



# First Congregational Church of Lebanon

*United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming*

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**ALL SAINTS' DAY (Observed) • Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost**

October 31, 2021

“It matters not how a man dies, but how he lives.”

–Samuel Johnson

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

**Prelude**                      *O Sinless Lamb of God*, BWV 656                      Johann Sebastian Bach

**Introit**                      *These Are They Which Follow the Lamb*                      John Goss

**Call to Worship**                      Psalm 24:1-7

**Leader:** The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;

**People:** **For he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.**

**Leader:** Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?

**People:** **Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.**

**Leader:** They will receive blessing from the LORD, and vindication from the God of their salvation.

**People:** **Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

**All:**     **Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in!**

**Hymn 420** (p. 5)                      *O Holy City, Seen of John*                      Morning Song

## **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

Happy Halloween! Today may be a big day for you, with trick-or-treating later on, but for the Church tomorrow is the big day: All Saints' Day. Today, though, still has meaning. You may be familiar with the formal name for today, All Hallows' Eve. Still, there is no theological significance to this day, other than this is the day the Lord has made. So, give thanks to God for all today holds—including neat costumes and yummy candy.

Hymn 309 (p. 6)      *Jerusalem the Golden*

Ewing

### Scripture Lessons

**Revelation 21:1-6a.** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; <sup>4</sup>he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

<sup>5</sup>And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup>Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end...."

**John 11:32-44.** <sup>32</sup>When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup>He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup>Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

<sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup>The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Sermon

*"All Things New"*

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 also offer the following prayer, adapted from *A Book of Worship for Free Churches*, published in 1948:

We praise you for Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the blessedness of your saints has given us a glorious pledge of the hope of our calling; that, being compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, we may run with patience the race that is set before us, and with them receive the crown of glory that never fades away.

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***The Last Journey*

Brock Downward

**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, welcoming God: You welcome us to into your kingdom, offering us your goodness, your power, your life. Joining with the saints who have come before us, we respond to your Word with gratitude, seeking to share with others as freely as you have shared with us. In Jesus' name 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**

*Christ Lay in the Bonds of Death*, BWV 625

J. S. Bach

\* \* \*

**Leading Worship This Week**

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Chris Rua, Oboe

Betsy Alexander, Liturgist • Dawn Troutman, 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](mailto: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, November 5 and 19, December 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](http://anoncoffee.org).*

***Classicopia: Four-hand Holiday (Weiser/Borowsky)—Sunday, December 5, at 1:00*****Thy Will Be Done—Join FCC's Reading Group Wednesdays 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. **The group will start on Wednesday, November 10.**

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

# O Holy City, Seen of John

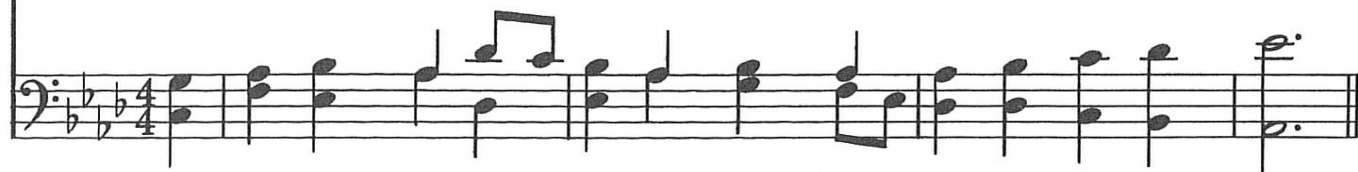
420

W. Russell Bowie, 1882-

MORNING SONG 8.6.8.6.8.6.  
Melody, "Kentucky Harmony," 1816  
Harm. by C. Winfred Douglas, 1867-1944



1 O ho - ly cit - y, seen of John, Where Christ, the Lamb, doth reign,  
2 O shame to us who rest con - tent While lust and greed for gain  
3 Give us, O God, the strength to build The cit - y that hath stood



With-in whose four-square walls shall come No night, nor need, nor pain,  
In street and shop and ten - e - ment Wring gold from hu - man pain,  
Too long a dream, whose laws are love, Whose ways are broth-er-hood,



And where the tears are wiped from eyes That shall not weep a - gain,  
And bit - ter lips in blind de - spair Cry, "Christ hath died in vain!"  
And where the sun that shin - eth is God's grace for hu - man good.



