



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 30, 2023

“Perhaps home is not a place but simply an irrevocable condition.”

—James Baldwin

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 4-7.

Prelude

Ave Maria von Arcadelt

Franz Liszt

Call to Worship

Psalm 23 (King James Version)

One: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

All: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

One: He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

All: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

One: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

All: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Hymn 70 (p. 4)

God Is Here!

Abbot's Leigh

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

Ave Maria

attr. Jacob Arcadelt

Children's Moment

I'd like to talk with you today about the power of words.

Sometimes, we can hurt with words. We can share an insult. We can bully. But we can also offer healing and comfort. We can say we're sorry. Or say we care. We can offer a

word of comfort. Some of these words can stay with us all our life. An example is the psalm we read today. The 23rd Psalm is beloved. Many people here know it by heart. The poetry is beautiful, the sentiment is powerful. And the promise—that God will be with us, always—is truly affirming.

Hymn 80 (p. 5) *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

St. Columba

Scripture Lessons

Acts 2:42-47. ⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

John 10:1-10. [Jesus continued,] "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.

¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Sermon "God's Got Your Back"

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 391 (p. 6) *Be Thou My Vision*

Slane

Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

As we hold our community members in prayer, please exercise care and discretion when sharing. Help us keep our prayer list current by contacting the church office to add or remove names.

Today we offer ongoing prayers for Pete, Arlene, Evelyn, Barbara, Gordon, Greg, Edith, Jan, Eileen, Waneta, Terry, Juanita, Dan, Ethan, Travis, Garrett, Sue, Rick, and Duane.

Loving God, you have gathered us as a shepherd would, thinking not of yourself but of your charges. Though there are times that we wander and stray, we fear we will get lost. We think that we know what is best, that we have all the right answers, but in truth, we do not. We have turned from the Way of your Son, and in doing so, have lost our way.

Help us, we pray, to find our way back to you, to the life you wish for us, to your everlasting peace, and comfort, and love.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, 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 *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* Virgil Thomson

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*)

Gracious God, just as the psalmist tells us that you have set a table for us in our time of need, we are inspired to provide for those who need our support today. Inspire our generosity to give of our time and our money, to aid your children to the best of our ability, here in the Upper Valley and around the world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Hymn 410 (p. 7) *God Is Calling through the Whisper* W żłobie leży

Benediction

Postlude *Der Papst-Hymnus* Franz Liszt

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor
Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Laurel Stavis, Liturgist
Barb Jones and Chris Chase, 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.

God Is Here! As We Your People Meet

Fred Pratt Green, 1978; alt.

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer praise and prayer,
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long need of grace;
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's flock and fold;
 4 Sov - ereign God, of earth and heav - en, in an age of change and doubt

May we find in full - er mea - sure what it is in Christ we share.
 Here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit, here the cross has cen - tral place.
 Here as bread and wine are tak - en, Christ sus - tains us as of old.
 Keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel, help us work your pur - pose out.

Here, as in the world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 Here in hon - es - ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
 Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
 Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Though he retired in 1969, this distinguished British poet has continued to write hymns. In addition to administering several circuits and local congregations, Fred Pratt Green published plays, translations, and poems. Emory University in Atlanta awarded him an honorary doctorate.

Tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH 8.7.8.7.D.
 Cyril V. Taylor, 1941

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The King of Love My Shepherd Is

80

Second Tune

Based on Psalm 23
Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877

ST. COLUMBA 8.7.8.7
Ancient Irish Melody

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, With

good - ness fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
ran - somed soul he lead - eth, And where the ver - dant
yet in love he sought me, And on his shoul - der
thee, dear Lord, be - side me: Thy rod and staff my

I am his, And he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gen - tly laid, And home re - joic - ing brought me.
com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me. A - men.

o Thou spread'st a table in my sight,
Thy unction grace bestoweth,
And O what transport of delight
From thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
Within thy house forever.

Be Thou My Vision

*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.

410 God Is Calling through the Whisper

1 God is call-ing through the whis-per of the Spir - it's deep-est sighs,
2 God is call-ing through the voic-es of our neigh-bors' ur-gent prayers,
3 God is call-ing through the mu-sic of sub-lime and hu-man arts,

through the thrill of sud-den beau-ties that can catch us by sur-prise.
through their long-ing for re-demp-tion and for res-cue from de-spair.
through the hymns of earth and an-gels, and the car-ols of our hearts.

Flash of light-ning, crash of thun-der; hush of still-ness, rush of won-der:
Place of hurt or face of need-ing; stri-dent cry or si-lent plead-ing:
Lift of joy and gift of sing-ing; days and nights our prais-es bring-ing:

God is call-ing—can you hear? God is call-ing—can you hear?
God is call-ing—can you hear? God is call-ing—can you hear?
God is call-ing—and we hear! God is call-ing—and we hear!

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the piano accompaniment in the bass staff. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff. The score is divided into four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: 1 God is call-ing through the whis-per of the Spir - it's deep-est sighs, 2 God is call-ing through the voic-es of our neigh-bors' ur-gent prayers, 3 God is call-ing through the mu-sic of sub-lime and hu-man arts, through the thrill of sud-den beau-ties that can catch us by sur-prise. through their long-ing for re-demp-tion and for res-cue from de-spair. through the hymns of earth and an-gels, and the car-ols of our hearts. Flash of light-ning, crash of thun-der; hush of still-ness, rush of won-der: Place of hurt or face of need-ing; stri-dent cry or si-lent plead-ing: Lift of joy and gift of sing-ing; days and nights our prais-es bring-ing: God is call-ing—can you hear? God is call-ing—can you hear? God is call-ing—can you hear? God is call-ing—can you hear? God is call-ing—and we hear! God is call-ing—and we hear!

