



The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

“We are absolutely called to be with them. But to be called, you have to hear.”

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 6-8.

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Psalm 1

All: For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Lobe den Herren

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

This is it—the traditional end of summer. While the calendar says we have a few weeks until the autumnal equinox, we live our lives as if it has already taken place. Kids are back in school, meetings are starting up for adults, and all of us are busier. I'd like to encourage everyone here to really live into this Labor Day, to take some time to rest.

After all, God worked six days creating the universe and then rested. So, let us all follow God's example. Let us look at our work, at what we have accomplished, and may we be blessed to say that is good.

Hymn 343 (p. 7) *In Heavenly Love Abiding*

Nyland

Scripture Lessons

Philemon 1:1-21. Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, ²to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our
fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵because I hear of your
love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the sharing of
your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for
Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because
the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty,
⁹yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man,
and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰I am appealing to you for my child,
Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹Formerly he was
useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him,
that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be
of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; ¹⁴but I preferred
to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary
and not something forced. ¹⁵Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a
while, so that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but more than a
slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh
and in the Lord.

¹⁷So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he
has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹I, Paul,
am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me
even your own self. ²⁰Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Re-
fresh my heart in Christ. ²¹Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing
that you will do even more than I say.

²²One thing more—prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping through your prayers
to be restored to you. ²³Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to
you, ²⁴and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers. ²⁵The grace
of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Jeremiah 18:1-11. The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: ²“Come, go down to
the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.” ³So I went down to the potter’s
house, and there he was working at his wheel. ⁴The vessel he was making of clay was
spoiled in the potter’s hand; he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

⁵Then the word of the Lord came to me: ⁶Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. ⁷At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, ⁸but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. ⁹And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, ¹⁰but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. ¹¹Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and doings.

Luke 14:25-33. ²⁵Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus]; and he turned and said to them, ²⁶"Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

Sermon

"Seeing Things Anew"

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, Ethan, and Travis.

We also offer these words for Labor Day from the Episcopal *Book of Common Prayer*:

Almighty God, whose son Jesus Christ in his earthly life shared our toil and hallowed our labor: Be present with your people where they work; make those who carry on the industries and commerce of this land responsive to your will: and give to us all a pride in what we do, and a just return for our labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of your Son Jesus, 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

Savior of the Nations, Come, BWV 599

Johann Sebastian Bach

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)

Creator God, hallow these gifts, and let us remember to treat those who will benefit from our offerings as hallowed, as your blessed children whom we are called to assist. Let us treat with dignity every person, regardless of race or national origin, as we strive to help usher in your kingdom of grace and love. 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.

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

Solemn Processional (*Water Music Suite*)

George Frideric Handel

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist • Laurel Stavis, Liturgist

Barb Jones and Barb Teeter, Ushers • Sue Pratt, 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.

KICK-OFF SUNDAY IS SEPTEMBER 11!

Next weekend we will inaugurate a new program year for the **Children's Community Corner**, affirming our kids, blessing backpacks, and enjoying fellowship and games after worship.

Come celebrate our children as they start a new year at school and at church!

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 September 11. Thank you!

Lebanon United Methodist Seeks Church Administrator

Our neighbors are looking for new a part-time church administrator, as longtime admin Jody Prue will soon be leaving the position (and the area). If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact FCC's church office for the position listing, or contact LUMC directly at 603-448-5478/office@lebanonumc.net. *LUMC appreciates the help!*

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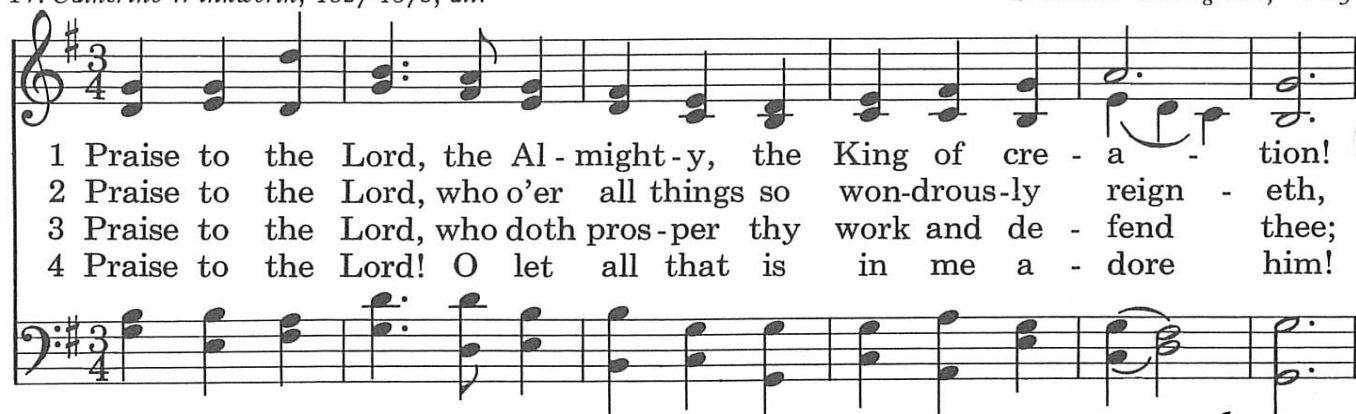
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Joachim Neander, 1650-1680

