



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

July 10, 2022

“Unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality.”

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

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

Prelude *Pastorale, BWV 590* Johann Sebastian Bach

Call to Worship Adapted from Psalm 82

One: God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment.

All: “How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked?”

One: Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.

All: Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”
Rise up, O God, judge the earth; for all the nations belong to you!

Hymn 413 (p. 5) *Son of God, Eternal Savior* Weisse Flaggen

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; Our Ministry and Mission

Anthem

Children’s Moment

Today we read the parable of the Good Samaritan, a story about overcoming negative images about people and giving them help. Sounds easy, right? In a way, it is. But people will often find reasons not to assist those different from them, people who look different, speak differently, love differently. All sorts of excuses can be made in defense of our sinful thinking. I want you to remember that everyone—everyone—is a beloved child of God, worthy of our help and attention. After all, God helped us, all of us, in and through the person of Jesus. Being kind, helping out, loving one another are ways to say “thanks” to God for what God has done for us.

Scripture Lessons

Amos 7:7-17. ⁷This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸And the Lord said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said, “See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by; ⁹the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”

¹⁰Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹For thus Amos has said, ‘Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.’” ¹²And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

¹⁴Then Amos answered Amaziah, “I am no prophet, nor a prophet’s son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’” ¹⁶“Now therefore hear the word of the Lord. You say, ‘Do not prophesy against Israel, and do not preach against the house of Isaac.’” ¹⁷Therefore thus says the Lord: ‘Your wife shall become a prostitute in the city, and your sons and your daughters shall fall by the sword, and your land shall be parceled out by line; you yourself shall die in an unclean land, and Israel shall surely go into exile away from its land.’”

Luke 10:25-37. ²⁵Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” ²⁷He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’” ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” ³⁷He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

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, Edith, Jan, Eileen, Michelle, Stephanie, Juanita, Terry, Dan, and Ethan.

O God, who teaches us to befriend the widow, the orphan, the prisoner, to make no distinctions among your children, and to love our neighbor without reservation, we know that what you have taught us is right and good. But we also recognize that it is not always easy for us love without reservation, to offer assistance without asking questions. Free us from the prison of a hard heart, bless us with the grace to love others as you have loved us, this day and always.

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.

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, we present these gifts today not in the hope that someone else will do the work that you have called us to do, but in the expectation that we will enable others to join us in building your kingdom. Let this offering serve as a reminder of your love and as a means for serving you and your creation. Amen.

Benediction

Postlude

Prelude and Fugue in B Flat

attr. Johann Sebastian Bach

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist • The FCC Choir • Phil Hammond, Liturgist

Linda Gerlach and Sue Pratt, Ushers • Bob Gerlach, 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.



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Concerts This Week!

Masks, distanced seating, and proof of vaccination required.

Oak Hill Music Festival—This Wednesday, July 13, and Saturday, July 16, both 7:30

Hanover-born bassoonist Leah Kohn, back in the Upper Valley after establishing an impressive performance career in Los Angeles, inaugurates what she hopes to build into an annual festival of professional musicians and exciting repertoire, both familiar and innovative. They'll use FCC as a rehearsal space and offer two programs here, entitled "From the New Hampshire Woods" and "Breath." Complete details, musician information, and ticket options at www.oakhillmusicfestival.com (use promotional code "FCC" for 50% discount on tickets for 7/13 and 7/16 concerts!).

Counterpoint: The Woods and the Waters—This Friday, July 15, at 7:30

Director Nathaniel Lew brings VT's professional choral ensemble back to Lebanon for the first time in four years to celebrate landscapes near and far, with guest pianist Alison Cerutti. Music by Jude Navari, Benjamin Britten, and NH's own Amy Beach, along with the premiere of a piece by composer Travis Ramsey and poet Jim Schley—who both live in the Upper Valley. Adults \$20, seniors \$15, students and limited means \$5; more at counterpointchorus.org/upcoming/.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH—SPECIAL UCC OFFERING

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the growth of ministry and local congregations across the country. This year's theme—"All Together"—invokes the communal spirit of Pentecost. 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.