This wide-ranging text reminds us of the many surprising and urgent ways God calls to us, both to draw us near and to send us forth. In the third line of music it is especially effective at harnessing the momentum of the phrases that are each a note higher than the one before.

TEXT: Mary Louise Bringle, 2003

MUSIC: Polish carol; harm. Wilbur Lee, 1958

Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.

Music Harm. © 1958 Broadman Press (admin. Music Services)

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

8.7.8.7.8.8.7.7

(this tune in a higher key, 128)



The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, April 28 and May 12, 7:30 pm

Our popular community venue for live local music! Patrons come and go as they please; baked goods and beverages available. *Free admission. For performer info and more, visit anoncoffee.org.*

Classicopia: Vibrant Violin—Sunday, April 30, at 2:00 pm

Pianist Dan Weiser welcomes back Hanover-born virtuoso violinist Roseminna Watson for a program of thrilling music by W. A. Mozart, Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Béla Bartók, and César Franck. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at classicopia.org/concert/vibrant-violin-2.*

Take Pause, Take Courage: A Viola Recital—Saturday, May 6, at 1:30 pm

UVMC's Jennifer Turbes and pianist Will Ögmundson share a thoughtful selection of music by Reena Esmail, Jessie Montgomery, Harry Burleigh, and more. *More at uvmusic.org/events.*

Bel Canto Chamber Singers: Journeys—Sat., May 6, at 7:30 pm / Sun., May 7, at 4:00 pm

Jane Woods directs Bel Canto in a musical survey of journeys in their many forms, from physical travel to imaginative and spiritual exploration, from past memories to future hopes. The program features a variety of genres in music for choir, piano, and the handbells of the Church of Christ at Dartmouth. *Adults \$15, students \$10, under 13 free; for more, visit www.belcantosingers.org.*

UVMC Sing & Play Festival—Saturday, May 20 (various times and locations)

A celebration of music making by each other, for each other! Various studio recitals and class performances will happen in our Sanctuary and Parish Hall. *Free to all; more at uvmusic.org/events.*

Classicopia: Musical Mothers—Sunday, May 28, at 2:00 pm

Dan Weiser and Borowsky siblings Emmanuel (violin) and Frances (cello) belatedly celebrate Mother's Day with a program of women composers, from Americans Amy Beach and Undine Smith Moore to Dutch composer Heleen Verleur and early-20th-century Croatian Dora Pejačević. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at classicopia.org/concert/musical-mothers-3.*

Liz Simmons and Casey Murray: Folk, Roots, and Cello—Saturday, June 3, at 7:30 pm

Celebrating the release of her solo recording *Poets*, Brattleboro singer-songwriter and guitarist Liz Simmons (of the band Low Lily) offers a program with the versatile, classically-trained cellist Casey Murray (of Corner House). They'll play both traditional and original songs, reflecting on the sea, adventure, love, loss, and more. *Suggested donation \$10-20; for more, visit lizsimmons.net.*

Cantabile Women's Chorus: We Sing Her Song—Sunday, June 4, at 4:00 pm

This superb ensemble honors the lives and experiences of historical, biblical, and ordinary women in music of Johannes Brahms, Gwyneth Walker, Randall Thompson, Alice Parker, Rosephanye Powell, and more. *Adults \$15, seniors \$10, students \$5, under 13 free; more at www.cantabilewomen.org.*

Cameo Baroque: Music of the French Baroque—Friday, June 9, at 7:00 pm

Ernie Drown and friends share a delightful taste of François Couperin, Jacques-Christophe Naudot, and other French composers. *Free-will donation, beneficiary TBD; more at cameoarts.org.*

Register Now for Classicopia's Music Camp at FCC/UVMC!—August 14-19, 9a-3p Daily

This immersive program offers instrumental and vocal instruction to students aged 8-18, with outstanding faculty and guest artists. *More details and registration at classicopia.org/summer-camp/.*



Mother's Day is Blanket Sunday

We are pleased to participate once again in Church World Service's **CWS BLANKETS** program, a special mission project that provides blankets and essential supplies to people in crisis worldwide. (For more, please visit www.cwsblankets.org.)

If you'd like to honor or remember the mother(s) in your life with a contribution to **CWS BLANKETS**, please complete this form and either put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church (PO Box 230, Lebanon, NH 03766). The suggested minimum donation is \$10, but any amount is welcome!

Dedications must be received by noon on THURSDAY, MAY 11 to be included in the bulletin for MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 14.

Given by _____

In honor of _____

☐ Please send a card (include address on back)

In memory of _____

Contribution: _____ (payable to FCC, memo "Blanket Sunday")

Guest Preacher Next Sunday—The Rev. Gordon Rankin, NH Conference Minister

Plan to join us the first Sunday in May to welcome the Rev. Gordon Rankin, NH Conference Minister. In addition to leading worship, preaching, and sharing communion with us, Rev. Rankin will talk about the work of the NH Conference and his own life in ministry.

Celebrate the Children's Community Corner—Children's Sunday, June 11

The **Children's Community Corner** is excited to lead worship and mark the end of the school year. Please join us for one of the annual highlights of our communal church life!

If you and/or your children are interested in participating or have questions, please contact Nan Parsons (nlp3721@yahoo.com/603-863-8354) or the church office.



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@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 • prayer@fccleb.org • music@fccleb.org • www.fccleb.org