



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

KICK-OFF SUNDAY! • The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 11, 2022

“And all that we know for sure is that God gives us today. And he gives us the grace that we need today to love each other and to be at peace with each other and to forgive each other.”

–Fr. Mychal Judge, Chaplain, FDNY Engine Co. 1/Ladder Co. 24

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 6-9.

Prelude

Praeludium in D Major

Dieterich Buxtehude

Call to Worship

Psalm 51:6-10

One: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

All: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

One: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

All: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Hymn 7 (p. 6)

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

St. Denio

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

From the Rising of the Sun

F. A. Gore Ouseley

Children's Moment and Blessing of the Backpacks

Today, as we formally begin a new church school year and a new program year, we bless the backpacks of our kids and the briefcases of our adults. This is meant to be a symbol of our conviction that with God, all things are possible, and that we seek God's blessing for every endeavor.

Whether we are in school, the Children's Community Corner, or the workplace, we pray that the Spirit will be present, opening our minds and our hearts to learning and opportunity.

Hymn 481 (pp. 7-8) *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*

Grand Isle

Scripture Lessons

Exodus 32:7-14. ⁷The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" ⁹The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

¹¹But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" ¹⁴And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Luke 15:1-10. Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ⁴"Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Sermon

"Giving Forgiveness"

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.

God of justice, God of hope, God of comfort: we turn to you on this, the twenty-first anniversary of the terrorist attacks on New York, Washington DC, and Pennsylvania. We remember the almost 3,000 lives taken in hate that day, and we now seek comfort in the knowledge that those souls were hallowed by you and are now in your presence.

As we commemorate the events of that day, let us neither be consumed with hate nor let those who struck that day shape the way we live. We want to be a people of hope and promise, and we pray that guided by you, saved by Jesus, and shaped by your Spirit, we will be people of light, turning away from the abyss into which it is all too easy to stumble.

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

With a Voice of Singing

Martin Shaw

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)

Creating God, we launch this new year at our church with hope that we will live the Gospel in ways that are life-giving. Accept these gifts as our commitment to share with others the Good News we find in you. In the name of our teacher and savior, Jesus Christ, we pray. 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

Prelude, from *Te Deum*

Marc-Antoine Charpentier

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist • The FCC Choir • Nan Parsons, Children's Community Corner
Linda and Bob Gerlach, Ushers • Stacey Steele, Zoom Greeter • John Gilliatt, Liturgist

All are invited to gather after worship for pizza and fellowship outdoors, as we celebrate the kids and volunteers who lead our Children's Community Corner.

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.

† Memorial Service for Carolin Bassett (1933-2022)—Saturday, September 24, at 10:00 †

Neighbors in Need: **Behold!**—Special UCC Offering This Fall

The UCC's Neighbors in Need program supports ministries of justice and compassion across the country. Two-thirds of the collection funds the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries in local and national initiatives, advocacy efforts, and the fight against systemic injustice. The rest goes to the Council for American Indian Ministry, the voice for Native Americans in the UCC, sustaining a proud denominational tradition of support. **This year, NIN is focused on economic justice, amidst severe inflation and other challenges facing households nationwide.**

Please contribute as you're able to this vital mission program, by cash or check (payable to FCC, memo "Neighbors in Need") or online at www.ucc.org/nin. Thank you!

Support LISTEN'S Harvest Match in September

This month, in lieu of food items in our shopping cart, we're asking for financial contributions of any amount toward LISTEN Community Services' Harvest Match. A generous donor has offered LISTEN a \$25,000 matching gift in support of its food programs.

Please consider a donation by cash or check (payable to FCC, memo "LISTEN Match") by September 27, and we'll send LISTEN the total to be added to the Harvest Match.

READING WHILE BLACK—Book Group Starts October 5 on Zoom

All are invited to join this weekly exploration of Esau McCaulley's *Reading While Black: African American Biblical Interpretation as an Exercise in Hope* (2020). Prof. McCaulley is a Black Christian who has a powerful story to tell, and his book leads us to look at Scripture with fresh eyes.

Discussions will be Wednesdays at 7:00 pm on Zoom, starting October 5. Books will be provided free of charge, but you must reserve a copy by September 21. To RSVP or ask questions, please contact Rev. Steve Silver at silver@fccleb.org or 603-448-4281.



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Fall Concerts Start Next Weekend!

