

# First Congregational Church of Lebanon

*United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming*

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**KICK-OFF SUNDAY! • Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

September 19, 2021

“The church... does not depend on excluding people and groups,  
but on a witness to the constantly inclusive activity of a God  
whose concern extends to a sparrow that falls on the ground.”

*–Peter Selby*

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

**Prelude** *Impromptu in A-flat, op. 142, no. 2* Franz Schubert

**Call to Worship** Psalm 1

Leader: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

**People: But their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.**

Leader: They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

**People: The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

Leader: Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

**People: For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

**Hymn 481** (pp. 5-6) *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God* Grand Isle

**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; Blessing of the Backpacks

Today we kick off a new church program year, and that includes the Children's Community Corner. Recently, school also resumed, and as we have in past years, we are going to bless your backpacks, inviting God's Spirit to be present with you in your classes, and on the playground, and in other school activities. We ask God to bless this year, to help you navigate the challenges of school in the midst of a pandemic, and to keep you, your classmates, and your teachers safe and healthy. May each of you have a year of learning, fun, and growth.

Hymn 478 (p. 7)      *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

Royal Oak

### Scripture Lessons

**James 3:13-4:3, 7-8.** <sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

<sup>4:1</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. [...] <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

**Mark 9:30-37.** <sup>30</sup>They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

Sermon

"Child's Play"

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. Help us keep our prayer list current by contacting the church office to add or remove names.*

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

God, as we begin a new program year, be with us and bless us. We know that time is marked in different ways by people around the world, but that we share in common the need to mark our lives with milestones and anniversaries. We also remember the days when seasons begin and anticipate all that may happen in their passage. Be with us in this new year, bless our activities, and allow us to know and feel your presence in the working of the Holy Spirit.

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***Ashokan Farewell*

Jay Ungar

**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)**

Dear God, you brought us new life in Jesus. Bless us as we make the most of this time of new beginnings, of wide possibilities. Enable us to be imaginative and creative, to follow your example. We offer these gifts as a sign of our desire to embody what he taught, to continue to be your disciples, so that through our actions our neighbors might learn more about your Good News. In the name of your son, our teacher, we pray. Amen.

## 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                      Allegro non troppo, from *Trio*, op. 76                      Arnold Mendelssohn

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### *Leading Worship This Week*

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor • Nan Parsons, Children's Community Corner  
Ernie Drown, Organist • Brian Clancy, Tenor • Barb Jones, Liturgist

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*All are invited to stay after worship for a pizza picnic and fellowship outdoors, as we celebrate the kids and volunteers who lead our Children's Community Corner.*

*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!

*All in the Sanctuary; masks, distanced seating, and proof of vaccination required.*

### ***Cameo Baroque: Benefit Concert for Hearts You Hold—Today, 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***

FCC welcomes back this highly popular venue for established and emerging musicians! Each show features several acoustic acts, and patrons may come and go as they please; baked goods and non-alcoholic drinks are available. It's all free of charge, so please come and enjoy! *Performing 9/24—Caroline Cotter (7:30) and Dana Robinson (8:30). For more details, visit [anoncoffee.org](http://anoncoffee.org).*

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

***Roseminna Watson, Violin, and Melody Fader, Piano—Saturday, October 9, at 7:30***

***Classicopia: In Memory—Sunday, October 10, at 2:00***

## 481

## I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

Lesbia Scott, 1898- , alt.

GRAND ISLE *Irregular*  
John H. Hopkins, 1861-1945

*In unison*

1 I sing a song of the saints of God Pa-tient and brave and true,  
2 They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, And his love made them strong;  
3 They lived not on - ly in a - ges past, There are hun-dreds of thou-sands still;

Who toiled and fought and lived and died For the Lord they loved and  
And they fol-lowed the right, for Je - sus' sake, The whole of their good lives  
The world is bright with the joy-ous saints Who love to do Je - sus'

knew. And one was a doc - tor, and one was a queen, And  
long. And one was a sol - dier, and one was a priest, And  
will. You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, In

one was a shep-herd-ess on the green: They were all of them  
one was slain by a fierce wild beast: And there's not an - y  
church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea; For the saints of



### **LAST CALL!—RETREAT TO HORTON CENTER, SEPTEMBER 24-26**

The Meriden and Hooksett Congregational Churches are returning to the NH Conference’s gorgeous Horton Center on Pine Mountain, near Gorham. Meals and clean-up are collaborative efforts, but the schedule is otherwise flexible; attending the whole weekend is not required.