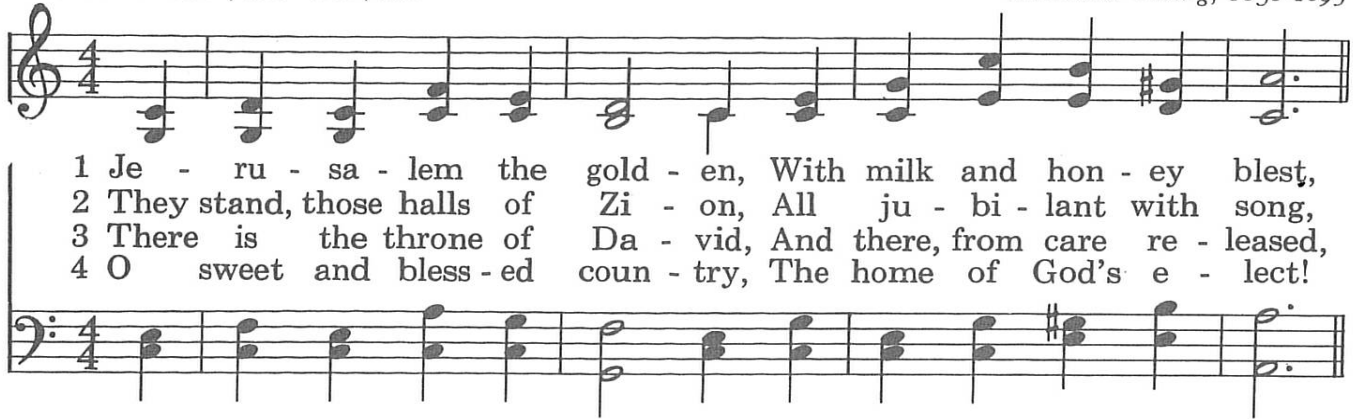
4 Already in the mind of God  
That city riseth fair:  
Lo, how its splendor challenges  
The souls that greatly dare,  
Yea, bids us seize the whole of life  
And build its glory there.

# Jerusalem the Golden

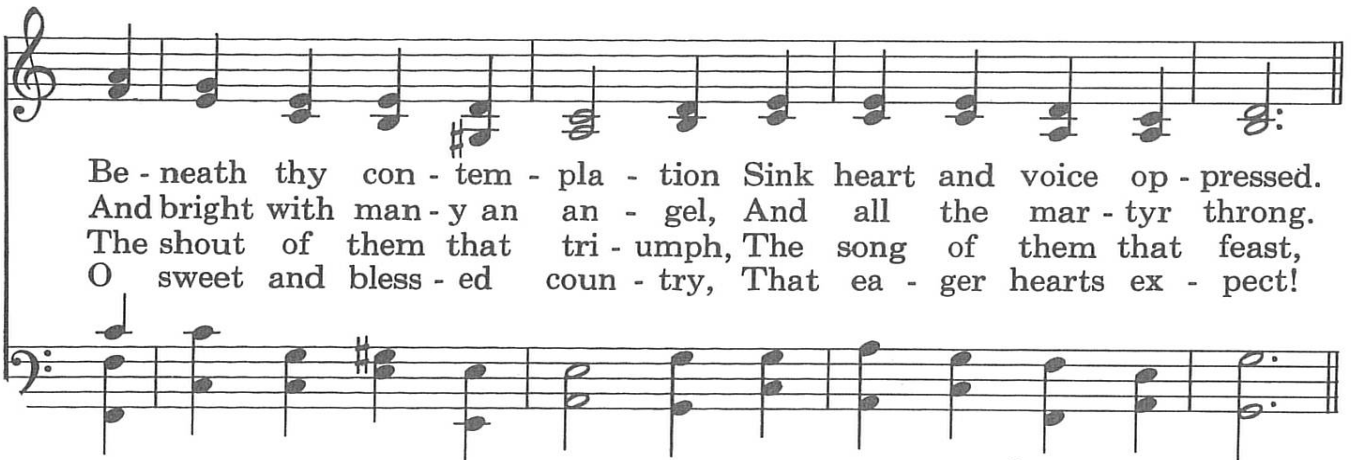
309

*St. Bernard of Cluny, 12th century*  
*Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.*

