

hanks- giving

Ecumenical Service

November 22, 2021, at 7:00 pm

First Congregational Church of Lebanon

Lebanon United Methodist Church

West Lebanon Congregational Church

White River Junction United Methodist Church

All hymns are included after the order of worship, on pages 5-7.

Prelude

Lord Jesus Christ, Turn to Us

Johann Sebastian Bach

Call to Worship

Psalm 126

Leader: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

People: Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

Leader: The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

People: Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

Leader: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

People: Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Hymn 461 (p. 5)

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

St. George's Windsor

Prayer of Invocation

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

The Thanksgiving Proclamation

Litany of Thanksgiving

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, who is good.

People: God's love is everlasting.

Leader: Come, let us praise God with thanksgiving:

For the good world; for things great and small, beautiful and awesome; for seen and unseen splendors.

People: Thank you, God.

Leader: For human life; for talking and moving and thinking together; for common hopes and hardships shared from birth until our dying.

People: Thank you, God.

Leader: For work to do and strength to work; for exchanges of good humor and encouragement.

People: Thank you, God.

Leader: For family; for living together and eating together; for sacred memories and holy moments.

People: Thank you, God.

Leader: For children; for their energy and curiosity; for their brave play and startling frankness; for their sudden sympathies.

People: Thank you, God.

Leader: For the young; for their high hopes; for their unwillingness to accept the status quo without accompanying questions; for their search for freedom; for their growing faith.

People: Thank you, God.

Leader: For growing up and old; for wisdom deepened by experience; for rest in leisure; and for time made precious by its passing.

People: Thank you, God.

Leader: For your help in times of doubt and sorrow; for healing our diseases; for preserving us in temptation and danger.

People: Thank you, God.

Leader: For the universal Church into which we have been called; for the Good News we receive by Word and Sacrament; for our life together in the Lord.

People: Thank you, God.

Leader: For your Holy Spirit, who guides our steps and brings us gifts of faith and love; who prays in us and prompts our grateful worship.

People: Thank you, God.

Leader: Above all, O God, for your Son Jesus Christ, who lived and died and lives again for our salvation; for our hope in him; for the joy of serving him.

People: We thank and praise you, Eternal God, for all your goodness to us.

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, who is good.

People: God's love is everlasting.

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 6:25-33. ²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Reflection

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 425 (p. 6) *For the Fruit of All Creation*

Ar Hyd y Nos

Pastoral Prayer

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.

Sharing of the Thanksgiving Offering

Offertory *The Gift of Love*

Hal Hopson

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.

Hymn 29 (p. 7) *Now Thank We All Our God*

Nun danket

Benediction

Postlude *Nun danket alle Gott*

Georg Friedrich Kauffmann

Welcome!

We are glad that you have joined us for this evening's community Thanksgiving service. In our ecumenical collaboration we celebrate both the diversity of our congregations and the unity we share in Christ. While we are of varied minds, with varying measures of belief and unbelief, we are one body, bound together by the love of God. 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 included.

If this is your first time worshiping with our congregations, please introduce yourself to one of the pastors. If you would like more information about our programs and ministries, you are invited to share your contact information with us tonight or during the week.

First Congregational Church of Lebanon

10 South Park St, PO Box 230, Lebanon, NH • 603-448-4281 • church@fccleb.org • fccleb.org

Lebanon United Methodist Church

18 School St, Lebanon, NH • 603-448-5478 • office@lebanonumc.net • lebanonumc.net

West Lebanon Congregational Church

18 Maple St, West Lebanon, NH • 603-298-8096 • office@westlebcongo.comcastbiz.net • westlebcc.org

White River Junction United Methodist Church

106 Gates Street, White River Junction, VT • 802-295-7091 • wrjmethodists.org

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Leading Worship This Evening

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, First Congregational Church of Lebanon
The Rev. SangChurl Bae, Lebanon and WRJ United Methodist Churches
The Rev. Kirsty DePree, West Lebanon Congregational Church
Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC-Lebanon Choir

