



# First Congregational Church of Lebanon

*United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming*

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## THE DAY OF PENTECOST

May 19, 2024

As C. S. Lewis said in a famous lecture, next to the sacrament itself,  
your Christian neighbor is the holiest object ever presented to your sight,  
because in him or her the living Christ is truly present.

–N. T. Wright

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

**Prelude** *Fantasia super “Komm, heiliger Geist,” BWV 651* Johann Sebastian Bach

**Call to Worship** Adapted from Psalm 104

One: O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

**All: When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.**

One: May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works.

**All: I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.**

One: May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD.

**All: Bless the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD!**

**Hymn 232** (p. 5) *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* Morecambe

**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** *O Holy Spirit, Lord of Grace* Christopher Tye

**Children’s Moment**

Today is Pentecost Sunday, the “Birthday of the Church.” Birthdays can be a big deal. We may observe anniversaries and milestones. When we’re young, we look forward to getting older. When we’re older, we may not be as excited about the prospect of adding

another year to the total we've lived, but it's better than the alternative. How does the Church feel about being another year older? Well, that's complicated. The church is about 2,000 years old. We've been here a long time.

So, we've got longevity going for us. But shouldn't people have gotten the message by now? Part of the problem is that we get in our own way; we do things that contradict what we preach. We make excuses. We mess up. A birthday is a good time to look to the year ahead, to resolve to do differently, to look forward to the day when we've succeeded in being who God would have us be.

**Hymn 289** (p. 6)      *On Pentecost They Gathered*

Munich

### Scripture Lessons

*Ezekiel 37:1-14.* The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

<sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

*Acts 2:1-21.* When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup>Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?” <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup>Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” <sup>12</sup>All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” <sup>13</sup>But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

<sup>15</sup>Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning.

<sup>16</sup>No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: <sup>17</sup>“In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. <sup>18</sup>Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. <sup>19</sup>And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. <sup>20</sup>The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. <sup>21</sup>Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

**Sermon**

*“The Big Bang”*

Stephen R. Silver

**Hymn 263** (pp. 7-8) *O Spirit of the Living God*

St. Matthew

### **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 our 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, Steve, and Denzil.

We also offer the following prayer from *Guerillas of Grace*, by the Rev. Ted Loder:

Lord,  
Send the gift of your Spirit  
To Fill this place  
And myself  
And the world.  
Touch me  
With truth  
That burns like fire,  
With beauty  
That move me like the wind;

And set me free, Lord,  
Free to try new ways of living,  
Free to forgive myself and others;  
Free to love and laugh and sing;  
Free to lay aside my burden of security;  
Free to join the battle for justice and peace;  
Free to see and listen and wonder again  
At the gracious mystery of things and persons;  
Free to be,  
To give,  
To receive,  
To rejoice as a child of your spirit.  
And Lord,  
Teach me how to dance,  
To turn around  
And come down where I want to be,  
In the arms and heart of your people  
And you,  
That I may praise and enjoy you forever.

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**                      *Come, Holy Ghost*

Thomas Attwood

### **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*)

God, who comes to us in the Holy Spirit, we thank you for the gift of the Church, for its witness, its fellowship, its service. As we have been so blessed, we desire to share this blessing with others, presenting these gifts now as a sign of our commitment and intent. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

## Benediction

## Postlude

Komm, Gott Schöpfer, heiliger Geist, BWV 667

Johann Sebastian Bach

\* \* \*

*Leading Worship This Week*

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist • The FCC Choir • Betsy Bowse, Liturgist