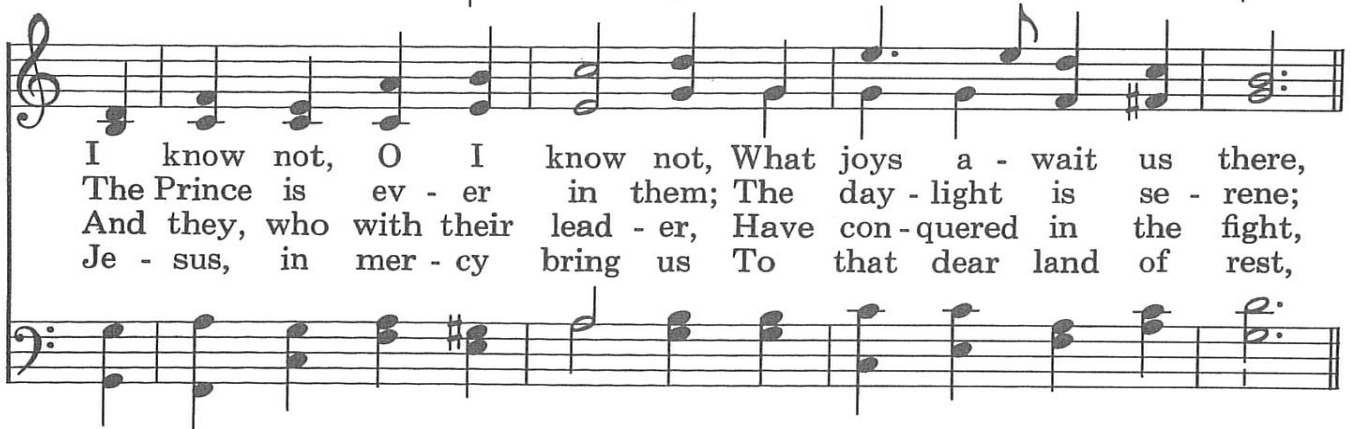
EWING 7.6.7.6.D.  
*Alexander Ewing, 1830-1895*



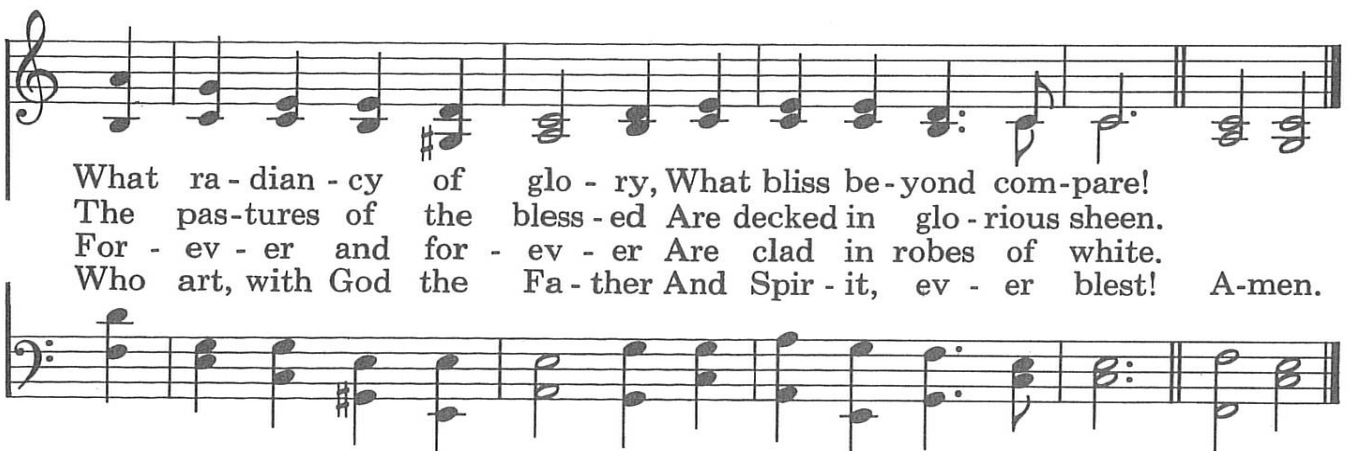
1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, With milk and hon - ey blest,  
 2 They stand, those halls of Zi - on, All ju - bi - lant with song,  
 3 There is the throne of Da - vid, And there, from care re - leased,  
 4 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try, The home of God's e - lect!



