

Words of Welcome; Our Ministry and Mission

Anthem

Children's Moment

Hymn 68 (p. 6) *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

Ellacombe

Scripture Lessons

Genesis 1:1-11. In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so.

Genesis 6:1-7. When people began to multiply on the face of the ground, and daughters were born to them, ²the sons of God saw that they were fair; and they took wives for themselves of all that they chose. ³Then the Lord said, “My spirit shall not abide in mortals forever, for they are flesh; their days shall be one hundred twenty years.” ⁴The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went in to the daughters of humans, who bore children to them. These were the heroes that were of old, warriors of renown. ⁵The Lord saw that the wickedness of humankind was great in the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually. ⁶And the Lord was sorry that he had made humankind on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷So the Lord said, “I will blot out from the earth the human beings I have created—people together with animals and creeping things and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.”

Psalms 74:12-17. ¹²Yet God my King is from of old, working salvation in the earth. ¹³You divided the sea by your might; you broke the heads of the dragons in the waters. ¹⁴You crushed the heads of Leviathan; you gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.

¹⁵You cut openings for springs and torrents; you dried up ever-flowing streams.

¹⁶Yours is the day, yours also the night; you established the luminaries and the sun.

¹⁷You have fixed all the bounds of the earth; you made summer and winter.

Sermon

“What Is God Like?”

Christopher L. Chase

Hymn 426 (p. 7)

The Voice of God is Calling

Meirionydd

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 confess, O God, we have not always been mindful of the needs of others. Preoccupied too often with our own concerns, our thoughts turn inward, our hands are closed. Beholding the cross, we see the upward post but regard not the beam that reaches out, that stretches to the four corners of the globe. Our steeple soars into the heavens, but the transept is—we readily confess—sometimes pinched, sometimes narrowed, by our intermittent indifference to the world.

Teach us a better way. In this summer season may our compassion for Christ’s suffering kindle love for those in need. May such succor prove a ministration to the wounds of him who was crucified.

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. So God bids; let us offer as we are able.

Offertory

Deck Thyself, Beloved Soul, op. 122, no. 5

Johannes Brahms

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 of redemption, God of grace, God of love: we are blessed by you, who came to save us, empowering us to serve your people. Use our gifts of time, skills, and money to further your work in the world. In the name of your Son we pray. Amen.

Benediction

As we depart his house, may God keep us—though our paths diverge—on a common way. May he smooth our cares, calm our hearts, and inspire in us love of neighbor and the stranger from afar. Amen.

Postlude

The Emperor's Fanfare

Antonio Soler

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

Dr. Christopher L. Chase, Guest Preacher

Ernie Drown, Organist • Betsy Alexander, Liturgist

Gloria and Phil Hammond, Ushers • Dawn Troutman, 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.

Congregational Listening Session—Your Participation Encouraged!

This 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.*

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!

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!

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,

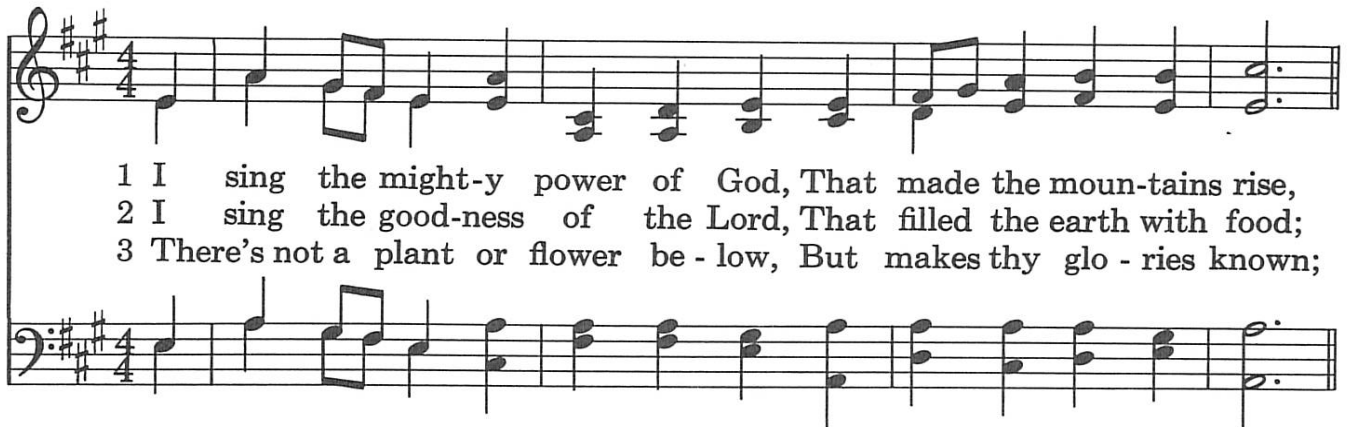
Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in thee.
Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the joy di - vine.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life. A - men.