Rob Crockett and Jon Scott, Ushers • Linda Jacobs, Zoom Greeter

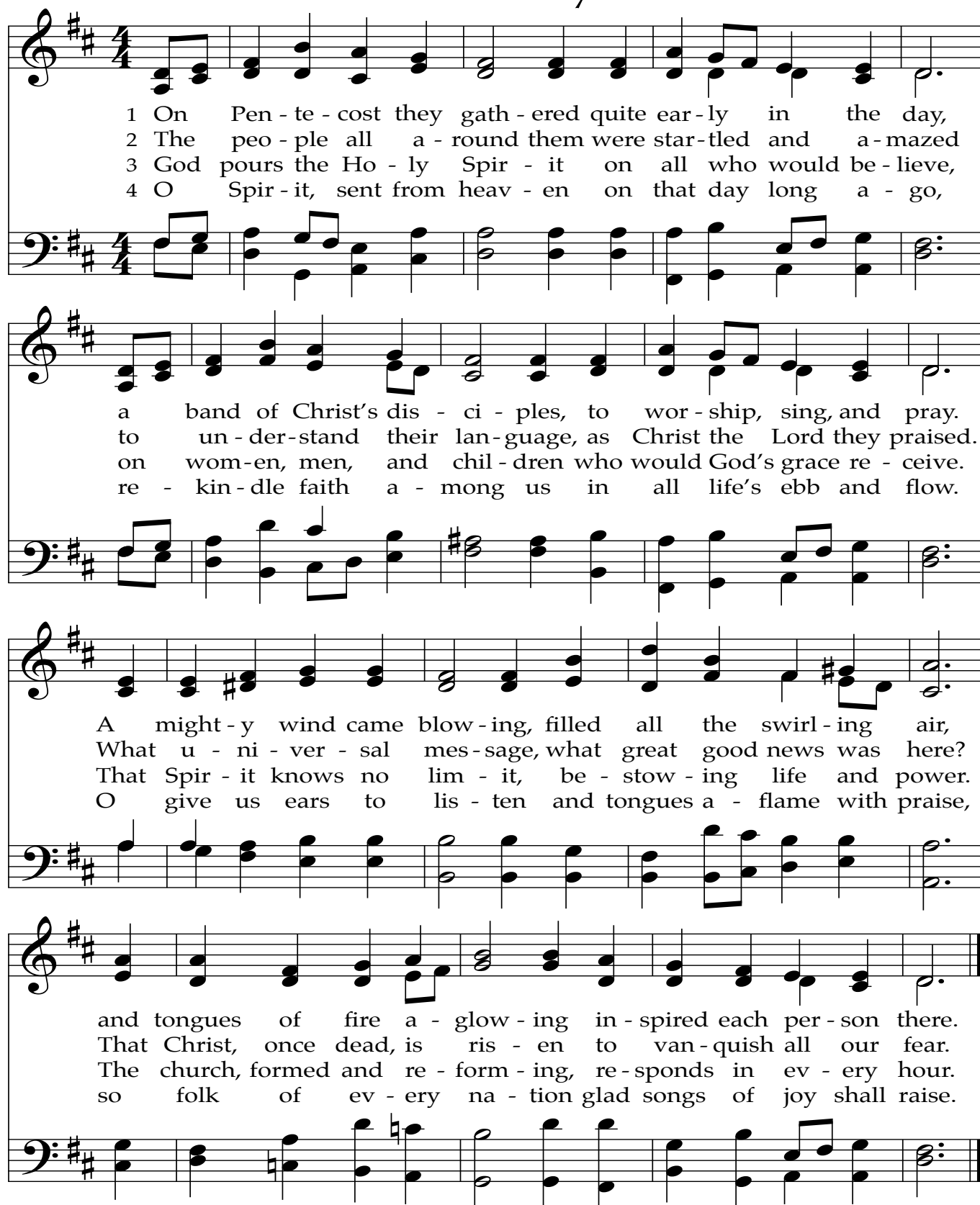
**Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart****232***Attr. to George Croly, 1780-1860*MORECAMBE 10.10.10.10.  
*Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897*

1 Spir - it of God, de-scend up - on my heart; Wean it from earth, through  
 2 I ask no dream, no proph-et ec - sta - sies, No sud-den rend - ing  
 3 Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King? All, all thine own: soul,  
 4 Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh; Teach me the strug - gles  
 5 Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love, One ho - ly pas - sion

all its puls - es move; Stoop to my weak - ness, might-y as thou art,  
 of the veil of clay, No an - gel vis - it - ant, no o - pening skies,  
 heart, and strength, and mind; I see thy cross—there teach my heart to cling;  
 of the soul to bear: To check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;  
 fill - ing all my frame; The bap-tism of the heaven-de-scend-ed Dove.

And make me love thee as I ought to love.  
 But take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.  
 O let me seek thee, and O let me find!  
 Teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.  
 My heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame. A - men.

# 289 On Pentecost They Gathered



1 On Pen - te - cost they gath - ered quite ear - ly in the day,  
 2 The peo - ple all a - round them were star - tled and a - mazed  
 3 God pours the Ho - ly Spir - it on all who would be - lieve,  
 4 O Spir - it, sent from heav - en on that day long a - go,

a band of Christ's dis - ci - ples, to wor - ship, sing, and pray.  
 to un - der - stand their lan - guage, as Christ the Lord they praised.  
 on wom - en, men, and chil - dren who would God's grace re - ceive.  
 re - kin - dle faith a - mong us in all life's ebb and flow.