Be - neath thy con - tem - pla - tion Sink heart and voice op - pressed.  
 And bright with man - y an an - gel, And all the mar - tyr throng.  
 The shout of them that tri - umph, The song of them that feast,  
 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try, That ea - ger hearts ex - pect!



I know not, O I know not, What joys a - wait us there,  
 The Prince is ev - er in them; The day - light is se - rene;  
 And they, who with their lead - er, Have con - quered in the fight,  
 Je - sus, in mer - cy bring us To that dear land of rest,



What ra - dian - cy of glo - ry, What bliss be - yond com - pare!  
 The pas - tures of the bless - ed Are decked in glo - rious sheen.  
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er Are clad in robes of white.  
 Who art, with God the Fa - ther And Spir - it, ev - er blest! A - men.

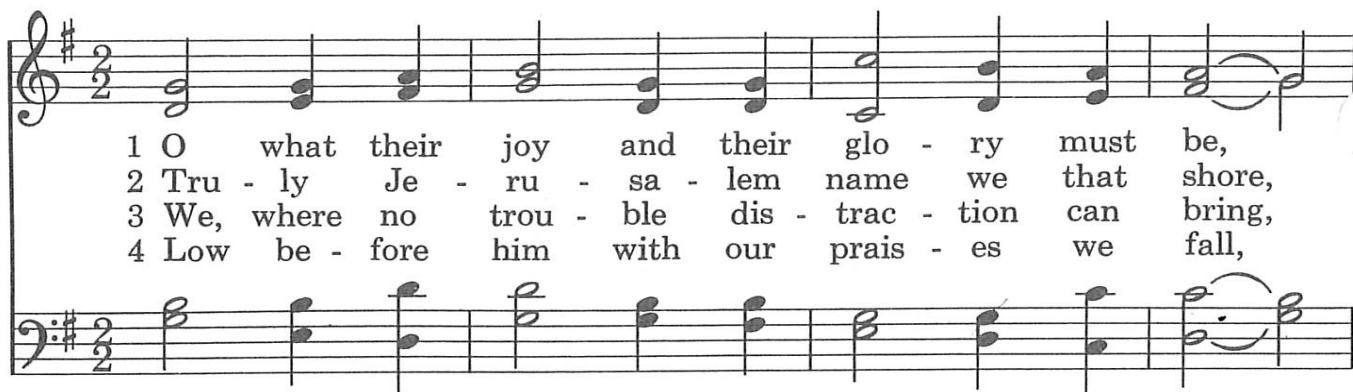
## O What Their Joy and Their Glory Must Be

Peter Abelard, 1079-1142

Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866

O QUANTA QUALIA 10.10.10.10.