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

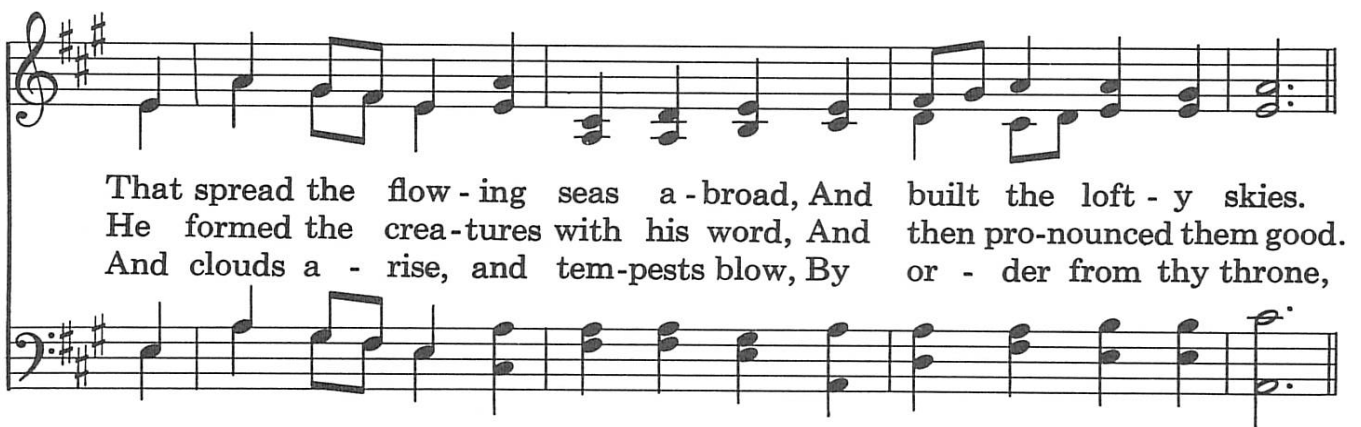
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Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, *all.*

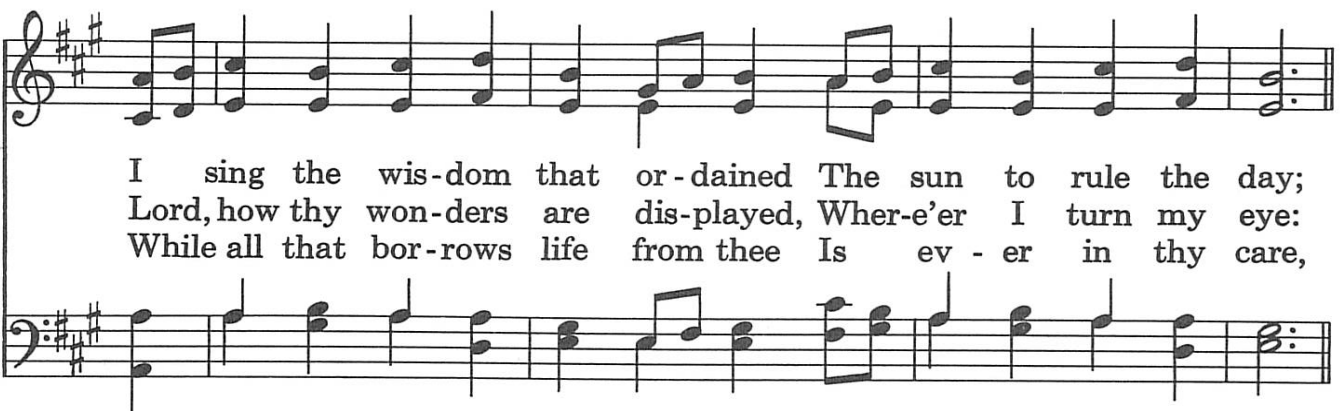
ELLACOMBE C.M.D.
"Gesangbuch," Wirtemberg, 1784