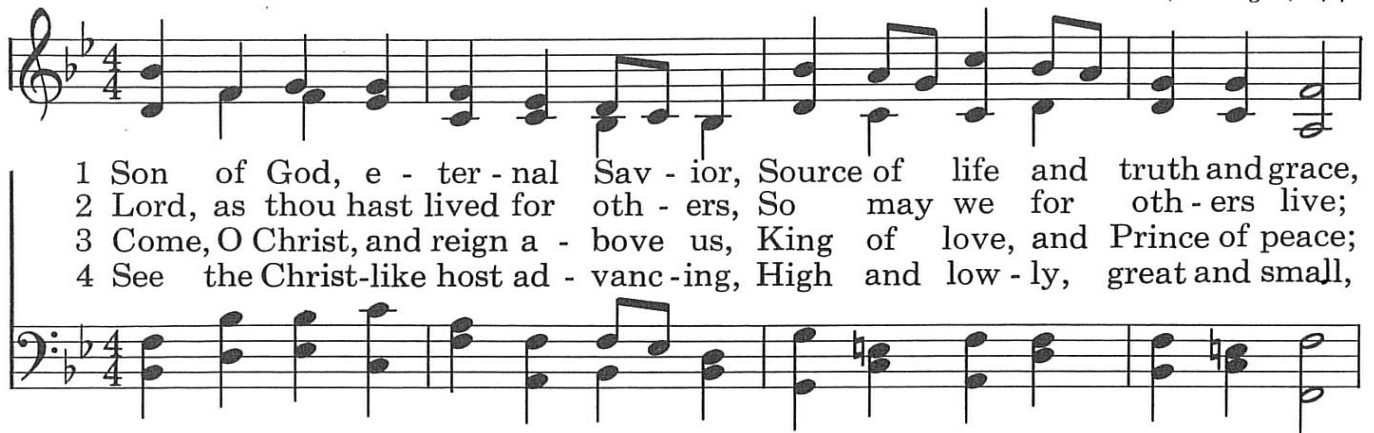
Please give as you are able to this nationwide effort to support church growth. We will accept contributions (payable to FCC, memo "Strengthen the Church") until Labor Day. Thank you!

Son of God, Eternal Savior

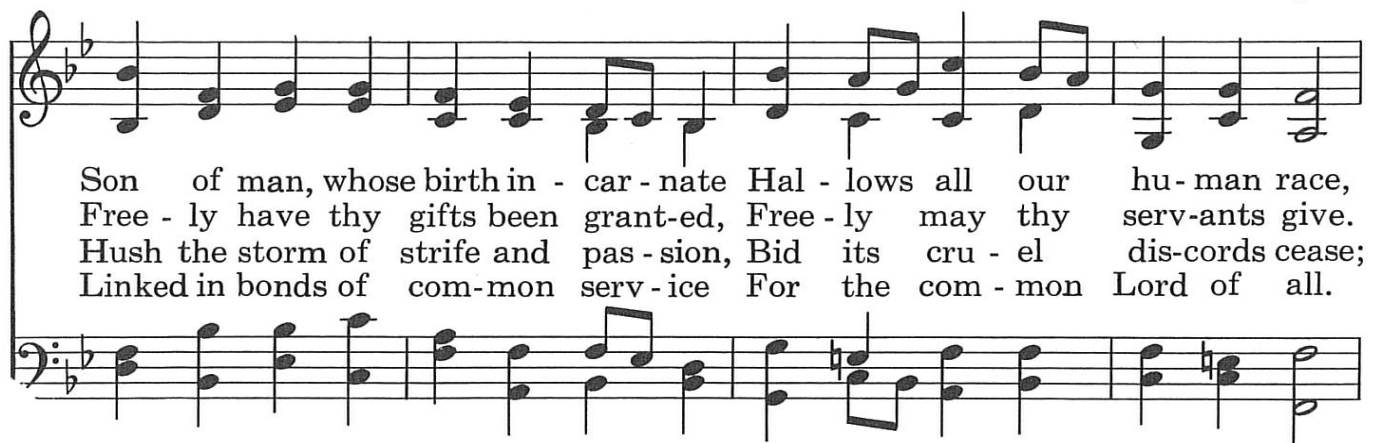
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Somerset C. Lowry, 1855-1932, alt.

