



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

October 17, 2021

“I would rather be what God chose to make me than the most glorious creature that I could think of; for to have been thought about, born in God’s thought, and then made by God is the dearest, grandest and most precious thing in all thinking.”

–George MacDonald

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

Prelude *Voluntary IV in G Minor* George Frideric Handel

Introit *Above All Praise and All Majesty* Felix Mendelssohn

Call to Worship Adapted from Psalm 104

Leader: Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty, wrapped in light as with a garment.

People: You stretch out the heavens like a tent, you set the beams of your chambers on the waters, you make the clouds your chariot.

Leader: You ride on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.

People: You set the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never be shaken. You cover it with the deep as with a garment.

Leader: The waters stood above the mountains. At your rebuke they flee; at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.

People: They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys to the place that you appointed for them.

Leader: You set a boundary that they may not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth.

People: O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Praise the LORD!

Hymn 6 (p. 5) *O Worship the King, All Glorious Above*

Lyons

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

Anthem

The Lord Is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)

Howard Goodall

Children's Moment

Reading Scripture, we might look back on our ancient forebears and feel sorry for them. We might pity them. What did they know of the world and how it was made? What did they know of the cosmos? By our standards, not much. But before we look down on them, we would do well to acknowledge that there is still much we do not know, much about the world that is a mystery to us. We would do well to approach these mysteries with wonder, appreciating all that God has done, and that God has endowed each of us with curiosity and the ability to learn. We give thanks then to God, for all he has done and all he is doing, for you, for me, for all creation.

Hymn 206 (p. 6)

Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

Hanover

Scripture Lessons

Job 38:1-7, 34-41. Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind: ²“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? ³Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

⁴“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. ⁵Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone ⁷when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? [...]

³⁴“Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, so that a flood of waters may cover you?

³⁵Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go and say to you, ‘Here we are?’

³⁶Who has put wisdom in the inward parts, or given understanding to the mind? ³⁷Who has the wisdom to number the clouds? Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens, ³⁸when the dust runs into a mass and the clods cling together? ³⁹“Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, ⁴⁰when they crouch in their dens, or lie in wait in their covert? ⁴¹Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry to God, and wander about for lack of food?

Mark 10:35-45. ³⁵James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” ³⁶And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” ³⁷And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” ³⁸But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” ³⁹They replied, “We are able.”

Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; ⁴⁰but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

⁴¹When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. ⁴²So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them.

⁴³But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

Sermon *“Twenty Questions with God”* Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 87 (p. 7) *God Moves in a Mysterious Way* Dundee

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.

God of the Whirlwind, God of the Burning Bush: you have spoken to us from the most surprising, incredible places. But even as we marvel at these moments, we should focus on the fact that you speak to us at all. We are not accustomed to the powerful, the grand, reaching out with love and grace to those who are not their equals. Instead, we often see condescension and calculation. You, though, are not like people. You are the embodiment of love, tending to, talking to your creatures, to us. Though you may not address us with words or discernable signs, you still send prophets to us, if we would only hear them. Empower us, enable us to be attuned to you, that we might discern your work in our lives, and then respond to you in faith.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of your Son, our Savior. 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 *Chorale Prelude on Eventide* C.H.H. Parry

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*)

Eternal God, who fashions time and created the universe and all in it: We come before you this morning to present our gifts of time, skills, and money. Let this offering be a visible sign of our commitment to share your never-ending grace and love with others. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Hymn 567 (p. 8) *Stars and Planets Flung in Orbit* Lauda Anima

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

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Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor
Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir
Alyson Danyew-Ellison, Zoom Greeter • Brian Clancy, Liturgist

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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.



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Live Music at FCC!

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

The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, Oct. 22, Nov. 5 and 19, and Dec. 3, all at 7:30

This highly popular venue for established and emerging musicians features several acoustic acts, and patrons may come and go as they please; baked goods and non-alcoholic drinks are available.

And it's all free of charge, so please come and enjoy! *For more details, visit anoncoffee.org.*

Classicopia: Four-hand Holiday (Weiser/Borowsky)—Sunday, December 5, at 1:00

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above

6

Based on Psalm 104
Robert Grant, 1779-1838, *all.*

LYONS 10.10.11.11.
Arr. from J. Michael Haydn ?, 1737-1806

1 O wor - ship the King, all glo - rious a - bove,
2 O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
3 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,
4 Thy boun - ti - ful care, what tongue can re - cite?
5 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,

O grate - ful - ly sing his power and his love;
Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space;
Al - might - y, thy power hath found - ed of old,
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
In thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;

Our Shield and De - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
Hath stab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
It streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
Thy mer - cies how ten - der, how firm to the end,

Pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
And dark is his path on the wings of the storm.
And round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
And sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
Our Ma - ker, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend! A - men.

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

HANOVER 10.10.11.11.
Attr. to William Croft, 1678-1727

1 Ye serv - ants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim,
2 God rul - eth on high, al - might - y to save,
3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne!
4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right,

And pub - lish a - broad his won - der - ful name.
And still he is nigh, his pres - ence we have;
Let all cry a - loud and hon - or the Son;
All glo - ry and power, all wis - dom and might,

The name, all vic - to - rious, of Je - sus ex - tol;
The great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall sing,
The prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,
All hon - or and bless - ing with an - gels a - bove,

His king - dom is glo - rious, he rules o - ver all.
As - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our King.
Fall down on their fa - ces and wor - ship the Lamb.
And thanks nev - er ceas - ing and in - fi - nite love. A - men.

