



# First Congregational Church of Lebanon

*United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming*

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## The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

August 7, 2022

“To get the full value of joy, you must have someone to divide it with.”

–Mark Twain

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

### Prelude

### Call to Worship

Psalm 50:1-6

One: The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**All: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.**

One: Our God comes and does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around him.

**All: He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:**

One: “Gather to me, my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”

**All: The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge.**

Hymn 66 (p. 5)      *For the Beauty of the Earth* (vv. 1-4)

Dix

### 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

### Children’s Moment

Last week I saw a dad and two kids walking on the path in front of our church. It was a beautiful, sunny day, and the temperature was perfect. But what made that day stand out for me was the little boy in the group, who was running, his arms outstretched, as if he were trying to take off. I don’t know what he was thinking, imagining, or feeling at that moment, but I could sense the presence of joy, real joy.

We've all experienced joy, or at least I hope we have. It's a gift from God, one that doesn't require money, or a fancy car, or expensive sneakers, or anything else we might buy—instead, it is an ability to see and delight in God's world, which surrounds us in ways large and small. My prayer today is that you will experience the joy of the Lord, that you will give thanks for this gift, and that you will share it with others.

**Hymn 320** (p. 6)      *The Church of Christ in Every Age*

Wareham

### Scripture Lessons

**Isaiah 1:1, 10-20.** The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. [...]

<sup>10</sup>Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! <sup>11</sup>What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats.

<sup>12</sup>When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more; <sup>13</sup>bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation— I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. <sup>14</sup>Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me, I am weary of bearing them. <sup>15</sup>When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. <sup>16</sup>Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, <sup>17</sup>learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.

<sup>18</sup>Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. <sup>19</sup>If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; <sup>20</sup>but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

**Luke 12:32-40.** <sup>32</sup>[Jesus continued,] “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup>“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup>be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup>“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

**Sermon**

*“Waiting for God(ot)”*

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.*

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

We turn to you, God, acknowledging our divisions and our differences, and how we as individuals bear our own burdens and concerns. But we also ask that you help us to remember that which unites us: our common struggles and joys, our shared humanity, the tie each of us has to you and to one another. As the saying has it, “We are all in this together.” Help us to look away from the empty cliché, and to instead focus on the empowering truth, to see our strength, and your grace, in our diversity. Let us be blessed to see the opportunities that lie before us.

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**

### **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)**

God, we present these gifts to you this day with the prayer that we may have the confidence of Abraham and Sarah, the courage of Isaac and Rebekah, the strength of Jacob and Leah and Rachel, and the faith of the disciples, to listen for your word and to do your will. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

## The Sacrament of Holy Communion

*For communion, you are invited to have some bread and juice on hand. We will share in the bread and cup at the appointed time. If you would like to receive a blessing, please let the officiant know.*

### Invitation and Communion Prayer

**Sanctus**

Ho - ly, Ho - ly Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts:  
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo - ry be to you, O Lord most  
High. Bless-ed is the one that comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho -  
san - na in the high - est.

### Sharing of the Bread and Cup

#### Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (*Unison*)

Because the broken bread has meant our healing, because the outpoured cup has meant our life, because our common sharing has meant the communion of our souls, and because we have here been graced by your presence, God, we give you thanks and pray that our lives may be renewed in the life and the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Hymn 446** (p. 7)      *God the Omnipotent*

Russian Hymn

### 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

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#### *Leading Worship This Week*

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Sarah Hill, Guest Pianist • Barb Jones, Liturgist

Chris Chase and Linda Gerlach, 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](mailto:prayer@fccleb.org) or speak with Rev. Silver directly.*

# For the Beauty of the Earth

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Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, *alt.*

DIX 7.7.7.7.7.  
*Abridged from a chorale by  
Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872*

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, For the beau - ty of the skies,  
2 For the beau - ty of each hour Of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's de - light,  
4 For the joy of hu - man love, Broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,

For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,  
For the mys - tic har - mo - ny Link - ing sense to sound and sight,  
Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, For all gen - tle thoughts and mild,

Lord of all, to thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise. A - men.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the piano providing harmonic support. The lyrics are arranged in four stanzas, each corresponding to a line of the melody. The final line of the hymn, 'Lord of all, to thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise. A - men.', is repeated in the Soprano and Alto parts.

