



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 17, 2022

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,
for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”

—Hebrews 13:2

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 4-7.

Prelude

Call to Worship

Psalm 15

One: O LORD, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

All: Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart; who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;

One: In whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear the LORD; who stand by their oath even to their hurt; who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

All: Those who do these things shall never be moved.

Hymn 8 (p. 4) *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Ode to Joy

Prayer of Invocation

You watch us as we fill our days with endless work; as we keep a list of all our worries, never marking any off; as we get easily distracted by others' inactions.

So come, Gracious God, to make us as still as Mary.

You take notice of how quickly we can overlook those who hunger for their empty hearts to be filled; those who long for a family to welcome them; those who thirst for that relationship which will revive their souls.

So come, Reconciling Love, to make us as welcoming as Martha.

God, come to make us your people, even as we pray as Jesus has taught us.

Amen.

(Thom Shuman)

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

Hymn 20 (p. 5) *God of Abraham and Sarah*

Constantine

Scripture Lessons

Genesis 18:1-10a. The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." ⁷Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." ¹⁰Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son."

Luke 10:38-42. ³⁸Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴²there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

Sermon "What's Cooking?"

Gail T. Dimick

Hymn 418 (p. 6) *O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee*

Maryton

Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

As we hold our community members in prayer, please exercise care and discretion when sharing.

Today we offer our ongoing prayers for Pete, Lloyd, Arlene, Evelyn, Barbara, Greg, Edith, Jan, Eileen, Michelle, Stephanie, Juanita, Terry, Dan, and Ethan.

In the mirror we call scripture, Revealing God, we see ourselves for who we are and are not. We whine about those who are not doing what we think they should and ignore our failings. We speak words which nibble away at the life in our family and friends. We step over the poor on our way to get more and more, ignoring their needs.

Forgive us, Reconciling Love. Sit us down at Jesus' feet, so we may learn the balanced life you intend for us. Then, and only then, we can set aside our grudges, to offer our gifts to our neighbors; we can stop licking at our hurts, to bring healing to others; we can reach out and welcome our sisters and brothers, even as we have been welcomed into your heart through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. (Thom Shuman)

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in Jesus' name. 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

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)

Because we trust in your never-ending love, Gracious God, we offer not only our thanks but our gifts, knowing that what you have done in the past—rescuing the lost, healing the broken, feeding the hungry, loving the poor—will continue to be accomplished through our gifts. Bless all that we offer to you, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen. (Thom Shuman)

Hymn 263 (p. 7) *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* Regent Square

Benediction

Postlude

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Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Gail Temperley Dimick, Guest Pastor
Sarah Hill, Guest Pianist • Brian Clancy, Liturgist
Corrine Erskine and Sue Pratt, Ushers • Dawn Troutman, Zoom Greeter

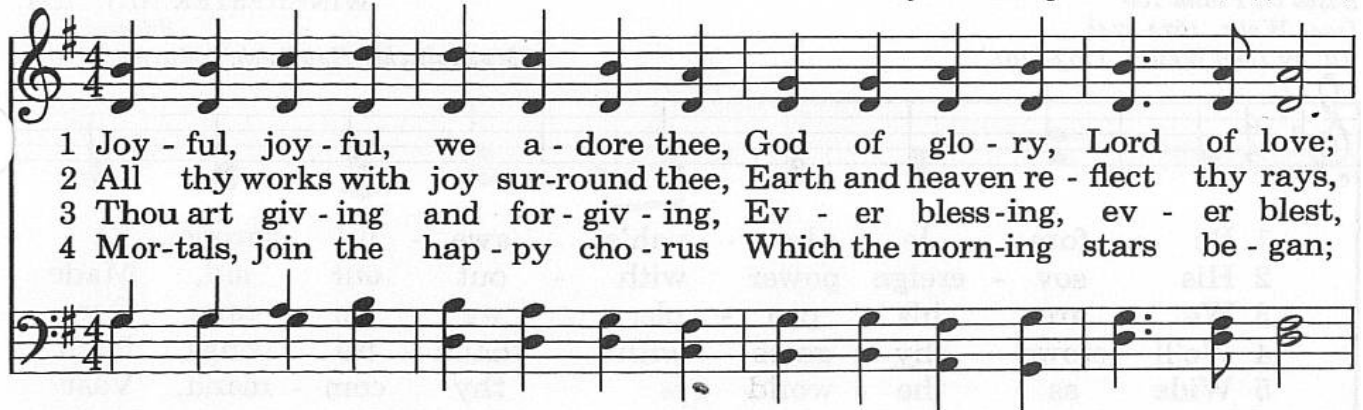
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