A descant may be found at No. 584

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

87

William Cowper, 1731-1800

DUNDEE C.M.
"Scottish Psalter," 1615

1 God moves in a mys - te - rious way His won - ders to per - form;
2 Ye fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take; The clouds ye so much dread
3 Judge not the Lord by fee - ble sense, But trust him for his grace;
4 Blind un - be - lief is sure to err, And scan his work in vain;

He plants his foot-steps in the sea And rides up - on the storm.
Are big with mer - cy, and shall break In bless - ings on your head.
Be - hind a frown - ing prov - i - dence He hides a smil - ing face.
God is his own in - ter - pret - er, And he will make it plain. A - men.

Thy Will Be Done—FCC Reading Group on Zoom

We say it every week. Many of us say it more frequently. You know, the Lord's Prayer. But how familiar are we with the text and what it means? Think about that phrase: "Thy Will Be Done."

What are we asking for when we say those words? What does this prayer mean to you, to the church, to all of us? To consider these questions we will read Stephen Cherry's *Thy Will Be Done*, an accessible, well-researched book. Interested? Please let Steve or Brian know and we'll get you the book; we'll schedule the sessions on Zoom once we know who's participating.

All are invited to participate! Books provided free of charge, but advance reservation is required. Please email Rev. Steve Silver (silver@fccleb.org) with questions or to RSVP.

The FCC Outing Club Is Back—Join Us on Farnum Hill!

NEXT SUNDAY, October 24—Meet at Trailhead on Poverty Lane at 12:30

All are welcome on this adventure of FCC's Outing Club, led as always by our own Ron Bailey. Farnum Hill features glacial boulders, beautiful stone walls, and gorgeous stands of hardwood trees. The hike covers relatively easy terrain with good views north and south; there is a short loop option in addition to a longer, two-mile loop. Meet at the trailhead parking lot on Poverty Lane (across from Poverty Lane Orchards); bring a picnic lunch, water, bug spray, and appropriate clothing.

Bring your friends and share this experience of God's creation!

1 Stars and plan - ets flung in or - bit, gal - ax - ies that
 2 Skies a - dorned with sun - set splen - dor, si - lent peaks in
 3 Life in won - drous, wild pro - fu - sion, seed and fruit, each
 4 Hu - man - kind, earth's deep - est mys - tery, born of dust but

swirl through space, Pow - ers hid with - in the at - om,
 calm re - pose, Gold - en fields a - wait - ing har - vest,
 flower and tree, Beast and fish and swarm - ing in - sect,
 touched by grace, Torn a - part by tongue and col - or,

cells that form an in - fant's face: These, O God, in
 foam - ing surf and fra - grant rose: Earth, its boun - ty
 soar - ing bird, re - joic - ing, free: These, your crea - tures,
 yet a sin - gle, striv - ing race: We, in whom you

si - lence praise you; by your wis - dom they are made.
 clothed with beau - ty, ech - oes all cre - a - tion's praise.
 join in cho - rus, prais - ing you in word - less song.
 trace your im - age, add our words to na - ture's song.

Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., began his ministry as a parish pastor. His long association with Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg began in 1962 when he joined the faculty as professor of preaching, and continued until 1989 when he retired as president emeritus.

Tune: LAUDA ANIMA 8.7.8.7.8.7.
 John Goss, 1869

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. Thank you!

Do Your Part to Fill the Cart!

Greater Lebanon continues to struggle with poverty and food insecurity. Exacerbated by the challenges of the COVID-19 shutdown, local need remains high and has persisted as pandemic benefits phase out. We have resumed the monthly collection of items in our shopping cart in the Parish Hall, with a different beneficiary designated each month.

We're now collecting non-perishable food and personal-care items for THE UV HAVEN

Direct financial contributions to any Upper Valley service organization are always needed and appreciated. Thanks for fighting local poverty and hunger!

CHRISTMAS COMES TO ALL—LISTEN'S HOLIDAY BASKETS

For years FCC has participated in the Holiday Basket Program organized by Listen Community Services. The economic challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic have increased demand for this program, as families struggle to provide warm clothing for children and food for holiday meals.

Listen is once again doing all the shopping this year, but they need our help. While we won't be offering items on our familiar giving tree, please consider contributing to FCC's share of the program's cost. Contributions gratefully accepted until November 15.

Thanks to all for giving to local families and seniors in the true spirit of Christmas!

Operation Christmas Child—National Collection Week: November 15-22

You are invited to support Operation Christmas Child, an annual campaign run by Samaritan's Purse that ships shoeboxes full of supplies and toys to children around the world. Gloria and Phil Hammond have so generously managed our collection at FCC in recent years. **This year you may build a shoebox online before the collection week of November 15-22.**

For more information on this year's virtual operation and to build your shoebox online, please visit www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/. Thanks!



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