A might - y wind came blow - ing, filled all the swirl - ing air,  
 What u - ni - ver - sal mes - sage, what great good news was here?  
 That Spir - it knows no lim - it, be - stow - ing life and power.  
 O give us ears to lis - ten and tongues a - flame with praise,

and tongues of fire a - glow - ing in - spired each per - son there.  
 That Christ, once dead, is ris - en to van - quish all our fear.  
 The church, formed and re - form - ing, re - sponds in ev - ery hour.  
 so folk of ev - ery na - tion glad songs of joy shall raise.

This narrative and interpretive text was written to fill what the author perceived as an unfortunate gap in available hymns concerning the Holy Spirit in general and Pentecost in particular. The setting of a 17th-century German tune is from Mendelssohn's oratorio *Elijah*.

TEXT: Jane Parker Huber, 1981

MUSIC: *Neuvermehrtes Meiningisches Gesangbuch*, 1693; adapt. Felix Mendelssohn, 1847

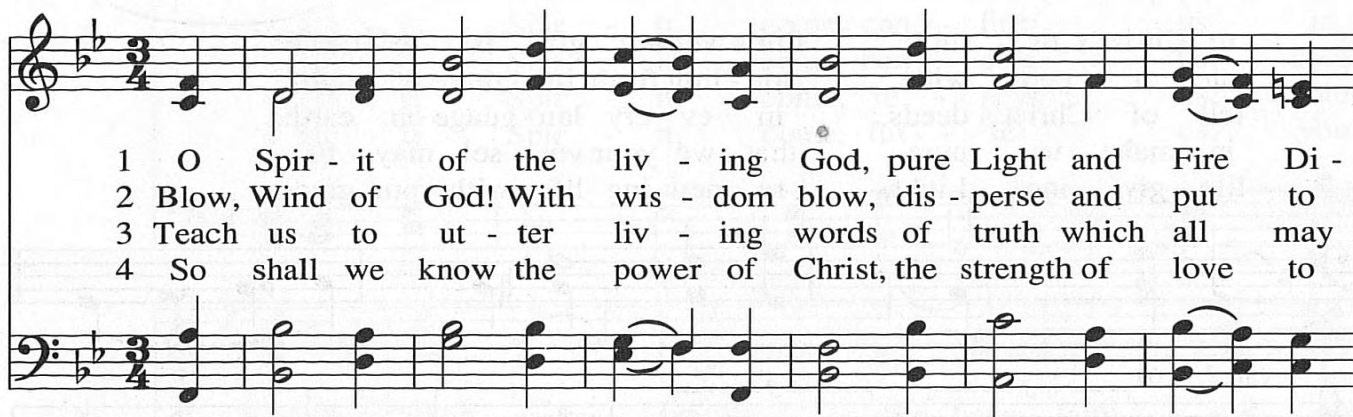
Text © 1981 Jane Parker Huber (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