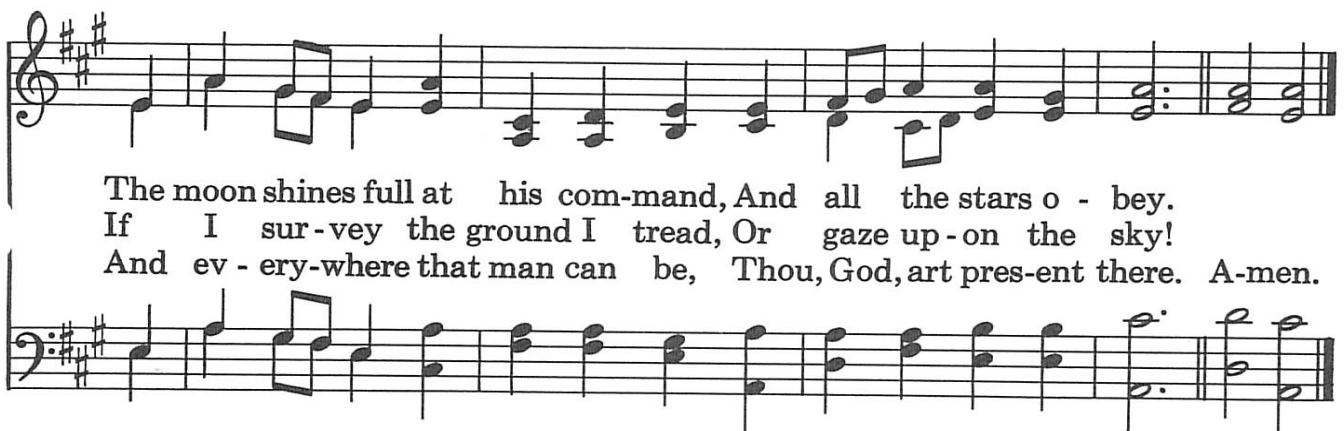
1 I sing the might-y power of God, That made the moun-tains rise,
2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord, That filled the earth with food;
3 There's not a plant or flower be - low, But makes thy glo - ries known;



That spread the flow - ing seas a - broad, And built the loft - y skies.
He formed the crea-tures with his word, And then pro-nounced them good.
And clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, By or - der from thy throne,



I sing the wis-dom that or-dained The sun to rule the day;
Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, Wher-e'er I turn my eye:
While all that bor-rows life from thee Is ev - er in thy care,



The moon shines full at his com-mand, And all the stars o - bey.
If I sur-vey the ground I tread, Or gaze up-on the sky!
And ev - ery-where that man can be, Thou, God, art pres-ent there. A-men.

The Voice of God Is Calling

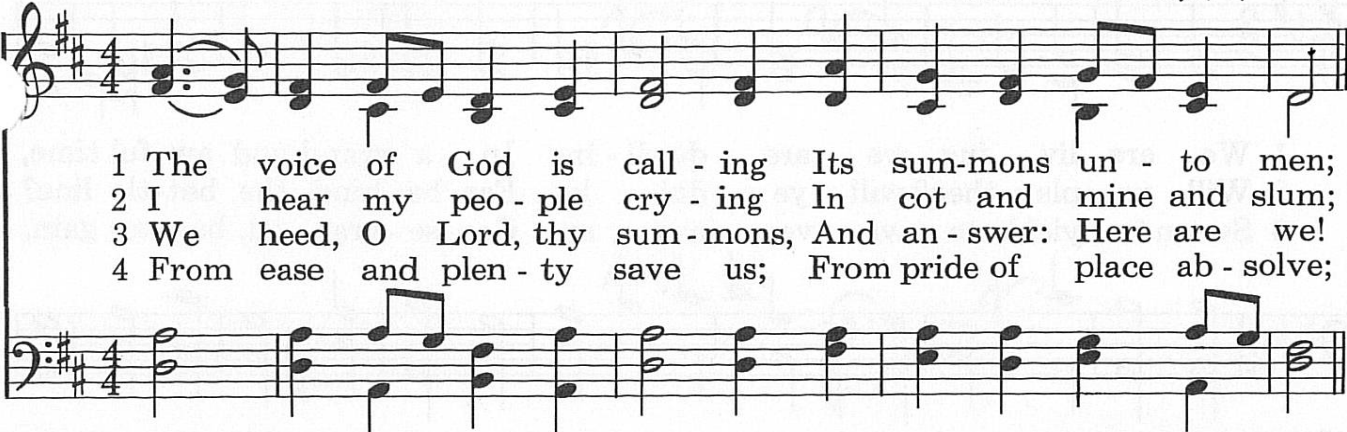
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John Haynes Holmes, 1879-1964