8

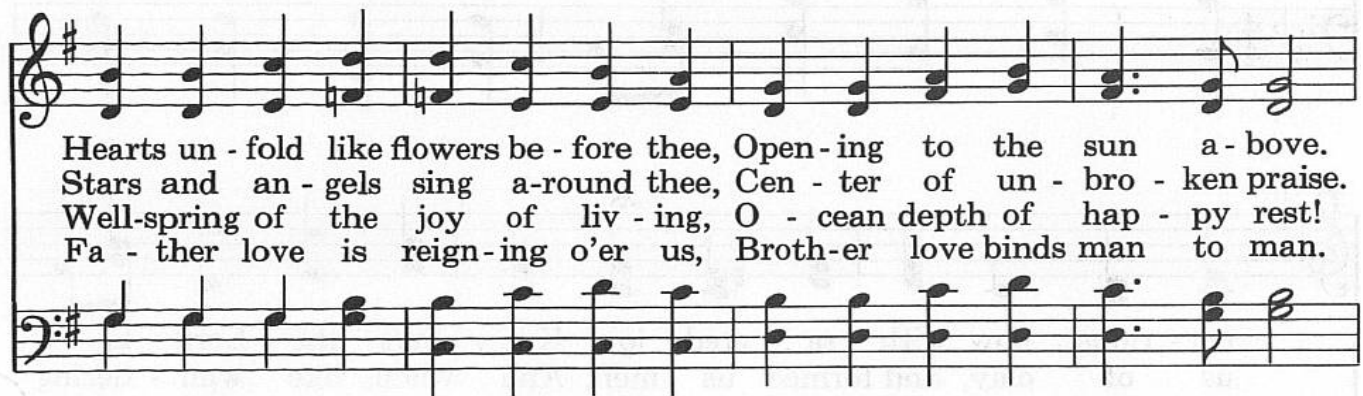
Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933

HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D.

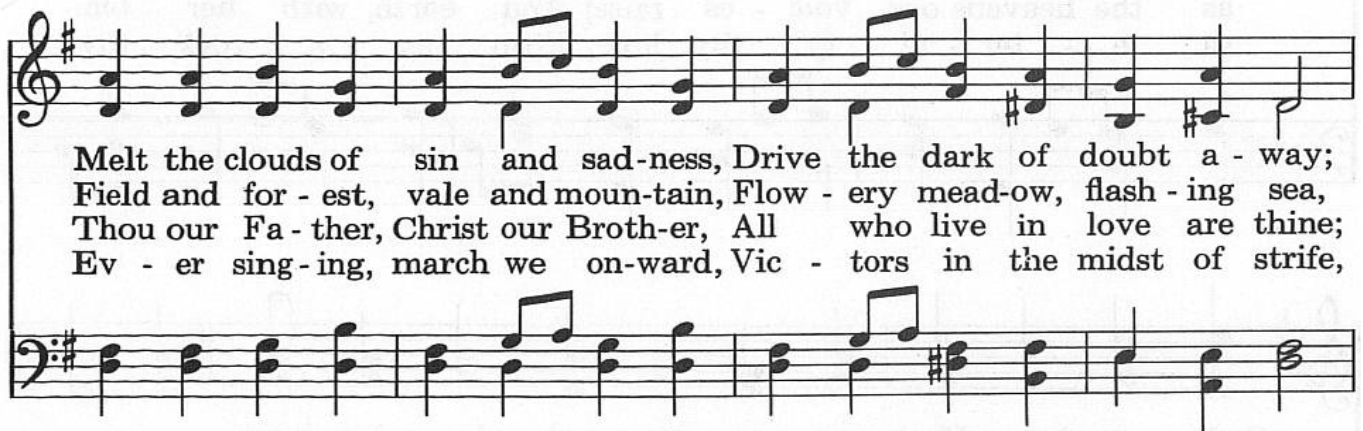
Arr. from Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827



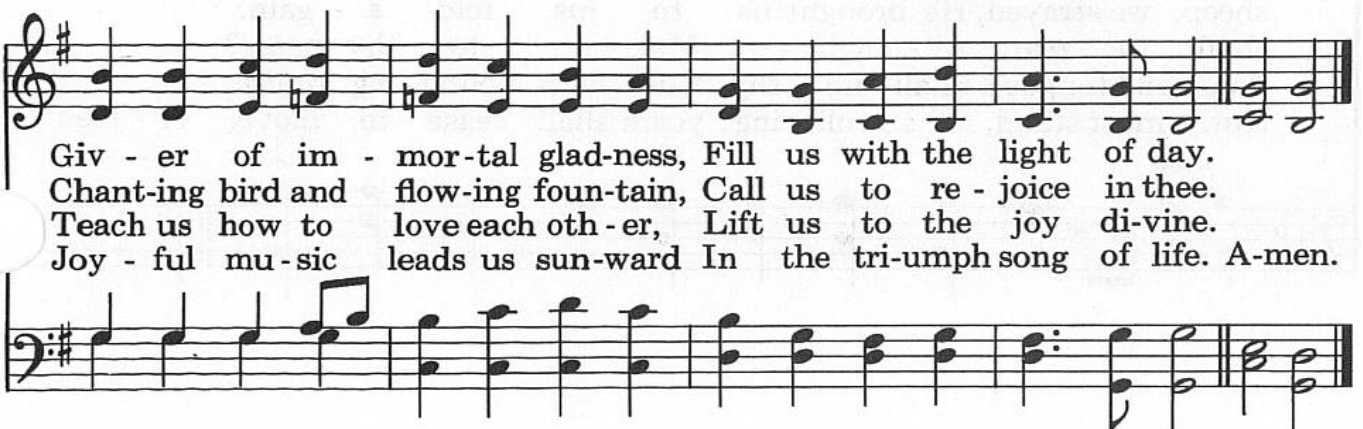
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, Earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,
4 Mor-tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn-ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean depth of hap - py rest!
Fa - ther love is reign-ing o'er us, Broth-er love binds man to man.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness, Drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - ery mead-ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Broth-er, All who live in love are thine;
Ev - er sing-ing, march we on-ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor-tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, Call us to re - joice in thee.
Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the joy di-vine.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun-ward In the tri-umph song of life. A-men.