*Members of our congregation have joined this retreat in past years; if you’re interested, please contact the church office TODAY, as we need to coordinate with the other churches.*

### **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/](http://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/](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/lebanonnh/).

### **Neighbors in Need: Unfailing Love—Special UCC Offering**

The UCC’s Neighbors in Need program supports ministries of justice and compassion across the country. Two-thirds of the collection is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries for a range of local and national initiatives, advocacy efforts, direct service projects, and the fight against systemic injustice. The rest goes to the Council for American Indian Ministries, the voice of Native Americans in the UCC, sustaining a proud tradition of support. **This year, NIN is focused on serving homeless and immigrant neighbors and their communities.**

*Please contribute as you’re able to this vital mission program, either by check payable to FCC (memo “Neighbors in Need”) or online at [www.ucc.org/nin](http://www.ucc.org/nin). Thank you!*

Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-1895

ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with Refrain

Traditional English Melody

Adapted by Martin Shaw, 1875-

In unison

REFRAIN

All things bright and beau-ti - ful, All crea-tures great and small,

All things wise and won - der - ful, The Lord God made them all.

1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, Each lit - tle bird that sings,  
 2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun-tain, The riv - er run - ning by,  
 3 The cold wind in the win - ter, The pleas - ant sum - mer sun,

He made their glow - ing col - ors, He made their ti - ny wings.  
 The sun - set, and the morn - ing That bright - ens up the sky,  
 The ripe fruits in the gar - den, He made them ev - ery one.

Repeat Refrain

## 26

## Earth and All Stars!

1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!  
 2 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals! Sing to the  
 3 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers!  
 4 Knowl - edge and truth! Loud sound - ing wis - dom!

Lord a new song! Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing  
 Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming  
 Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing  
 Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing

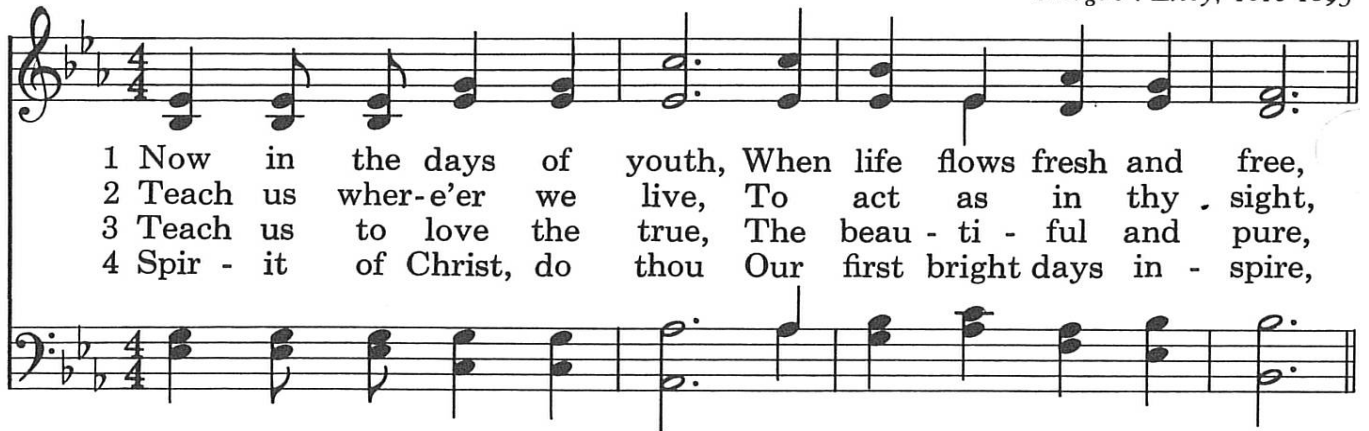
snow - storm!  
 cel - los! Sing to the Lord a new song! God has done  
 work - ers!  
 mem - bers!

mar - vel - ous things. We too sing prais - es with a new song!