## Congregational Listening Session—Your Participation Encouraged!

Monday, August 15, at 6:00 pm on Zoom (RSVP Requested)

This is the second of two sessions facilitated by a team from the NH Conference of the UCC, intended as an open-ended forum for sharing thoughts and ideas about our congregational life, governance, practices, communication, and hopes for the future. Our priority is to invite as many perspectives and voices as possible into a safe, welcoming space for listening. Even if you think you have nothing to share, you're still encouraged to attend. *If you'd like to attend, or to submit your thoughts outside that time, RSVP to Jon Scott (jscottnh@comcast.net) or the church office.*

# 320 The Church of Christ in Every Age



1 The church of Christ in ev - ery age, be - set by  
 2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims  
 3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing  
 4 For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the  
 5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its  
 of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for  
 church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's  
 fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to  
 be - dience to our Lord: to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.  
 bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.  
 sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.  
 share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.  
 out re - serve, and spread Christ's lib - er - at - ing word.

In this challenging text by a British Methodist minister, the odd-numbered stanzas develop the image of "the servant church," while the second surveys the many needs and the fourth describes the true source of strength for the task.

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1969  
 MUSIC: William Knapp, 1738  
 Text © 1971 Hope Publishing Company

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# God the Omnipotent

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Henry F. Chorley, 1808-1872, *Sts. 1, 2, alt.*  
John Ellerton, 1826-1893, *Sts. 3, 4, alt.*

RUSSIAN HYMN 11.10.11.9.  
Alexis F. Lvov, 1799-1870

1 God the Om - nip - o - tent! King, who or - dain - est  
2 God the All - mer - ci - ful! earth hath for - sak - en  
3 God the all - right - eous One! man hath de - fied thee;  
4 God the All - prov - i - dent! earth by thy chas - tening

Thun - der thy clar - ion, the light - ning thy sword,  
Thy ways all ho - ly, and slight - ed thy word;  
Yet to e - ter - ni - ty stand - eth thy word;  
Yet shall to free - dom and truth be re - stored;

Show forth thy pit - y on high where thou reign - est:  
Bid not thy wrath in its ter - rors a - wak - en:  
False - hood and wrong shall not tar - ry be - side thee:  
Through the thick dark - ness thy king - dom is has - tening:

Give to us peace in our time, O Lord.  
Give to us peace in our time, O Lord.  
Give to us peace in our time, O Lord.  
Thou wilt give peace in thy time, O Lord. A - men.



## **Classicopia in August!**

*Masks, distanced seating, and proof of vaccination required.*

### **Classicopia: Summer Music Camp Faculty Concert—Friday, August 12, at 7:30 pm**

Pianists Dan Weiser and Elizabeth Borowsky, along with Elizabeth's accomplished siblings, cellist Frances and violinist Emmanuel, are here for the week of August 8 leading Classicopia's revived summer camp for young musicians. The faculty will offer a special public concert with music of Max Bruch, Gabriel Fauré, Astor Piazzolla, and more; the camp's students will play a couple fun pieces as well. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at classicopia.org.*

### **Classicopia: Summer Music Camp Student Concert—Saturday, August 12, at 10:00 am**

All are invited to this performance by 21 young musicians participating all week in Classicopia's newly revived summer camp. *Free admission! More at classicopia.org.*

### **Classicopia: Clara and Fanny—Saturday, August 20, at 7:30 pm**

Dan Weiser welcomes back his friends Ralph Allen (violin) and Iris Jortner (cello) for wonderful piano trios by two of the preeminent composers of 19th-century Romanticism, Clara Schumann and Fanny Mendelssohn (who both happen to have been women). *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at classicopia.org.*

## **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!*

## **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!*

## **Outdoor Service Planned for Sunday, August 21 (Rain Date 8/28)**

Masks and distancing will not be required for this service, and an RSVP is not necessary. Folding chairs will be available, but you're welcome to bring your own lawn chairs if you prefer!





**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)**