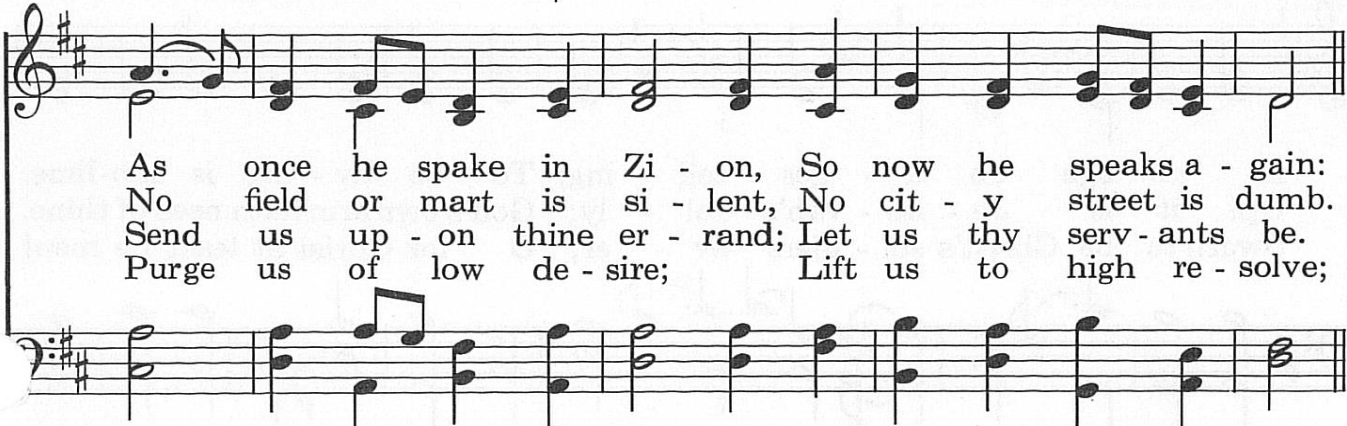
MEIRIONYDD 7.6.7.6.D.

Welsh Hymn Melody

Attr. to William Lloyd, 1786-1852



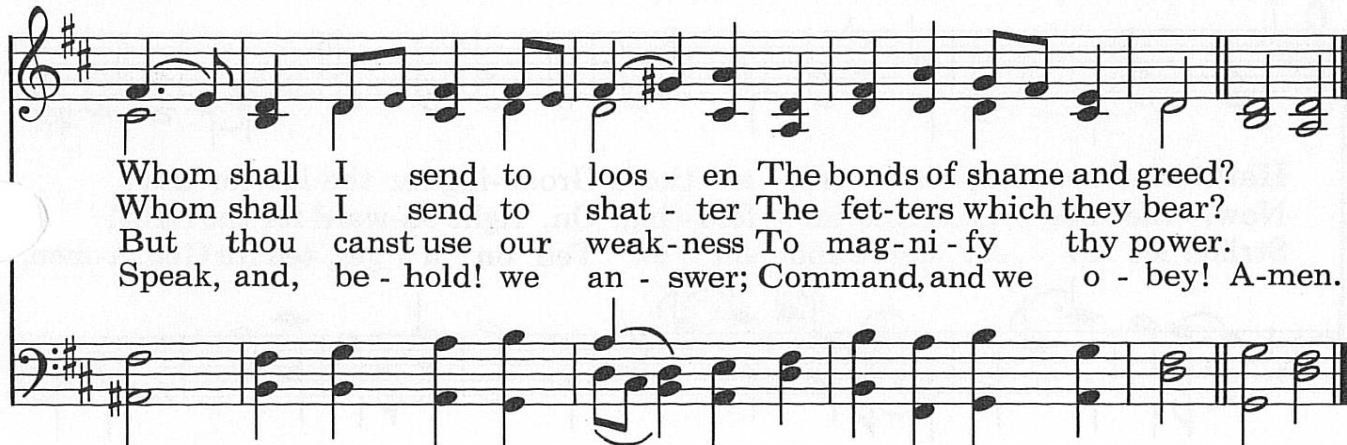
1 The voice of God is call - ing Its sum - mons un - to men;
 2 I hear my peo - ple cry - ing In cot and mine and slum;
 3 We heed, O Lord, thy sum - mons, And an - swer: Here are we!
 4 From ease and plen - ty save us; From pride of place ab - solve;