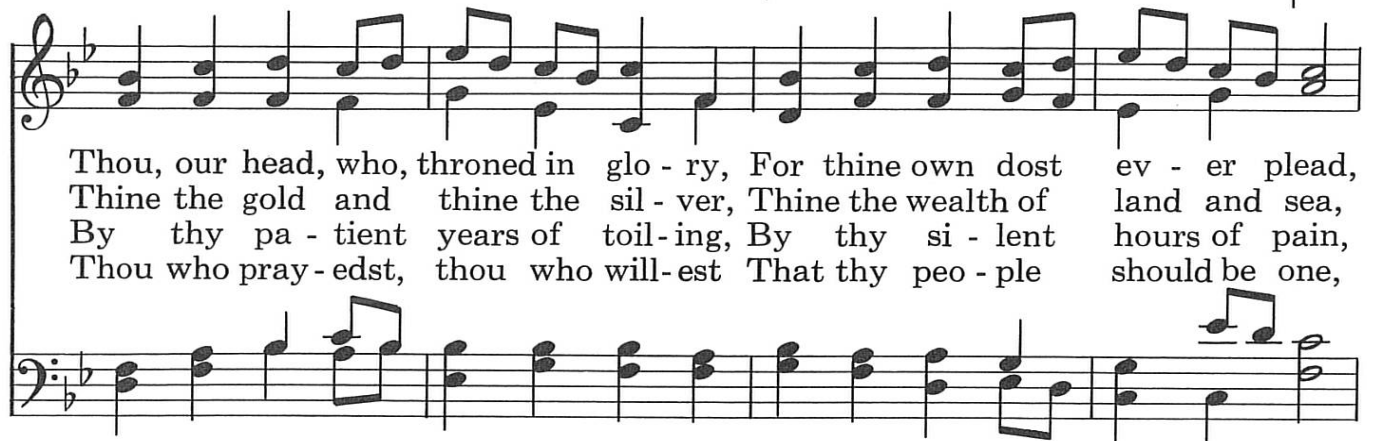
WEISSE FLAGGEN 8.7.8.7.D.
"Tochter Sion," Cologne, 1741.



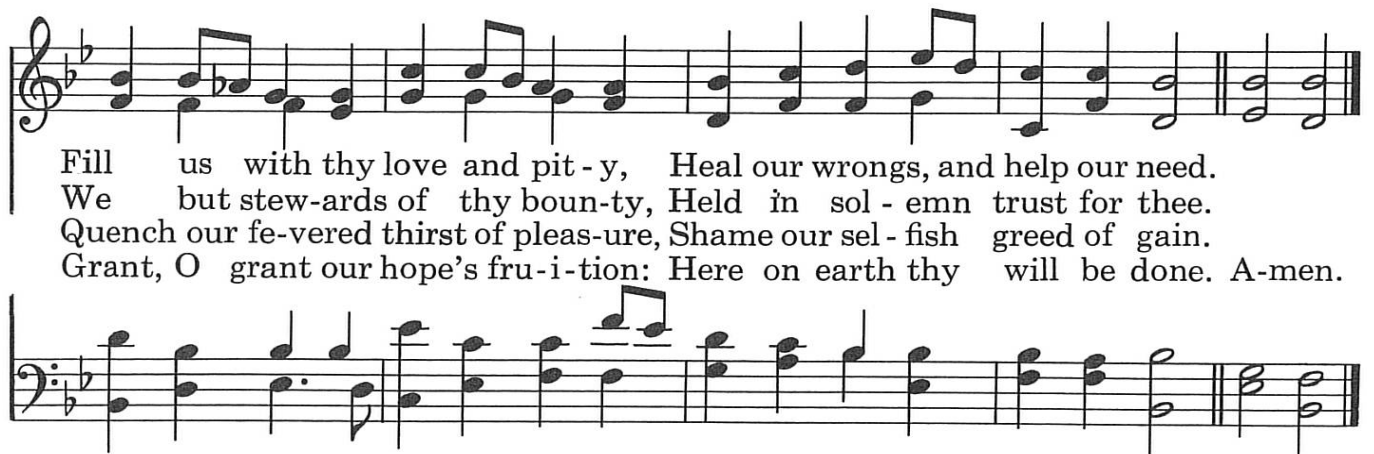
1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and truth and grace,
2 Lord, as thou hast lived for oth - ers, So may we for oth - ers live;
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - bove us, King of love, and Prince of peace;
4 See the Christ-like host ad - vanc - ing, High and low - ly, great and small,