MUNICH

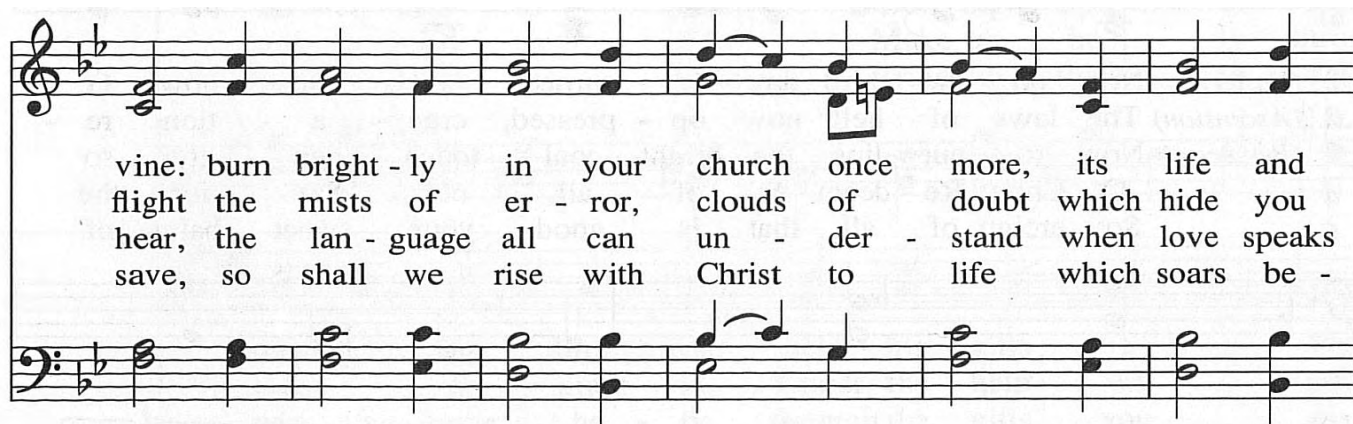
7.6.7.6.D

Acts 2:1-4, 17-21

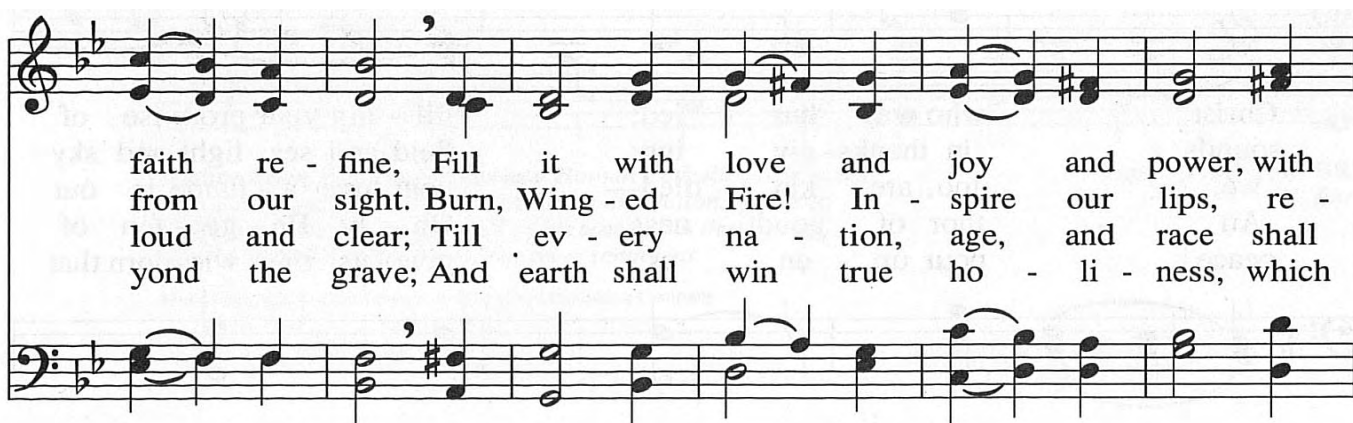
Henry Hallam Tweedy, 1933; alt.



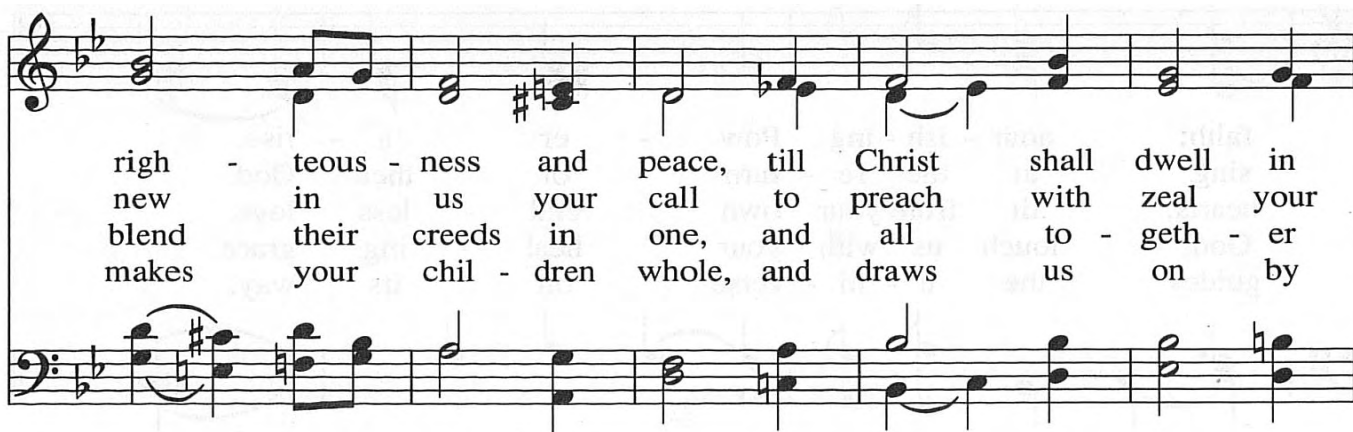
1 O Spir - it of the liv - ing God, pure Light and Fire Di -  
 2 Blow, Wind of God! With wis - dom blow, dis - perse and put to  
 3 Teach us to ut - ter liv - ing words of truth which all may  
 4 So shall we know the power of Christ, the strength of love to