La Feillée's "Méthode du Plain-chant," 1808



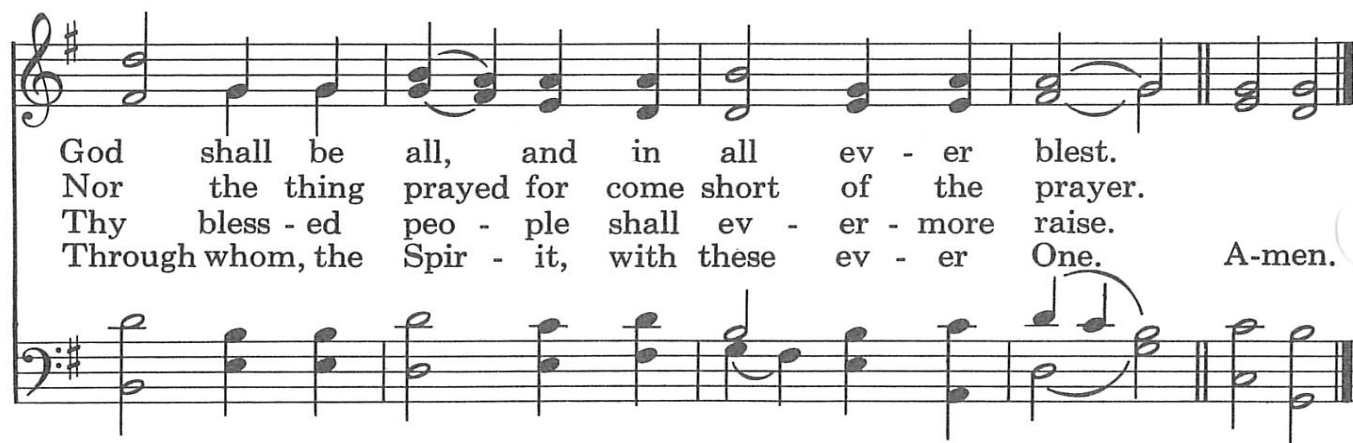
1 O what their joy and their glo - ry must be,  
 2 Tru - ly Je - ru - sa - lem name we that shore,  
 3 We, where no trou - ble dis - trac - tion can bring,  
 4 Low be - fore him with our prais - es we fall,



Those end - less sab - baths the bless - ed ones see:  
 Vi - sion of peace, that brings joy ev - er - more;  
 Safe - ly the an - thems of Zi - on shall sing,  
 Of whom, and in whom, and through whom are all:



Crown for the val - iant, to wea - ry ones rest;  
 Wish and ful - fill - ment can sev - ered be ne'er,  
 While for thy grace, Lord, their voic - es of praise  
 Of whom, the Fa - ther; and in whom, the Son;

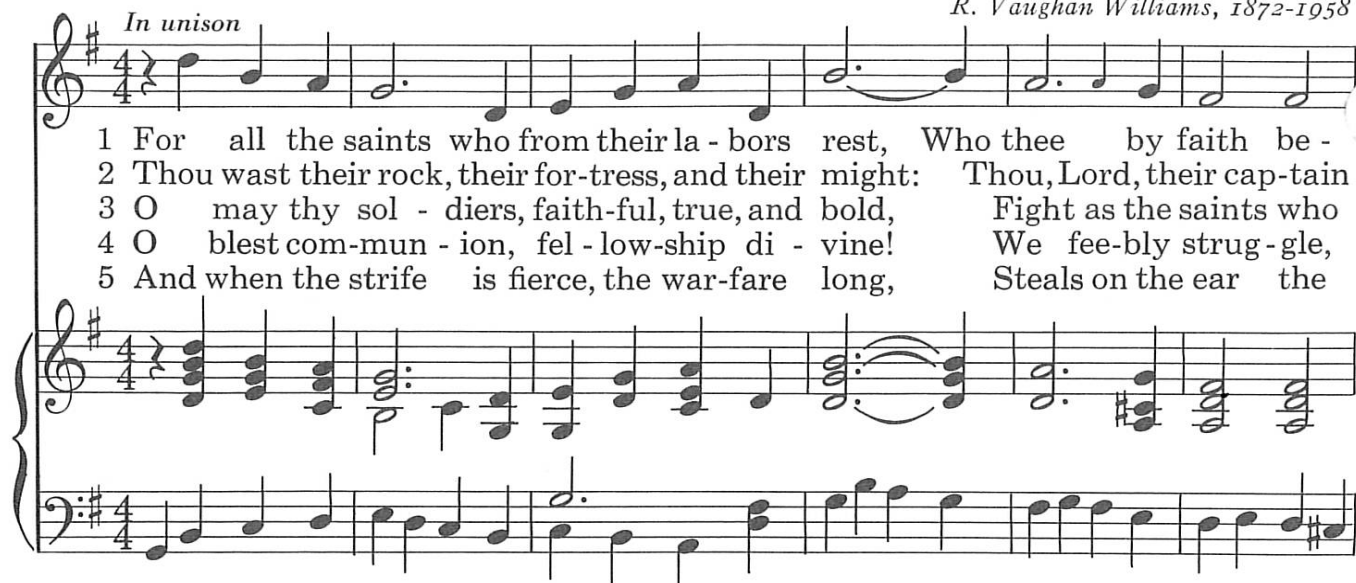


God shall be all, and in all ev - er blest.  
 Nor the thing prayed for come short of the prayer.  
 Thy bless - ed peo - ple shall ev - er - more raise.  
 Through whom, the Spir - it, with these ev - er One. A-men.