Son of man, whose birth in - car - nate Hal - lows all our hu - man race,
Free - ly have thy gifts been grant - ed, Free - ly may thy serv - ants give.
Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease;
Linked in bonds of com - mon serv - ice For the com - mon Lord of all.



Thou, our head, who, throned in glo - ry, For thine own dost ev - er plead,
Thine the gold and thine the sil - ver, Thine the wealth of land and sea,
By thy pa - tient years of toil - ing, By thy si - lent hours of pain,
Thou who pray - edst, thou who will - est That thy peo - ple should be one,



Fill us with thy love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.
We but stew - ards of thy boun - ty, Held in sol - emn trust for thee.
Quench our fe - vered thirst of pleas - ure, Shame our sel - fish greed of gain.
Grant, O grant our hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth thy will be done. A - men.

Eph. 4:31-5:2

John Greenleaf Whittier, 1848; alt.

1 Chil - dren of God, lift hearts to one an - oth - er;
 2 For God whom Je - sus loved has tru - ly spo - ken:
 3 Fol - low with rev - erent steps the great ex - am - ple
 4 Then shall all shack - les fall; the storm-y clan - gor

where pit - y dwells, the peace of God is there;
 the ho - lier wor - ship which Christ deigns to bless
 of Christ whose ho - ly work was do - ing good;
 of wild war mu - sic o'er the earth shall cease;

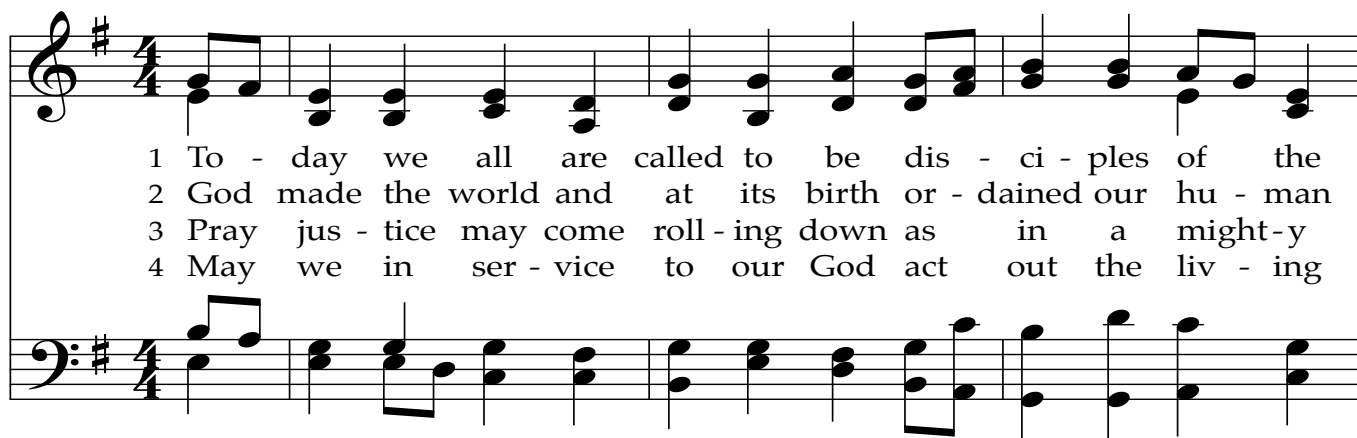
To wor - ship right - ly is to love each oth - er,
 Re - stores the lost, and binds the spir - it bro - ken,
 So shall the wide earth seem a ho - ly tem - ple,
 Love shall tread out the bale - ful fire of an - ger,