vine: burn bright - ly in your church once more, its life and  
 flight the mists of er - ror, clouds of doubt which hide you  
 hear, the lan - guage all can un - der - stand when love speaks  
 save, so shall we rise with Christ to life which soars be -



faith re - fine, Fill it with love and joy and power, with  
 from our sight. Burn, Wing - ed Fire! In - spire our lips, re -  
 loud and clear; Till ev - ery na - tion, age, and race shall  
 yond the grave; And earth shall win true ho - li - ness, which



right - teous - ness and peace, till Christ shall dwell in  
 new in us your call to preach with zeal your  
 blend their creeds in one, and all to - geth - er  
 makes your chil - dren whole, and draws us on by





*Henry Hallam Tweedy served Congregational churches in New York and Connecticut from 1898 to 1909 before joining the faculty of Yale University Divinity School.*

Tune: ST. MATTHEW C.M.D.  
William Croft, 1708

*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!*

### Celebrate the Children's Community Corner—Children's Sunday, June 2

The **Children's Community Corner** is excited to lead worship and mark the end of the school year. We'll lift up our congregation's kids and what they have learned this year, and we very much hope you'll join us to share in this special moment in our church's communal life!

*If you and/or your children are interested in participating or have questions, please contact Rachel Silver ([rachelsilver@live.com](mailto:rachelsilver@live.com)) or the church office.*



## Come Down, O Love Divine

*Bianco da Siena, c. 1367**Tr. Richard F. Littledale, 1833-1890*

DOWN AMPNEY 6.6.11.D.

*R. Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958*

1 Come down, O Love di - vine, Seek thou this soul of  
 2 O let it free - ly burn, Till earth - ly pas - sions  
 3 And so the yearn - ing strong With which the soul will

mine, And vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;  
 turn To dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;  
 long, Shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing;

O Com - fort - er, draw near, With - in my heart ap - pear,  
 And let thy glo - rious light Shine ev - er on my sight,  
 For none can guess its grace, Till he be - come the place

And kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
 And clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
 Where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes his dwell - ing. A - men.



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

A celebration of music-making by each other, for each other! Recitals and class performances will happen at FCC and elsewhere around town. *Free to all; full details at [uvmusic.org/events](http://uvmusic.org/events).*

### *Classicopia: Fabulous Females—Sunday, May 19, at 2:00 pm*

Siblings Emmanuel and Frances Borowsky (violin and cello), soprano Laura Compton, and pianist Daniel Weiser celebrate women composers, including Rebecca Clarke, Mel Bonis, and NH's own Amy Beach. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at [classicopia.org](http://classicopia.org).*

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

Now a nationally recognized artist, singer-songwriter Brooks Hubbard developed his particular folk-rock sound as a kid in Enfield, NH. He'll perform for the benefit of Good Neighbor Health Clinic, a vital community health resource. *Adults \$25; more at [goodneighborhealthclinic.org](http://goodneighborhealthclinic.org).*

### *Cantabile Women's Chorus: Early Voices—Saturday, June 1, at 4:00 pm*

This outstanding ensemble shares a captivating program of music from the Baroque and earlier. They'll sing G. F. Handel, Thomas Tallis, Claudio Monteverdi, and Antonio Vivaldi, the last with string quartet. *Admission by donation (\$15 suggested, or pay-as-you-can); more at [www.cantabilewomen.org](http://www.cantabilewomen.org).*

### *Classicopia: Rhapsodie Française—Sunday, June 16, at 2:00 pm*

Dan Weiser welcomes a new performer to the Classicopia family, violinist Joshua Peckins, for a wonderful program of French music by Camille Saint-Saëns, Claude Debussy, Lili Boulanger, Maurice Ravel, and more. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at [classicopia.org](http://classicopia.org).*

### **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/).*



**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](mailto: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 • 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@fcclieb.org](mailto:church@fcclieb.org) • [prayer@fcclieb.org](mailto:prayer@fcclieb.org) • [music@fcclieb.org](mailto:music@fcclieb.org) • [www.fcclieb.org](http://www.fcclieb.org)**