

First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ - Open and Affirming

The Fourth Sunday of Easter April 21, 2024

We are shaped and fashioned by what we love.

-Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 5-8.

Prelude Prel

Prelude and Fugue in B-Flat, BWV 560

Johann Sebastian Bach(?)

Call to Worship Psalm 23 (KJV)

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. 5) 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 This Is My Father's World Eng. Folk Tune, arr. Franklin Sheppard

Children's Moment

Hymn 327 (p. 6) Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Bradbury

Scripture Lessons

Acts 4:5-12. ⁵The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' ¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

John 10:11-18. ¹¹[Jesus said,] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

Sermon

"Who Wants to Be a Sheep?"

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 803 (p. 7)

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Resignation

Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

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

Today we offer ongoing prayers for Pete, Arlene, Evelyn, Greg, Jan, Edith, Eileen, Waneta, Terry, Juanita, Dan, Travis, Garrett, Sue, Rick, Edward, Duane, Priscilla, Ron, Lauren, Brian, Micah, Al, and Steve.

God, who cares for us as a shepherd would his flock: we are grateful that we are not alone, that as we make our way through life, you are with us, guiding us along the way

to the still waters. Help us to be alert to your direction, to listen to you when you beckon us to turn away from danger or deliver us from the valley of the shadow of death. Help us to have the confidence to know that we are all in need of a shepherd. Stop us from straying, and lead us back to you.

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

Brother James' Air

Trad., arr. Gordon Jacob

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)

Shepherd God,

Whether we are confident, whether we are lost,

You care for us, you guide us, you love us.

In times of joy, in times of sorrow,

You care for us, you guide us, you love us.

In all the seasons of our lives,

You care for us, you guide us, you love us.

With faith, with gladness, with hope, we offer these gifts, a sign of our gratitude. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Hymn 6 (p. 8)

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above

Lyons

Benediction

Postlude

Fugue in G Minor, BWV 587

Johann Sebastian Bach

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist • The FCC Choir • Phil Hammond, Baritone Deb Scott, Liturgist • Sue Pratt and Stacey Steele, Ushers • Dominic Watson, 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.



Spring Concerts

All in the FCC Sanctuary

The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, April 19, 26, and May 10, all at 7:30 pm Our comfy community venue for live folk music is thriving in its fourth season! Come and go as you please; food and drink available. Free admission. For performers and more, visit anoncoffee.org.

Classicopia: The Folk Cello—Sunday, April 21, at 2:00 pm

South African cellist Jacques-Pierre Malan joins Dan Weiser to explore folk influences in music for cello and piano by Edvard Grieg, Astor Piazzolla, and a suite based on Georgian tunes by Sulkhan Tsintsadze. Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at classicopia.org/concert/thefolk-cello/.

Bel Canto Chamber Singers: Your Soul Is Song—Sat., May 4, at 7:30 / Sun., May 5, at 4:00 Director Jane Woods and Bel Canto celebrate the hope and renewal of spring in a program for choir, piano, and strings, featuring music of J. S. Bach, Felix Mendelssohn, Eric Whitacre, Joan Szymko, Ola Gjeilo, and more. Adults \$15, students \$10, under 13 free; for more, visit belcantosingers.org.

Harmony Night A Cappella-Saturday, May 11, at 7:00 pm

Harmony Night, the Upper Valley's multi-generational *a cappella* chorus directed by Mark Nelson, offers a spring program of music from a variety of eras and cultures. *Free-will donation*.

Cameo Baroque Benefit Concert: The French Baroque—Sunday, May 12, at 2:00 pm This superb ensemble (Ernie Drown, Beth Hilgartner, Leslie Stroud, and Laurie Rabut) shares a selection of music by François Couperin, Marin Marais, Jean-Baptiste Quentin, and Jacques de Bournonville. Free-will donation, beneficiary TBD; more at www.cameoarts.org.

Upper Valley Music Center Sing & Play Festival—Saturday, May 18 (various times)

Classicopia: Fabulous Females-Sunday, May 19, at 2:00 pm

Brooks Hubbard: A Benefit for Good Neighbor Health Clinics—Sunday, May 19, at 7:00 pm

Register Now for Classicopia's Music Camp at FCC/UVMC!—August 5-10, 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/*.

Fred Pratt Green, 1978; alt.



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

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

BRADBURY 8.7.8.7.D. Attr. to Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847 William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868 1 Say-ior, like a shep-herd lead Much we need thy ten-der care; us, the guard-ian of our way; Be 2 We are thine; do thou be - friend us; vor; Ear - ly let us do thy will; let us seek thy fa 3 Ear - ly thy pleas-ant pas-tures feed For our use thy folds pre-pare. us, Seek us when we go a - stray. Keep thy flock; from sin de - fend us; With thy love our bos-oms fill. Bless-ed Lord and on - ly ior, Sav -Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, thine we are; Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Hear thy chil-dren when they pray; Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still: Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless-ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, thine we are. Bless-ed Je - sus, Bless-ed Je - sus, Hear thy chil-dren when they pray. Je - sus, Bless-ed Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still. A-men.

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need 803



The effectiveness of this beloved paraphrase of Psalm 23 owes much to the flowing shape note melody that serves as a "living stream" to carry the text, which in turn has been given a remarkable clarity and lightness through the poet's masterful use of single-syllable words.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

RESIGNATION CMD



Mother's Day



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 9 to be included in the bulletin for MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 12.

Please send a card (include address on back)

(payable to FCC, memo "Blanket Sunday")

Contribution:

In memory of

In honor of

Given by

Do Your	Part	to Fill	the	Cart!

Join the fight against poverty and food insecurity in the Upper Valley by leaving contributions in our shopping cart in the Parish Hall, benefiting a variety of local service organizations.

This month, we're collecting non-perishable food and personal-care items on behalf of:

THE UPPER VALLEY HAVEN

For a list of current and ongoing needs, please visit uppervalleyhaven.org/current-wish-lists/ or see the list that is attached to the shopping cart itself.

Direct financial contributions to any Upper Valley service organization are always needed and much appreciated. Thanks for fighting local poverty and hunger!



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 • Brian Clancy, Church Administrator

Jon Scott, Chair of Church Council • Linda Gerlach, Chair of Deacons • Barbara Jones, Moderator

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