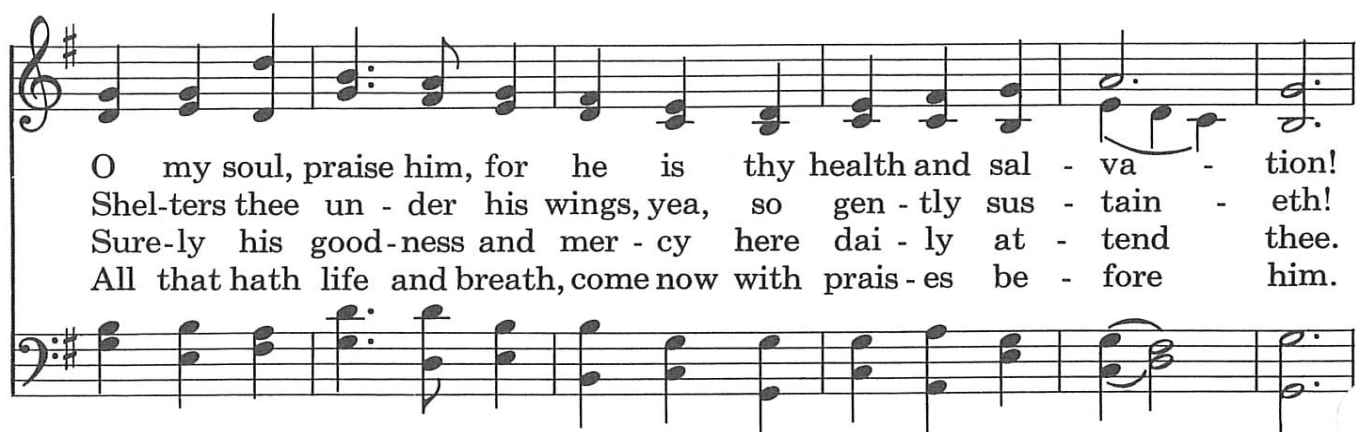
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8.

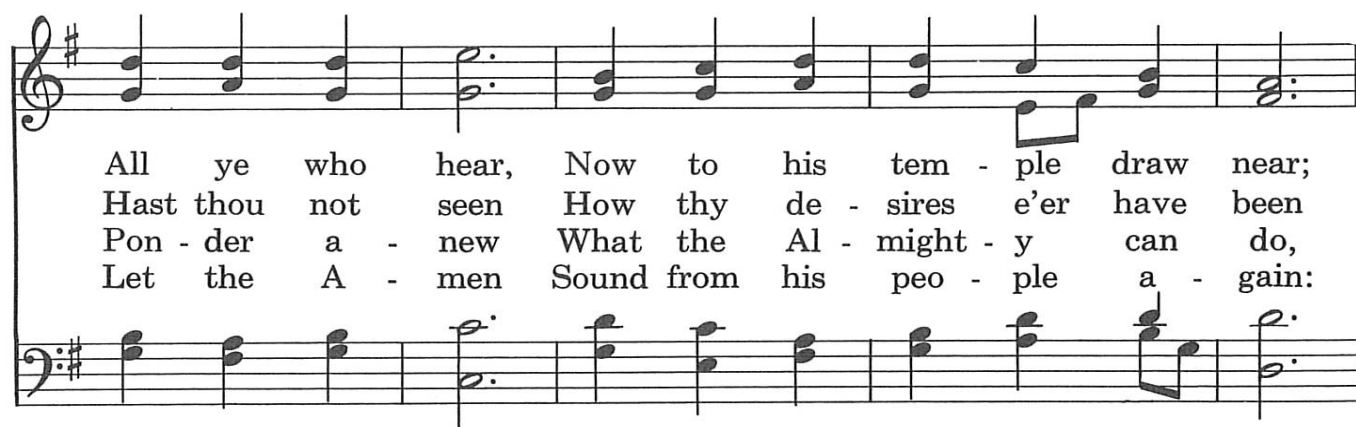
"Stralsund Gesangbuch," 1665



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre-a-tion!
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign-eth,
 3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy work and de-fend thee;
 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a-dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal-va-tion!
 Shel-ters thee un-der his wings, yea, so gen-tly sus-tain-eth!
 Sure-ly his good-ness and mer-cy here dai-ly at-tend thee.
 All that hath life and breath, come now with prais-es be-fore him.