each smile a hymn, each kind - ly deed a prayer.
 and feeds the wid - ow and the par - ent - less.
 each lov - ing life a psalm of grat - i - tude.
 and in its ash - es plant the tree of peace.

Of Puritan ancestry and Quaker parentage, the American poet and journalist John Greenleaf Whittier was a strong supporter of the abolition of slavery. This hymn is comprised of the final stanzas of "Worship," a poem expressing his views on the life of faith.

Tune: WELWYN 11.10.11.10.
 Alfred Scott-Gatty, 1900

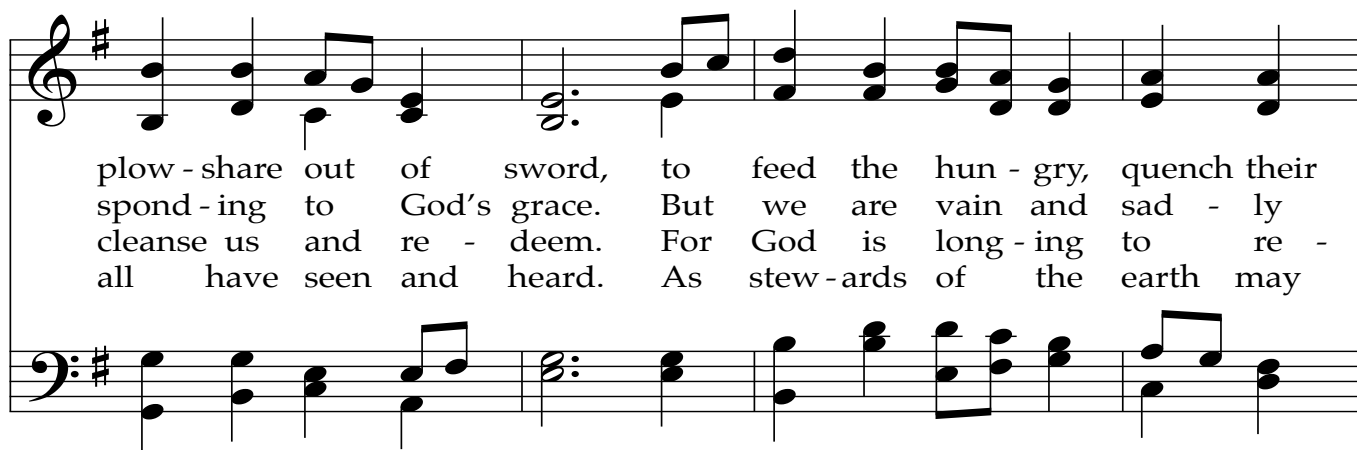
757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples




1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the
 2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man
 3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y
 4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing



Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make
 race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -
 stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to
 word, and walk the road the saints have trod till



plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their
 spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly
 cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -
 all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may



thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the
 proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our dis - cord
 store an earth where con - flicts cease, a world that
 we give thanks in one ac - cord to God who

poor and home-less first, our ease and com-fort last.
spreads a dead-ly cloud that threat-ens all of life.
was cre-at-ed for a har-mo-ny of peace.
calls us all to be dis-ci-ples of the Lord.

This text placing stewardship in the context of faithful witness was written by a retired Presbyterian minister to be part of the 1986 stewardship campaign titled "Called to Be Disciples." The tune name recalls the Sussex village where the arranger first heard the melody.

TEXT: H. Kenn Carmichael, 1985
MUSIC: *English County Songs*, 1893; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
Text © 1989 H. Kenn Carmichael

KINGSFOLD
CMD

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

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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.