



taught and how it is being taught, we may gain insights and knowledge that we would otherwise miss. If you think about how God operates, God will use the oddest, strangest moments to communicate with humanity, with us, each and every day.

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

Wareham

### Scripture Lessons

**Amos 6:1a, 4-7.** Alas for those who are at ease in Zion, and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria[...]<sup>4</sup>Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory, and lounge on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock, and calves from the stall; <sup>5</sup>who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp, and like David improvise on instruments of music; <sup>6</sup>who drink wine from bowls, and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! <sup>7</sup>Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

**Luke 16:19-31.** [Jesus continued,]<sup>19</sup>“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup>And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup>who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. <sup>22</sup>The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup>In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup>He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’ <sup>25</sup>But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup>Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ <sup>27</sup>He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house—<sup>28</sup>for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ <sup>29</sup>Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ <sup>30</sup>He said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ <sup>31</sup>He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

Sermon      *“Painfully Clueless”*

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 388 (p. 7)      *Help Us Accept Each Other*

Aurelia

### 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.

Holy, loving God: you seek to teach us, to be with us, to lead us onto a path of righteousness. We know that this way can be difficult, but we know that heeding the call of instant gratification or doing what the wider culture would have us do leads us away from you, and from the community of Christ. Help us to learn from you, to follow your example, to live with joy and possibility into our vocations as disciples of Jesus.

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**                      *Jesu, the Very Thought of Thee*                      Edward Bairstow

### **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)**

In Jesus, you have called us to serve others.  
In Jesus, you have called us to share the Good News.  
In Jesus, you have called us to the way of love.  
Accept these gifts as our commitment to accept your call with gratitude, dedication, and excitement. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**Hymn 8 (p. 8)**                      *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*                      Hymn to Joy

### **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**                      *Rejoice, Beloved Christians, BWV 734*                      Johann Sebastian Bach

\* \* \*

## *Leading Worship This Week*

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor  
Ernie Drown, Organist • The FCC Choir • Denise Moriearty, 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](mailto:prayer@fccleb.org) or speak with Rev. Silver directly.*

## **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](http://www.ucc.org/nin). Thank you!*

## **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/](http://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/](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/lebanonnh/).

## **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 still must reserve a copy as soon as possible. To RSVP or ask questions, please contact Rev. Steve Silver at [silver@fccleb.org](mailto:silver@fccleb.org) or 603-448-4281.*

## O Be Joyful in the Lord!

First Tune

Based on Psalm 100  
Curtis Beach, 1914-

ROCK OF AGES 7.7.7.7.5.7.6.7.  
Traditional Hebrew Melody

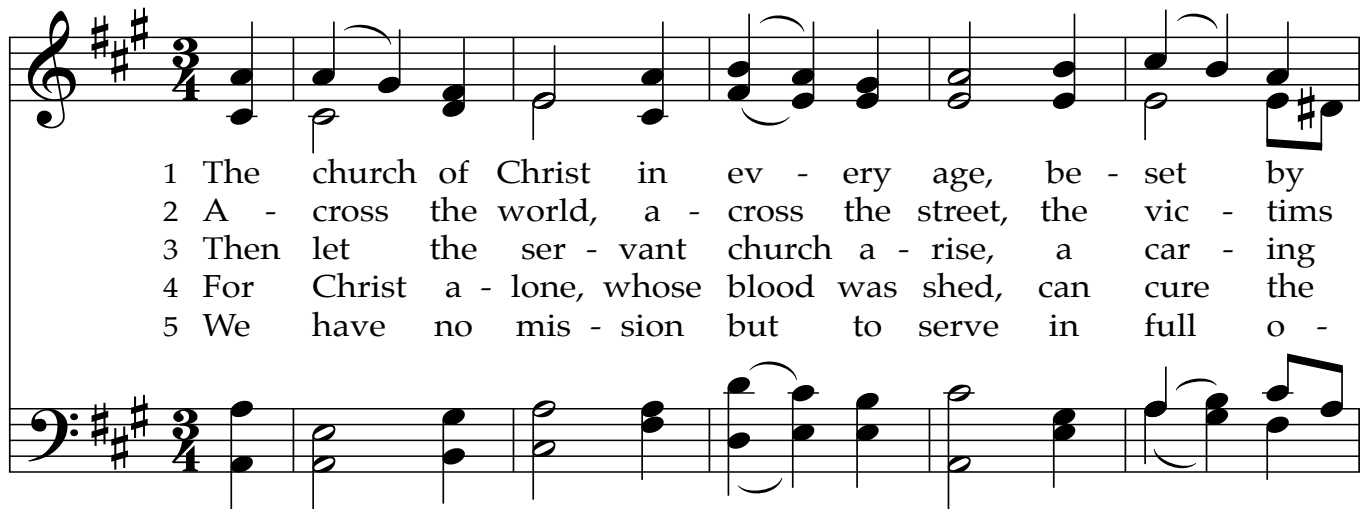
1 O be joy - ful in the Lord! Sing be - fore him, all the earth!  
2 Know ye that the Lord is King! All his works his wis - dom prove!  
3 En - ter now his ho - ly gate; Let our bur - dened hearts be still;  
4 For the Lord our God is kind, And his love shall con - stant be;