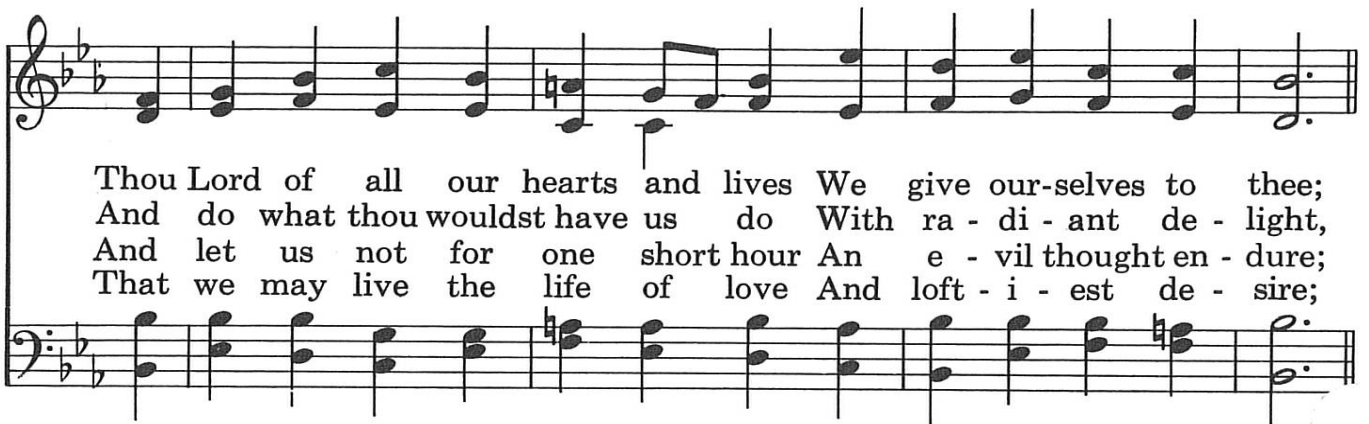
This lively text was written for the 90th anniversary of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. Echoing Psalm 98, it is a prime example of a 20th-century hymn style based on phrases rather than complete sentences. The exuberant tune was created expressly for these words.