Masks, distanced seating, and proof of vaccination required.

The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, Sept. 16, Oct. 14 and 28, Nov. 11 and 25, all 7:30 pm

This comfy community venue for live local music returns! An informal “listening room” for emerging musicians, each show features several acoustic acts. Patrons come and go as they please; food and drink available. *Free admission. For performer info and more, visit anoncoffee.org.*

Will Ögmundson, Piano—Sunday, September 25, at 3:00 pm

Our longtime friend Will Ogmundson has joined UVMC's faculty as a Collaborative Pianist, and to celebrate we're hosting this Sunday-afternoon recital of original compositions and favorite repertoire. *For more, please visit uvmusic.org/event/faculty-concert-william-ogmundson.*

The 2022 Lebanon CROP Walk—Sunday, October 9

Every year thousands across the country join the **CROP Hunger Walk**, organized by Church World Service to fight hunger, food insecurity, and poverty worldwide. First held in Bismarck, ND, in October 1969, the walk has become a community event in over 2000 towns, as local organizations advocate for hunger relief and share fellowship on a crisp fall afternoon.

This year's walk will happen in-person, and all contributions should be made online (not through FCC). We'll offer light food and refreshments to all participants on the front lawn, renewing our long tradition of post-walk fellowship and hospitality. Here's what you can do:

Walk!—Whether on your own or as a group of family and friends, register online at www.crophungerwalk.org/lebanonnh/. Then, invite sponsors to donate in your name.

Serve!—Contribute food and/or help in some way with post-walk fellowship (*details TBD*).

Donate!—Sponsor a walker, or give directly online at www.crophungerwalk.org/lebanonnh/.

Sing a New Song—NHC-UCC Annual Conference, October 15

FCC will pay for up to four delegates to attend (either in person or online); contact the church office if interested. *Schedule and details at www.nhcucc.org/conference-ministries/2022-annual-meeting.*

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Walter C. Smith, 1824-1908, alt.

ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.
Welsh Hymn Melody

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est to both great and small;
 4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

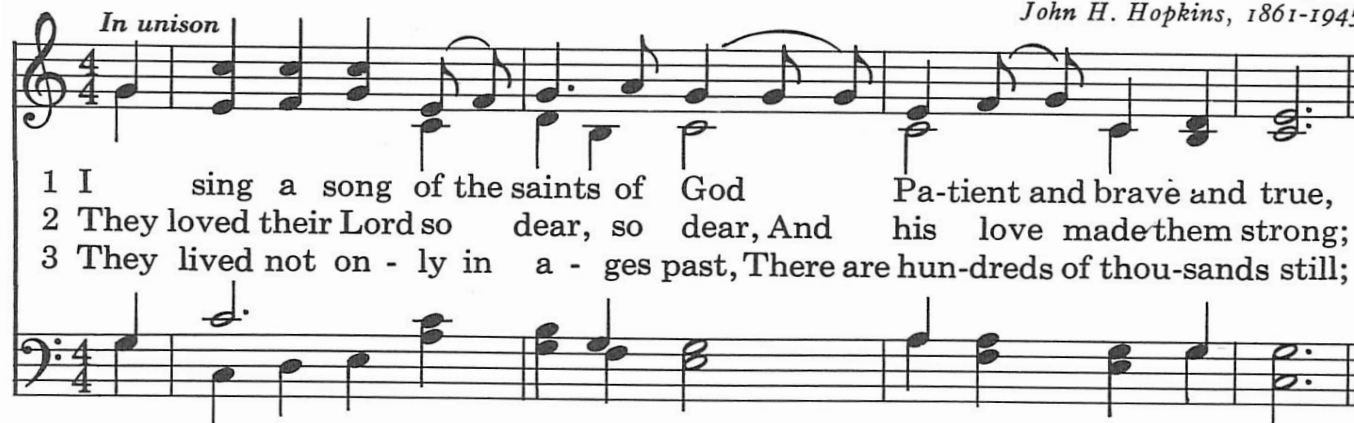
Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 And with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee. A - men.