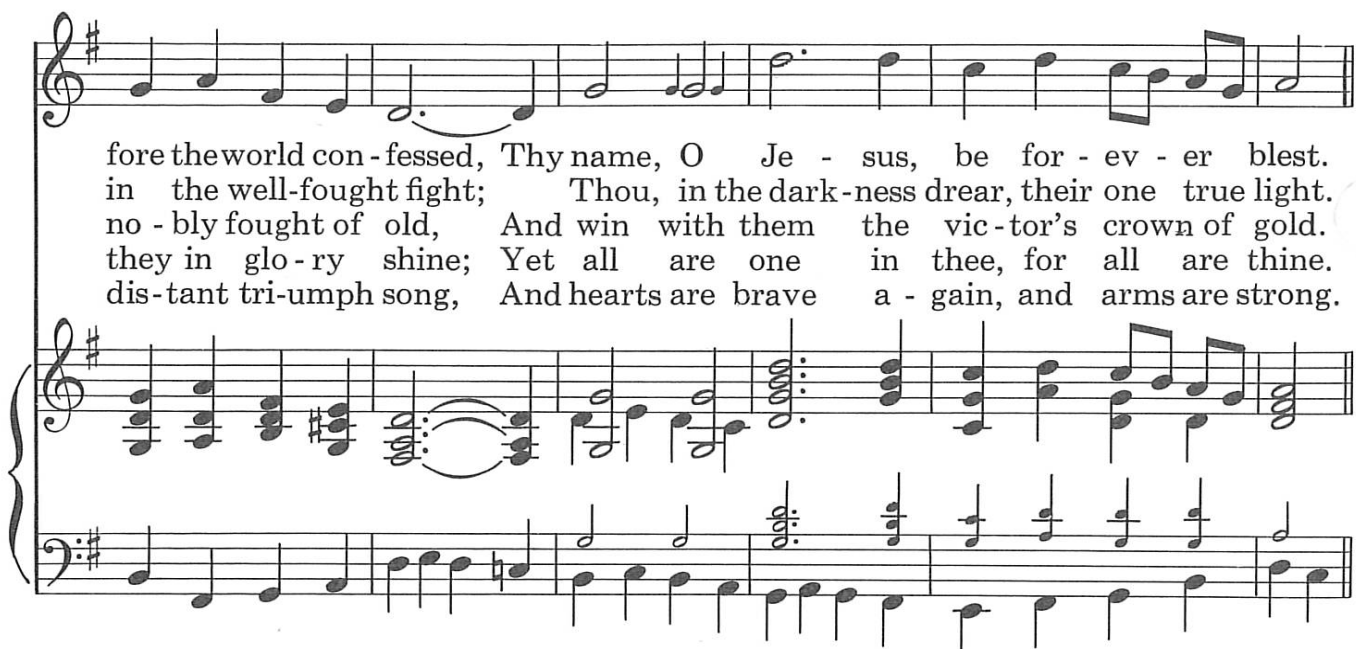
## For All the Saints

First Tune

William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.

SINE NOMINE 10.10.10.4.  
R. Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958*In unison*


1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, Who thee by faith be-  
2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might: Thou, Lord, their captain  
3 O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold, Fight as the saints who  
4 O blest communion, fellowship divine! We feebly struggle,  
5 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long, Steals on the ear the



fore the world confessed, Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.  
in the well-fought fight; Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.  
nobly fought of old, And win with them the victor's crown of gold.  
they in glory shine; Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.  
distant triumph song, And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! A-men.

## 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 again doing all the shopping this year, but they need our help. While we won't be offering items from our giving tree, please consider contributing to FCC's share of the cost. Contributions gratefully accepted until November 15 (*payable to FCC, memo "Listen Baskets"*).

*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.samaritanaspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/](http://www.samaritanaspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/). Thanks!*

## 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!*

## 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!*



**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)**