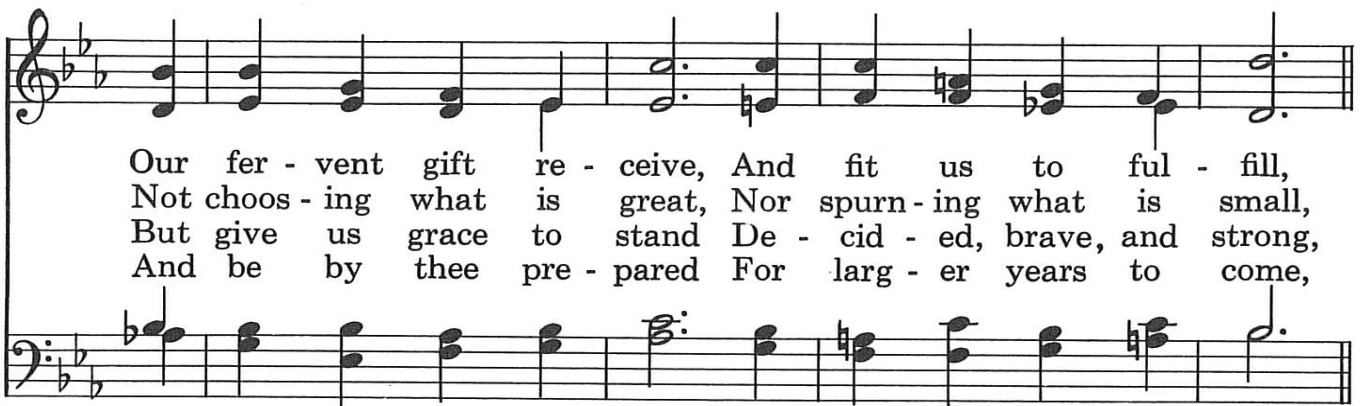
Walter J. Mathams, 1853-1932

DIADEMATA S.M.D.  
George J. Elvey, 1816-1893


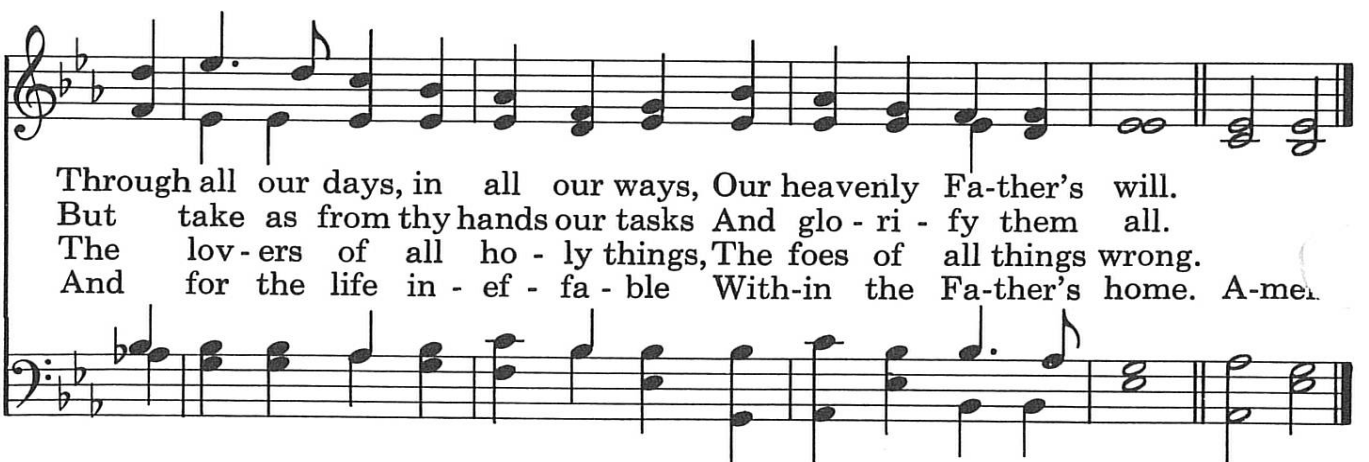
1 Now in the days of youth, When life flows fresh and free,  
2 Teach us wher-e'er we live, To act as in thy sight,  
3 Teach us to love the true, The beau - ti - ful and pure,  
4 Spir - it of Christ, do thou Our first bright days in - spire,



Thou Lord of all our hearts and lives We give our-selves to thee;  
And do what thou wouldst have us do With ra - di - ant de - light,  
And let us not for one short hour An e - vil thought en - dure;  
That we may live the life of love And loft - i - est de - sire;



Our fer - vent gift re - ceive, And fit us to ful - fill,  
Not choos - ing what is great, Nor spurn - ing what is small,  
But give us grace to stand De - cid - ed, brave, and strong,  
And be by thee pre - pared For larg - er years to come,



Through all our days, in all our ways, Our heavenly Fa-ther's will.  
But take as from thy hands our tasks And glo - ri - fy them all.  
The lov - ers of all ho - ly things, The foes of all things wrong.  
And for the life in - ef - fa - ble With-in the Fa-ther's home. 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@fcclieb.org](mailto:church@fcclieb.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)*

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