Praise him with a glad ac - cord And with lives of no - blest worth.  
By his might the heav - ens ring; In his love we live and move.  
In the sa - cred si - lence wait, As we seek to know his will.  
In his will our peace we find; In his serv - ice, lib - er - ty.

Sons of ev - ery land, Hum - bly now be - fore him stand!  
By him we are made, So we trust him un - a - fraid.  
Let our lives ex - press Our a - bun - dant thank - ful - ness;  
Yea, his law is sure; In his light we walk se - cure;

Raise your voice and re - joice In the boun - ty of his hand.  
Stand - ing fast to the last, By his hand our lives are stayed.  
All our days, all our ways, Shall our Fa - ther's love con - fess.  
Ev - er - more, as of yore, Shall his change - less truth en - dure. A - men.

# 320 The Church of Christ in Every Age



1 The church of Christ in every 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.

# Help Us Accept Each Other

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*Fred Kaan, 1974; alt.*

*John 15:12; 17:20–23; Eph. 4:1–6, 11–16*

- 1 Help us ac-cept each oth-er  
as Christ ac-cept-ed us;  
teach us as sis-ter, broth-er,  
each per-son to em-brace.  
Be pres-ent, God, a-mong us,  
and bring us to be-lieve  
we are our-selves ac-cept-ed  
and meant to love and live.
- 2 Teach us, O God, your les-sons,  
as in our dai-ly life  
we strug-gle to be hu-man  
and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for peo-ple,  
for all, not just for some,  
to love them as we find them,  
or as they may be-come.
- 3 Let your ac-cep-tance change us,  
so that we may be moved  
in liv-ing sit-u-a-tions  
to do the truth in love;  
To prac-tice your ac-cep-tance,  
un-til we know by heart  
the ta-ble of for-give-ness  
and laugh-ter's heal-ing art.
- 4 God, for to-day's en-coun-ters  
with all who are in need,  
who hun-ger for ac-cep-tance,  
for righ-teous-ness and bread,  
Bring us new eyes for see-ing,  
new hands for hold-ing on;  
re-new us with your Spir-it;  
God! Free us, make us one!

*Dutch theologian Fred Kaan was ordained in the United Reformed Church in England and Wales and has served as an international church administrator. Author of more than 200 hymns, Kaan frequently has addressed contemporary issues in his texts.*

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.  
*Samuel S. Wesley, 1864*

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Music  
at the  
Meetinghouse

## Fall Concerts!

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

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

Our longtime friend Will Ögmundson 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. Don't miss the chance to enjoy Will's brilliant playing and engaging performance style! Adults \$20, under 18 free; for more, please visit [uvmusic.org](http://uvmusic.org).

**The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fri., Oct. 7 (tentative), 14, 28; Nov. 11, 25; Dec. 2, all 7:30 pm**

The popular 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](http://anoncoffee.org).

**Alicia Casey, Violin, and Annemieke McLane, Piano—Saturday, October 15, at 4:00 pm**

These two excellent musicians, both on the faculty at UVMC, share a program sponsored by UVMC and Vermont Violins. Admission cost TBD; for more, please visit [uvmusic.org](http://uvmusic.org).

**Camerata New England—Saturday, October 22, at 7:00 pm**

**Classicopia: Dan Weiser, Piano, and Anna Pelczer, Viola—Sunday, October 23, at 2:00 pm**

**Rachel Clemente, Harp—Saturday, October 29, at 7:00 pm (time tentative)**

**Leslie Stroud, Flute, and Matthew Odell, Piano—Sunday, November 6, at 3:00 pm**

**The Balourdet Quartet—Saturday, November 12, at 4:00 pm**

**Classicopia: Dan Weiser, Piano, and Diego Carneiro, Cello—Sunday, November 13, at 2:00 pm**

# 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.





**First Congregational Church of Lebanon**

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Lebanon NH 03766

**Weekly Worship Resources Enclosed!**

*DATED MATERIAL—Please Deliver Promptly*

***Do you use email? Contact [church@fccleb.org](mailto:church@fccleb.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@fccleb.org](mailto:church@fccleb.org) • [prayer@fccleb.org](mailto:prayer@fccleb.org) • [music@fccleb.org](mailto:music@fccleb.org) • [www.fccleb.org](http://www.fccleb.org)**