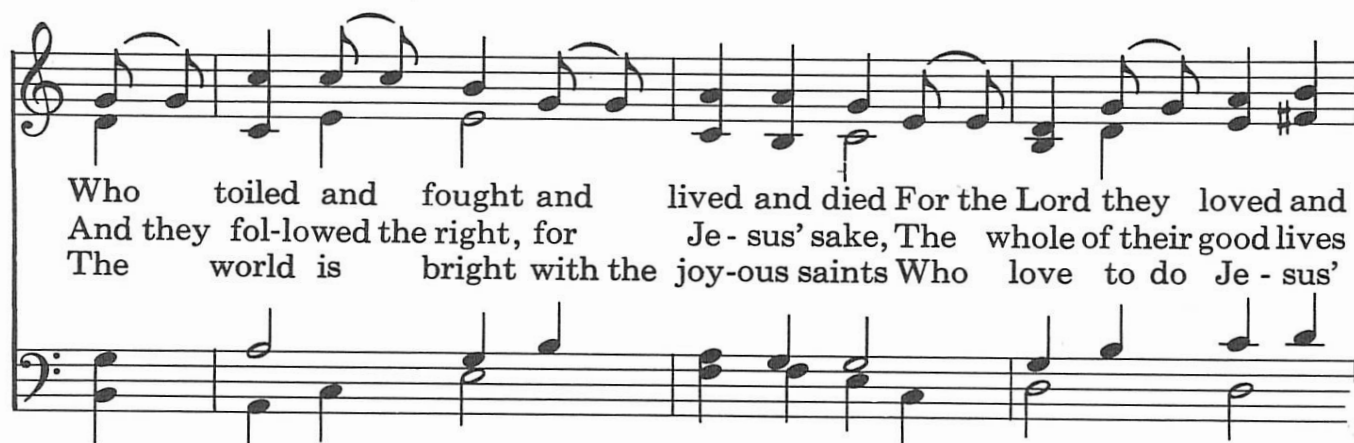
Lesbia Scott, 1898- , alt.