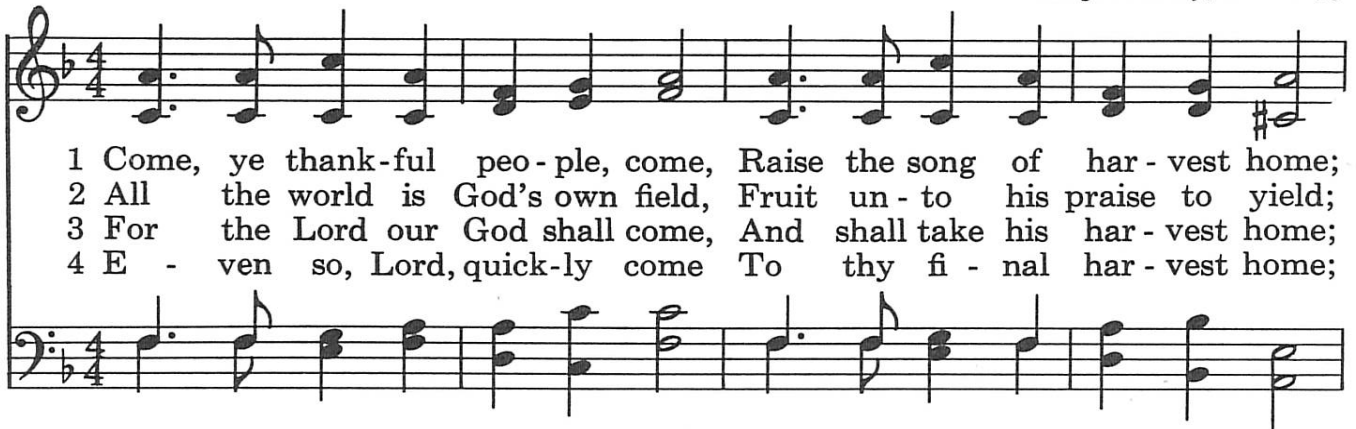
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Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

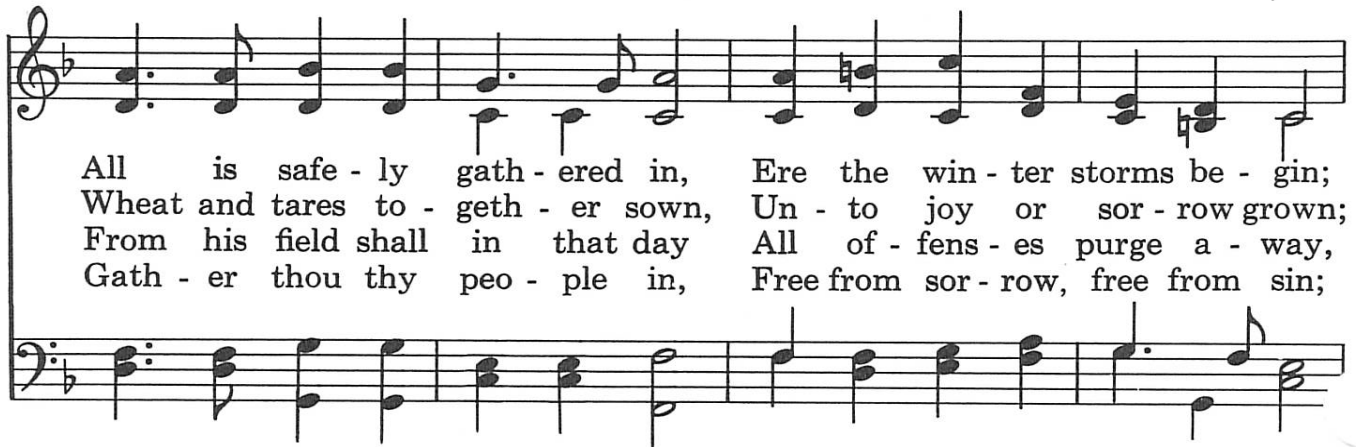
Henry Alford, 1810-1871

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR 7.7.7.D.

