



ego, not miracles. Just love. How would you describe God? And if I told you that you could use just one word, what would that be? Frankly, you could not do much better than “love”—it’s what God does, it’s God’s motive, it’s who God is. Really.

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

Slane

### Scripture Lessons

*1 John 4:7-21.* <sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

*Acts 8:26-40.* <sup>26</sup>Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.)

<sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.”

<sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” <sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here



## 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

*The Father's Love*

Simon Lole

## 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*)

Bountiful God: we ask that you receive our gifts and fill them with your grace, your love, and your healing power, making them a blessing to others. We pray in the name of Jesus, who called us to love one another, to share the Gospel, to serve our brothers and sisters, and to be your people. Amen.

## Hymn 366 (*pp. 8-9*) *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Hyfrydol

## Benediction

## Postlude

*Prelude and Fugue in C, BWV 553*

Johann Sebastian Bach(?)

\* \* \*

## *Leading Worship This Week*

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist • The FCC Choir • Laurel Stavis, Alto

Stacey Steele, Liturgist • Deb Scott and Dawn Troutman, 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](mailto:prayer@fccleb.org) or speak with Rev. Silver directly.*

## **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/](http://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!*

# 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.

## 391

## 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.

# O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

399

George Matheson, 1842-1906

ST. MARGARET 8.8.8.6.

Albert L. Peace, 1844-1912

1 O Love that wilt not let me go,  
2 O Light that fol - lowest all my way,  
3 O Joy that seek - est me through pain,  
4 O Cross that lift - est up my head,

I rest my wea - ry soul in thee;  
I yield my flick - ering torch to thee;  
I can - not close my heart to thee;  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;

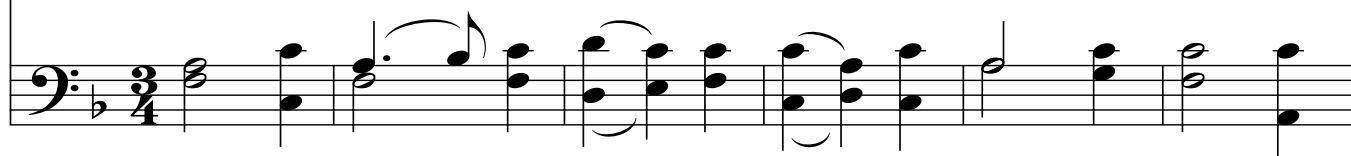
I give thee back the life I owe,  
My heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray,  
I trace the rain - bow through the rain,  
I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead,

That in thine o - cean depths its flow May rich - er, full - er be.  
That in thy sun - shine's blaze its day May bright - er, fair - er be.  
And feel the prom - ise is not vain That morn shall tear - less be.  
And from the ground there blos - soms red Life that shall end - less be. A - men.

# 366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



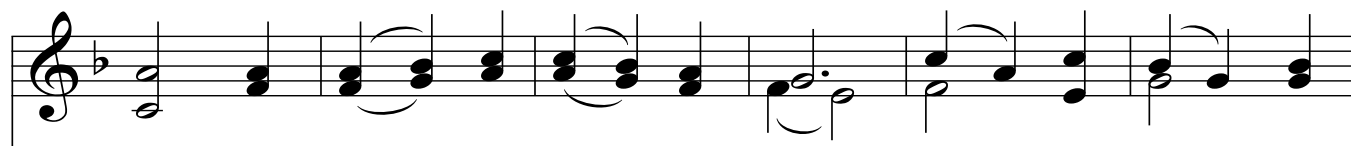
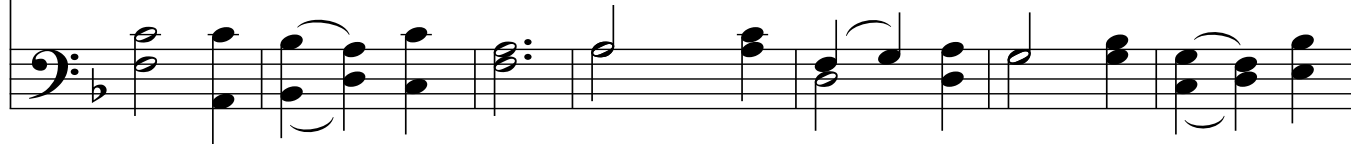
1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to  
2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery  
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy  
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;  
find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our





thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

This text and this tune occur in almost all English-language hymnals (though not always together). The transforming power of love motivates the unending praise of the life to come, and this fine Welsh tune (whose name means “delightful”) gives us a foretaste of endless song.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1747, alt.  
 MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831, alt.

HYFRYDOL  
 8.7.8.7.D



Music  
 at the  
 Meetinghouse

## Spring Concerts

All in the FCC Sanctuary

### *The Anonymous Coffeeshouse—Fridays, April 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](http://anoncoffee.org).*

### *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](http://belcantosingers.org).*

### *Harmony Night: An A Cappella Celebration—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: Sonatas, Suites, and Psalms—Sunday, May 12, at 2:00 pm*

This superb ensemble (Ernie Drown, Beth Hilgartner, Leslie Stroud, and Laurie Rabut) shares a selection of French music by François Couperin, Marin Marais, Jean-Baptiste Quentin, and Jacques de Bournonville. *Free-will donation to benefit WISE; more at [wiseuv.org](http://wiseuv.org) and [cameoarts.org](http://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*

### *Cantabile Women’s Chorus: Early Voices—Saturday, June 1, at 4:00 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/](http://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](http://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.**

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a card (include address on back)

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

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

## 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@fcclb.org • prayer@fcclb.org • music@fcclb.org • www.fcclb.org**