GRAND ISLE *Irregular*
John H. Hopkins, 1861-1945

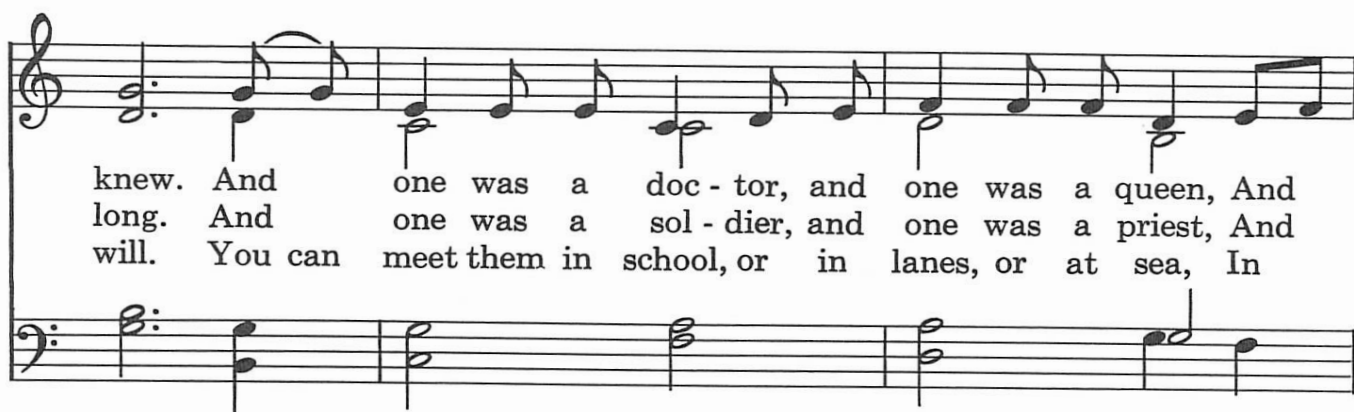
In unison



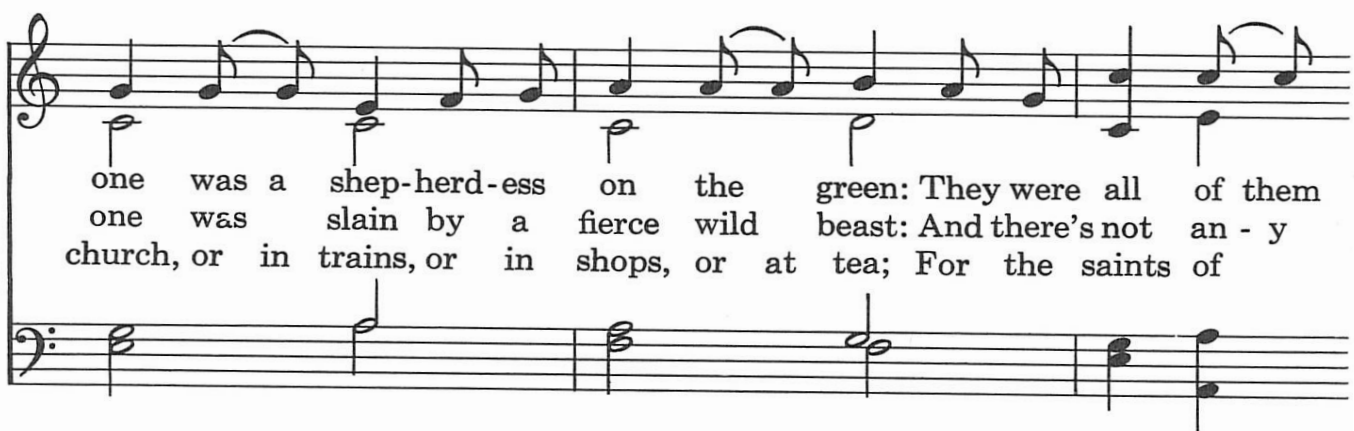
1 I sing a song of the saints of God Pa-tient and brave and true,
 2 They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, And his love made them strong;
 3 They lived not on - ly in a - ges past, There are hun-dreds of thou-sands still;



Who toiled and fought and lived and died For the Lord they loved and
 And they fol-lowed the right, for Je - sus' sake, The whole of their good lives
 The world is bright with the joy-ous saints Who love to do Je - sus'



knew. And one was a doc - tor, and one was a queen, And
 long. And one was a sol - dier, and one was a priest, And
 will. You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, In



one was a shep-herd-ess on the green: They were all of them
 one was slain by a fierce wild beast: And there's not an - y
 church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea; For the saints of

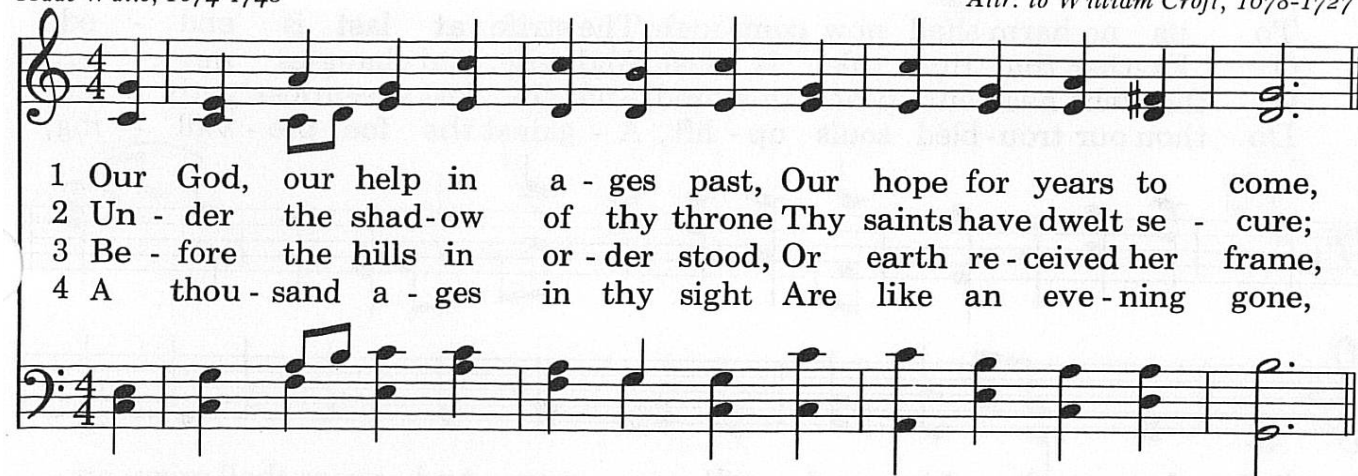


saints of God, and I mean, God help - ing, to be one too.
 rea - son, no, not the least, Why I shouldn't be one too.
 God are just folk like me, And I mean to be one too.

