



## The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

“For there is always light,  
if only we’re brave enough to see it.  
If only we’re brave enough to be it.”

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

*The Angel's Song*, from op. 105

## Call to Worship

One: I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

**All:** I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

One: On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

**All:** All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

One: They shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

**All:** For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives from far away.

One: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

**All:** The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

*Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven*

# Praise My Soul

(Wild Goose Publishing)

O God, our Creator, your kindness has brought us the gift of a new morning. Help us to leave yesterday and not covet tomorrow but accept the uniqueness of today.

By your love celebrated in your Word, seen in your Son, brought near by your Spirit, take from us what we need to carry no longer, so that we may be free again to choose to serve you and to be served by each other. In our Savior's name we pray. 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

### Children's Moment

Hymn 341 (p. 6)      *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*

Rest

### Scripture Lessons

**Genesis 18:20-32.** <sup>20</sup>Then the Lord said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! <sup>21</sup>I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know."

<sup>22</sup>So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. <sup>23</sup>Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup>Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup>Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" <sup>26</sup>And the Lord said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." <sup>27</sup>Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. <sup>28</sup>Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." <sup>29</sup>Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." <sup>30</sup>Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." <sup>31</sup>He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." <sup>32</sup>Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

**Luke 11:1-13.** He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." <sup>2</sup>He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. <sup>3</sup>Give us each day our daily bread. <sup>4</sup>And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."

<sup>5</sup>And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; <sup>6</sup>for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' <sup>7</sup>And he answers from within, 'Do not bother

me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’<sup>8</sup> I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

<sup>9</sup>“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>10</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup>Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup>Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? <sup>13</sup>If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

**Sermon**

*“Before and After the Amen”*

Gail T. Dimick

**Hymn 175** (p. 7)

*Seek Ye First*

Lafferty

### **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 you, gracious God, the widowed find a caregiver, the orphaned find a parent, the fearful find a friend. In you, the wounded find a healer, the penitent find a pardoner, the burdened find a counselor. In you the miserly find a beggar, the despondent find a laugh-maker, the legalist find a rule breaker. In you, Jesus Christ, we meet our Maker and our match.

And if some need to say, “Help me” and if some need to say, “Save Me,” and if some need to say “Hold me,” and if some need to say “Forgive me,” then let these be said in confidence. O Christ, in whose heart is both welcome and warning, say to us, do to us, reveal within us the things that will make us whole. And we will wait; and we will praise you.

*(Wild Goose Publishing)*

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**

*Adagio molto, from Sonata No. 3*

Alexandre Guilmant

## 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*)

(*United Methodist GBOD*)

Compassionate God, we bring our gifts to you this day, knowing that your love is not dependent on our best moments but on how we have persevered in finding the discipleship path after we have fallen short. May our gifts and our lives themselves be a witness to your relentless love. We pray in the holy name of Christ, our redeemer. Amen.

Hymn 101 (p. 8)      *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

In Babilone

## Benediction

Postlude

*Fanfare*

Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens

\* \* \*

## *Leading Worship This Week*

The Rev. Gail Temperley Dimick, Guest Pastor  
Ernie Drown, Organist • Betsy Bowse, Liturgist  
Linda and Ike Jacobs, Ushers • Stacey Steele, 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](mailto:prayer@fccleb.org) or speak with Rev. Silver directly.*

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## 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!*

# Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

16

Based on Psalm 103  
Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847

PRAISE MY SOUL 8.7.8.7.8.7.  
John Goss, 1800-1880



1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en, To his feet thy  
2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor To our fa - thers  
3 Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; Well our fee - ble  
4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him, Ye be - hold him

trib - ute bring; Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,  
in dis - tress; Praise him, still the same for - ev - er,  
frame he knows; In his hands he gen - tly bears us,  
face to face; Sun and moon, bow down be - fore him;

Who, like me, his praise should sing? Praise him! praise him!  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless. Praise him! praise him!  
Res - cues us from all our foes. Praise him! praise him!  
Dwell - ers all in time and space, Praise him! praise him!

Praise him! praise him! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King!  
Praise him! praise him! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!  
Praise him! praise him! Wide - ly as his mer - cy flows!  
Praise him! praise him! Praise with us the God of grace! A - men.

# Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

341

John Greenleaf Whittier, 1807-1892

REST 8.6.8.8.6.

Frederick C. Maker, 1844-1927

1 Dear Lord and Fa - ther of man - kind, For - give our fool - ish ways.  
 2 In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, Be - side the Syr - ian sea,  
 3 O sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee! O calm of hills a - bove!  
 4 Drop thy still dews of qui - et - ness, Till all our striv - ings cease;  
 5 Breathe through the puls - es of de - sire Thy cool - ness and thy balm;

Re - clothe us in our right - ful mind; In pur - er lives thy  
 The gra - cious call - ing of the Lord, Let us, like them, with -  
 Where Je - sus knelt to share with thee The si - lence of e -  
 Take from our souls the strain and stress, And let our or - dered  
 Let sense be dumb, let flesh re - tire: Speak through the earth - quake,

serv - ice find, In deep - er rev - erence, praise.  
 out a word, Rise up and fol - low thee.  
 ter - ni - ty, In - ter - pret - ed by love.  
 lives con - fess The beau - ty of thy peace.  
 wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm. 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!*

## Seek Ye First

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God  
 2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you;  
 3 You shall not live by bread a - lone,

and seek, its and righ - teous - ness,  
 but by you shall find;  
 every word

and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you.  
 knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you.  
 that pro - ceeds from the mouth of God.

Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

The author and composer wrote the first stanza and folk-style tune after attending a Bible study on Matthew 6:33. The later stanzas, based respectively on Matthew 7:7 and Matthew 4:4 emerged anonymously. Such meditative singing of scripture is an important form of sung prayer.

TEXT: Stanza 1, Karen Lafferty, 1971, alt.; stanzas 2–3, anon.; Spanish trans. anon.;

Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee

MUSIC: Karen Lafferty, 1971

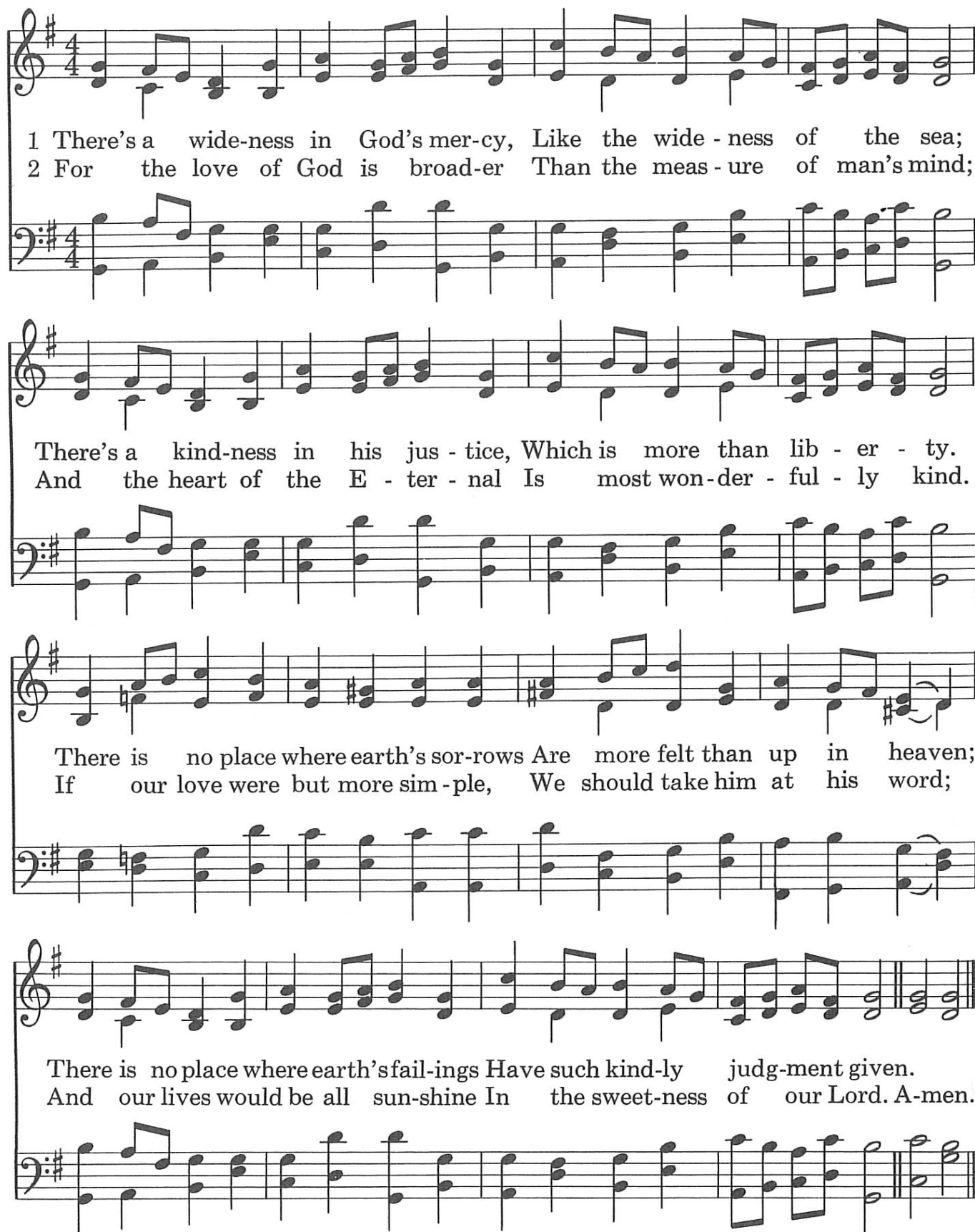
Text and Music © 1972 Universal Music – Brentwood Publishing/Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa dba CCCM Music  
 (admin. Universal Music – Brentwood Benson Publishing)

LAFFERTY  
 Irregular

## There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

First Tune

Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863

IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.  
Traditional Dutch Melody


1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, Like the wide - ness of the sea;  
2 For the love of God is broad-er Than the meas - ure of man's mind;

There's a kind-ness in his jus - tice, Which is more than lib - er - ty.  
And the heart of the E - ter - nal Is most won - der - ful - ly kind.

There is no place where earth's sor-rows Are more felt than up in heaven;  
If our love were but more sim - ple, We should take him at his word;

There is no place where earth's fail-ings Have such kind-ly judg-ment given.  
And our lives would be all sun-shine In the sweet-ness of our Lord. A-men.





**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](mailto: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](mailto:church@fcclb.org) • [prayer@fcclb.org](mailto:prayer@fcclb.org) • [music@fcclb.org](mailto:music@fcclb.org) • [www.fcclb.org](http://www.fcclb.org)**