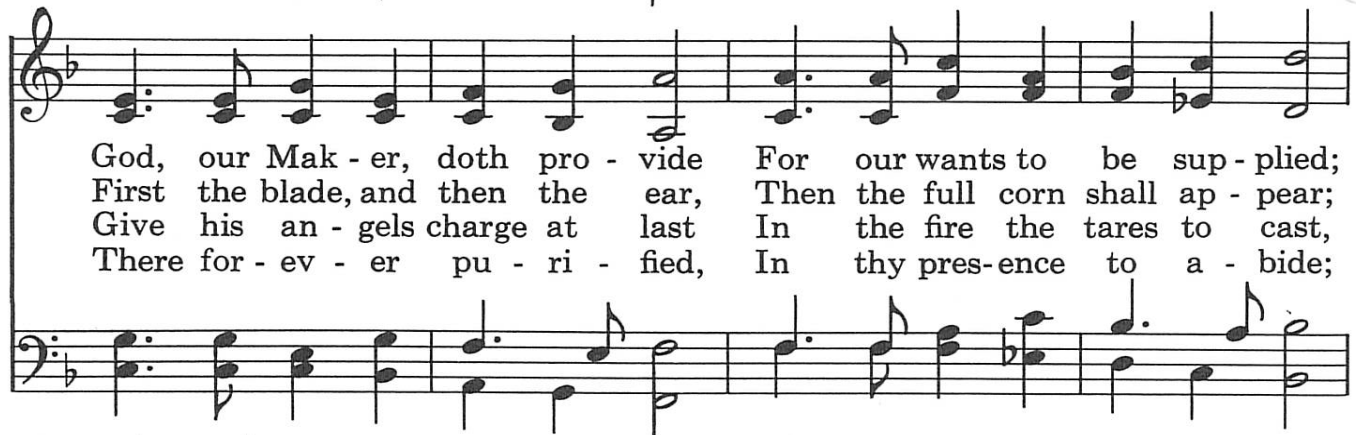
George J. Elvey, 1816-1893



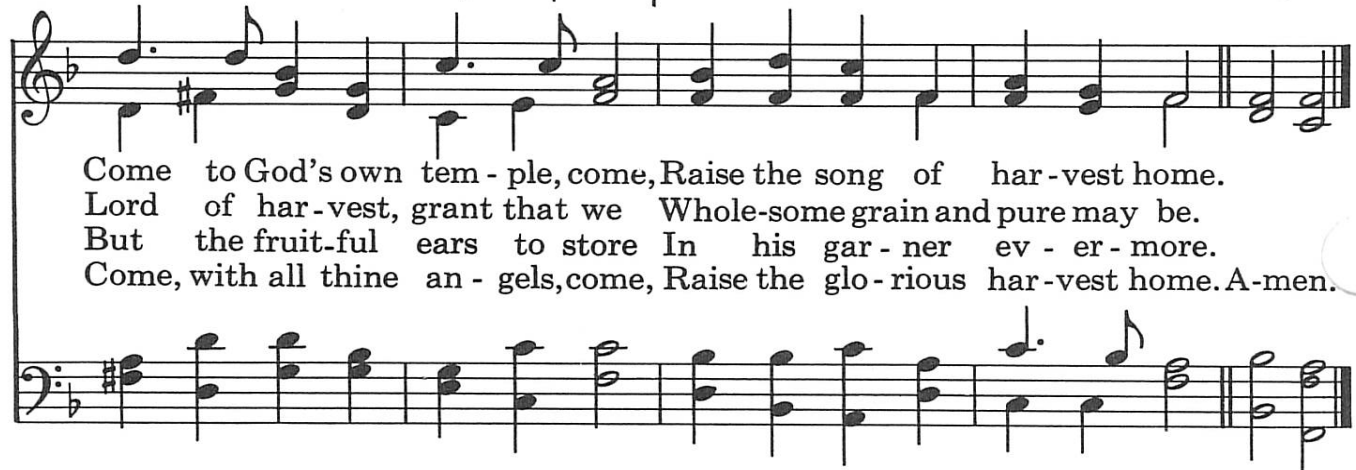
1 Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come, Raise the song of har-vest home;
 2 All the world is God's own field, Fruit un-to his praise to yield;
 3 For the Lord our God shall come, And shall take his har-vest home;
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick-ly come To thy fi - nal har - vest home;



All is safe - ly gath - ered in, Ere the win - ter storms be - gin;
 Wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, Un - to joy or sor - row grown;
 From his field shall in that day All of - fens - es purge a - way,
 Gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, Free from sor - row, free from sin;



God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide For our wants to be sup - plied;
 First the blade, and then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap - pear;
 Give his an - gels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,
 There for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, In thy pres - ence to a - bide;



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, Raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we Whole - some grain and pure may be.
 But the fruit - ful ears to store In his gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come, with all thine an - gels, come, Raise the glo - rious har - vest home. A - men.

For the Fruit of All Creation

425

Fred Pratt Green, 1970

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For God's gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

This text was written in response to a request for a new harvest hymn for an existing tune. After its publication in England in 1970, it became popular in many countries and can be found set to various tunes.

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Tune: AR HYD Y NOS 8.4.8.4.8.8.8.4.
Welsh traditional melody
Musical Relicks of the Welsh Bards, Dublin, 1784
Harm. L. O. Emerson, 1906
For another harmonization, see 82

Now Thank We All Our God

29

Martin Rinckart, 1586-1649
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

NUN DANKET 6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6.
Melody by Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

1 Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voic - es,
2 O may this boun - teous God Through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God The Fa - ther now be giv - en,

Who won-drous things hath done, In whom his world re - joic - es,
With ev - er joy - ful hearts And bless - ed peace to cheer us,
The Son, and him who reigns With them in high - est heav - en,

Who, from our moth - ers' arms, Hath blessed us on our way
And keep us in his grace, And guide us when per - plexed,
The one e - ter - nal God, Whom earth and heaven a - dore,

With count-less gifts of love, And still is ours to - day.
And free us from all ills In this world and the next.
For thus it was, is now, And shall be ev - er - more. A - men.