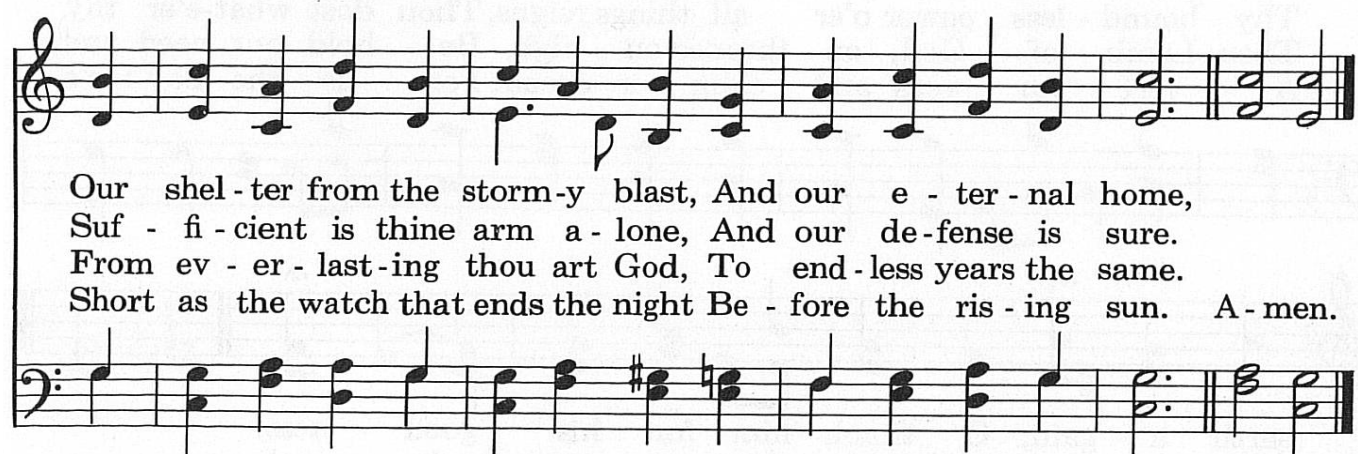
Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Based on Psalm 90
 Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

ST. ANNE C.M.
 Attr. to William Croft, 1678-1727



1 Our God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
 2 Un - der the shad - ow of thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, Or earth re - ceived her frame,
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home,
 Suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
 From ev - er - last - ing thou art God, To end - less years the same.
 Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun. A - men.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
 Bears all its sons away;
 They fly, forgotten, as a dream
 Dies at the opening day.</p> | <p>6 Our God, our help in ages past,
 Our hope for years to come,
 Be thou our guard while troubles last,
 And our eternal home.</p> |
|--|--|

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

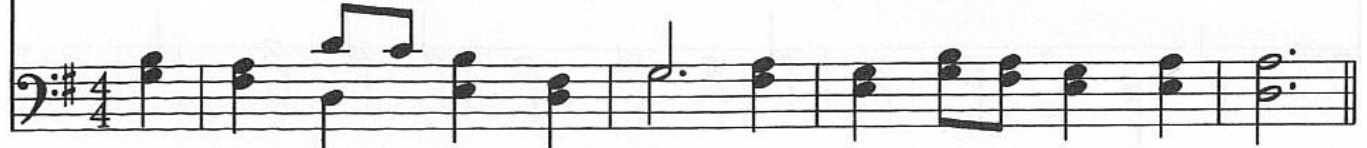
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Edward H. Plumptre, 1821-1891

MARION S.M. with Refrain
Arthur H. Messiler, 1834-1916



1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart; Re - joice, give thanks and sing;
2 Bright youth and snow-crowned age, Strong men and maid - ens meek,
3 With voice as full and strong As o - cean's surg - ing praise,
4 Yes, on through life's long path, Still chant - ing as ye go,



Your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, The cross of Christ your King!
Raise high your free, ex - ult - ing song, God's won-drous prais-es speak.
Send forth the hymns our fa - thers loved, The psalms of an - cient days.
From youth to age, by night and day, In glad-ness and in woe.



REFRAIN



Re - joice, re - joice, Re - joice, give thanks and sing. A-men.



Re - joice, re - joice,

5 Still lift your standard high,
Still march in firm array,
As warriors through the darkness toil
Till dawns the golden day!

6 Praise him who reigns on high,
The Lord whom we adore,
The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
One God for evermore!



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