As once he spake in Zi - on, So now he speaks a - gain:
 No field or mart is si - lent, No cit - y street is dumb.
 Send us up - on thine er - rand; Let us thy serv - ants be.
 Purge us of low de - sire; Lift us to high re - solve;

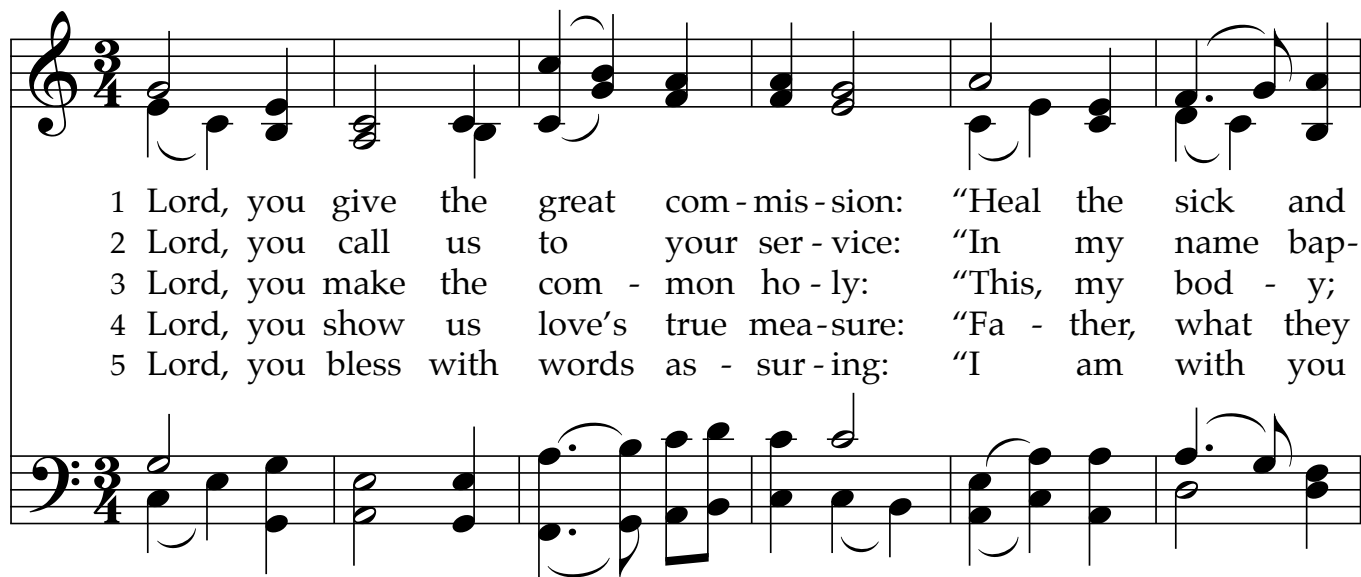


Whom shall I send to suc - cor My peo - ple in their need?
 I see my peo - ple fall - ing In dark - ness and de - spair.
 Our strength is dust and ash - es, Our years a pass - ing hour,
 Take us, and make us ho - ly; Teach us thy will and way.

