, and share the fellowship of a crisp fall afternoon outdoors.

This year's walk will happen in-person as in past years. Due to covid concerns, however, we will once again be unable to host our usual hot lunch here at FCC. **All contributions should be made online, rather than by cash or check through FCC. Here's what you can do:**

Walk!—Walk on your own or form a small group with family and friends, and register online at www.crophungerwalk.org/lebanonnh/. Then, invite sponsors to donate in your name.

Donate!—Sponsor a walker, or give directly online at www.crophungerwalk.org/lebanonnh/.



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