All ye who hear, Now to his tem-ple draw near;
 Hast thou not seen How thy de-sires e'er have been
 Pon-der a-new What the Al-might-y can do,
 Let the A-men Sound from his peo-ple a-gain:



Join me in glad ad-o-ra-tion!
 Grant-ed in what he or-dain-eth?
 If with his love he be-friend thee.
 Glad-ly for aye we a-dore him. A-men.

In Heavenly Love Abiding

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Anna L. Waring 1823-1910

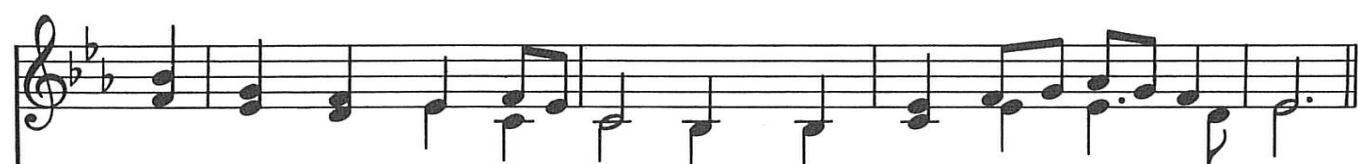
NYLAND 7.6.7.6.D.

Traditional Finnish Melody

Harm. by David Evans, 1874-1948



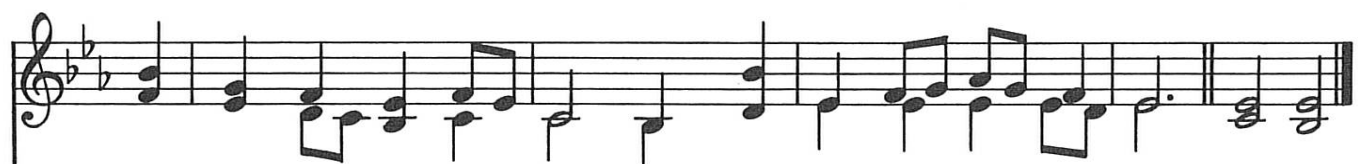
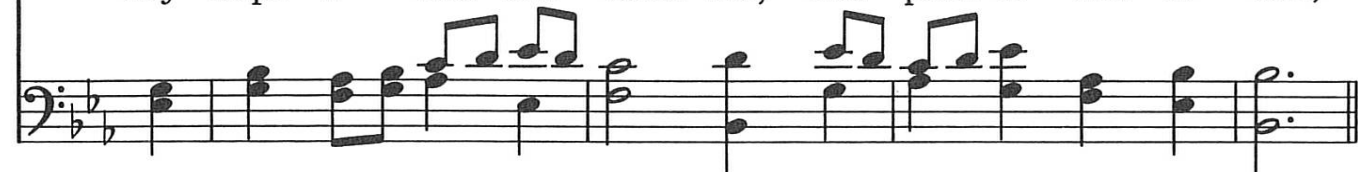
1 In heaven-ly love a - bid - ing, No change my heart shall fear,
2 Wher - ev - er he may guide me, No want shall turn me back;
3 Green pas - tures are be - fore me, Which yet I have not seen;



And safe is such con - fid - ing, For noth - ing chang-es here.
My shep-herd is be - side me, And noth - ing can I lack.
Bright skies will soon be o'er me, Where the dark clouds have been.



The storm may roar with - out me, My heart may low be laid,
His wis - dom ev - er wak - eth; His sight is nev - er dim;
My hope I can - not meas - ure; The path to life is free;



But God is round a - bout me, And can I be dis-mayed?
He knows the way he tak - eth, And I will walk with him.
My Sav - ior has my treas - ure, And he will walk with me. A-men.



Ancient Irish

Tr. by Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935

SLANE 10.10.9.10.

Traditional Irish Melody

Harm. by David Evans, 1874-1948

In unison

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,
 4 High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

Nought be all else to me save that thou art.
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 Thou mine in - her - it - ance, now and al - ways;
 May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Thou my great Fa - ther, I thy true son;
 Thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
 High King of heav - en, my treas - ure thou art.
 Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all. 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 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