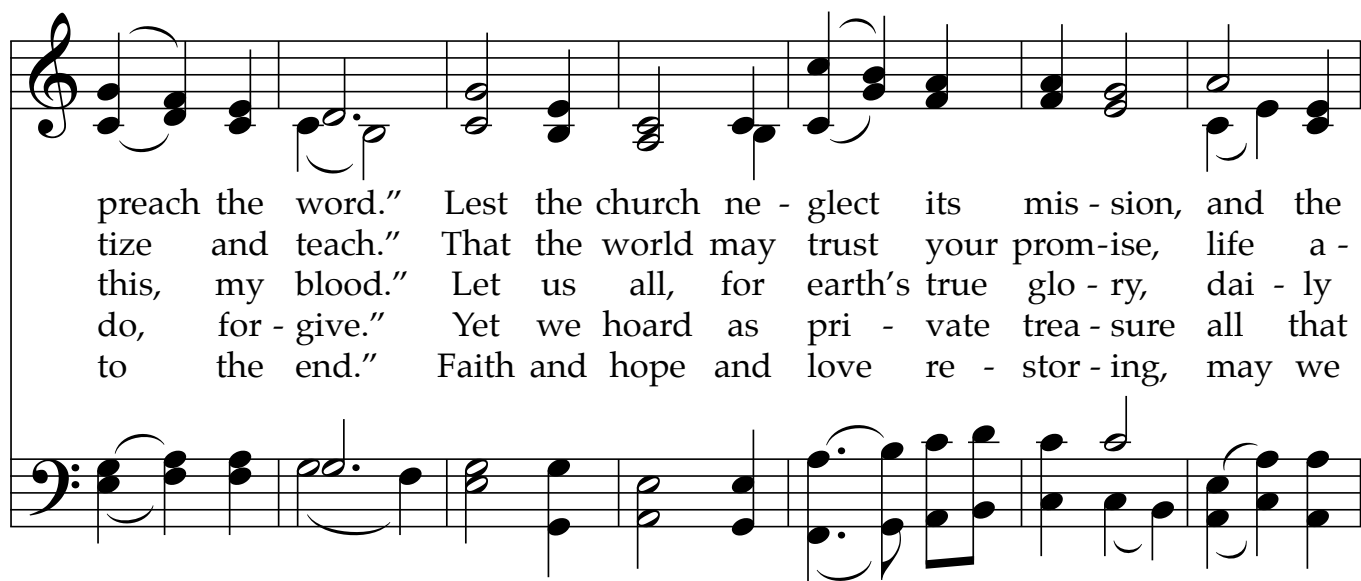


Whom shall I send to loos - en The bonds of shame and greed?
 Whom shall I send to shat - ter The fet - ters which they bear?
 But thou canst use our weak - ness To mag - ni - fy thy power.
 Speak, and, be - hold! we an - swer; Command, and we o - bey! A - men.

298 Lord, You Give the Great Commission



1 Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This, my bod - y;
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther, what they
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion, and the
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise, life a -
 this, my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry, dai - ly
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure all that
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing, may we



gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness to your
 bun - dant meant for each, give us all new fer - vor,
 lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the world a -
 you so free - ly give. May your care and mer - cy
 serve as you in - tend, and, a - mid the cares that

pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
 draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
 round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty: with the Spir - it's
 lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:
 claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:

gifts em - power us for the work of min - is - try.

United by the refrain after each stanza, this text relies on passages from Matthew and Luke to highlight various dimensions of the church's mission and ministry in the world. It was written for use with this tune, composed in the village near Bristol, England, for which it is named.

TEXT: Jeffery W. Rowthorn, 1978
 MUSIC: Cyril Vincent Taylor, 1941
 Text © 1978 Hope Publishing Company
 Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company

ABBOT'S LEIGH
 8.7.8.7.D



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Classicopia in August!

Masks, distanced seating, and proof of vaccination required.

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

Summer camp faculty—pianists Dan Weiser and Elizabeth Borowsky, and Elizabeth's accomplished siblings, cellist Frances and violinist Emmanuel—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 13, 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 his friends Ralph Allen (violin) and Iris Jortner (cello) for piano trios by two of the 19th century's preeminent composers, Clara Schumann and Fanny Mendelssohn. Both women happen to have been connected to better-known men, but they and their music deserve to be celebrated on their own! *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at classicopia.org.*



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@fcclieb.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@fcclieb.org • prayer@fcclieb.org • music@fcclieb.org • www.fcclieb.org