God of Abraham and Sarah

James Gertmenian, 1986; alt.

1 God of A - bra - ham and Sar - ah, God of Mo - ses, Mir - iam's Guide;
 2 God who danc - es in cre - a - tion, spin - ning stars a - bove our heads;
 3 God who loves the poor in spir - it, God who com - forts those who mourn;
 4 In our lives from birth to dy - ing, depth of sor - row, height of joy;

God of Da - vid and the proph - ets, God in Je - sus glo - ri - fied:
 God whose face is scribed in mu - sic, by whose hand the earth is fed:
 Balm for wounds, the friend of sin - ners, tak - ing the side of earth's for - lorn:
 Prais - ing God in ev - ery sea - son, let ev - ery key our hearts em - ploy.

Up from the dust you raise a peo - ple, breathe in the breath of life, of soul;
 Up from the ground you raise the moun - tains, raise our spir - its, lift our eyes;
 Up from the depths you raise your peo - ple, giv - ing them cour - age for the day;
 Praise is the heal - ing, praise, the glo - ry, praise is the fin - al mys - ter - y;

Down through the years the peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias make them whole!
 Down through the years your peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias flood the skies!
 Down through the years the peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias light their way!
 Down through the years let peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias set them free!

The healing power of praise and the history of God's dealings with humankind are the themes of this hymn, written by a United Church of Christ minister who is the grandson of Armenian immigrants. The tune is named for his father.

Tune: CONSTANTINE 8.7.8.7.D.
 Melody by James Gertmenian, 1986
 Harm. Ronald Huntington, 1986; alt.

O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee

418

Washington Gladden, 1836-1918

MARYTON L.M.
H. Percy Smith, 1825-1898

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with thee In low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move By some clear,
3 Teach me thy pa - tience; still with thee In clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray Far down the

paths of serv - ice free; Tell me thy se - cret, help me
win - ning word of love; Teach me the way - ward feet to
dear - er com - pa - ny, In work that keeps faith sweet and
fu - ture's broad - ening way, In peace that on - ly thou canst

bear The strain of toil, the fret of care.
stay, And guide them in the home - ward way.
strong, In trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.
give, With thee, O Mas - ter, let me live. A - men.

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!

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

263

Latin: 7th century
Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.
Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

1 Christ is made the sure foun-da - tion, Christ the head and cor - ner stone,
2 To this tem - ple, where we call thee, Come, O Lord of hosts, to - day!
3 Here vouch-safe to all thy serv - ants What they ask of thee to gain:
4 Laud and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Laud and hon - or to the Son,

Chos - en of the Lord and prec - ious, Bind - ing all the Church in one;
With thy wont - ed lov - ing-kind - ness Hear thy peo - ple as they pray;
What they gain from thee for - ev - er With the bless - ed to re - tain,
Laud and hon - or to the Spir - it, Ev - er Three and ev - er One;

Ho - ly Zi - on's help for - ev - er, And her con - fi - dence a - lone.
And thy full - est ben - e - dic - tion Shed with - in its walls al - way.
And here - af - ter in thy glo - ry Ev - er - more with thee to reign.
One in might, and One in glo - ry, While un - end - ing a - ges run. A - men.

Do Your Part to Fill the Cart!

Greater Lebanon continues to struggle with poverty and food insecurity, exacerbated by the challenges of the pandemic. We have resumed the monthly collection of items in our shopping cart in the Parish Hall, to support need through a variety of beneficiaries.

JULY/AUGUST—non-perishable food and personal-care items for UPPER VALLEY HAVEN
Specific needs: canned beans (black/kidney), tuna, shelf-stable milk, instant oatmeal, pasta sauce.

Direct financial contributions to any Upper Valley service organization are always needed and much 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@fcclb.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
Jon Scott, Chair of Church Council • Linda Gerlach, Chair of Deacons • 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@fcclb.org • prayer@fcclb.org • music@fcclb.org • www.fcclb.org