



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY • The Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 2, 2024

The things that we love tell us what we are.

–St. Thomas Aquinas

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 5-7.

Prelude

Call to Worship

Adapted from Psalm 113

One: Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD; praise the name of the LORD.

All: Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time on and forevermore.

One: From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the LORD is to be praised.

All: The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.

One: Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high?

All: Who is like the LORD, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

One: He raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.

**All: He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children.
Praise the LORD!**

Hymn 478 (p. 5) *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

Royal Oak

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

Musical Offering *Ode to Joy*

Ludwig van Beethoven

Celebration and Recognition of Children's Community Corner

Scripture Lessons

Romans 12:9-16. ⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are....

Luke 1:39-57. ³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

⁵⁷Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son....

Sermon*"Life Lessons"*

Stephen R. Silver

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 Lisa.

God of all people, today we celebrate the gift of children, especially those whom you have entrusted to our care, those who bring joy to our fellowship, those in whom the future of the church rests. We give thanks that we are able to nurture and sustain them, as you care for us through Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We repent for the times in which we have lost our tempers, grown short, or not appreciated what you have given to us. Let us always remember that these girls and boys are a treasure, and we are blessed to know them.

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

And now the young people of our church will lead us in the prayer Jesus taught us:

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

Adoration

Florence Price

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*)

Loving Creator God, Jesus called the children to you, knowing that it was those with open minds and open hearts who are most ready to receive your Word. We present these offerings as a sign of our desire to be young in spirit and filled with a child's wonder, committed to grow in faith, service, and fellowship. In the name of your son, our savior, we pray. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

For communion, you are invited to have some bread and juice on hand. We will share in the bread and cup at the appointed time. If you would like to receive a blessing, please let the officiant know.

Invitation and Communion Prayer

Sanctus

Ho - ly, Ho - ly Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts:
7 Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo - ry be to you, O Lord most
11 High. Bless-ed is the one that comes in the name of the
15 Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est, Ho - san-na in the high - est, Ho -
20 san - na in the high - est.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (*Unison*)

Because the broken bread has meant our healing, because the outpoured cup has meant our life, because our common sharing has meant the communion of our souls, and because we have here been graced by your presence, God, we give you thanks and pray that our lives may be renewed in the life and the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn 485 (p. 7) *This Is My Father's World*

Terra Beata

Benediction

Postlude

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor • Ernie Drown, Organist/Pianist

The Children and Volunteer Leaders of the Children's Community Corner

Many thanks to RACHEL SILVER for her coordination of today's service—and more so for her generous and dedicated leadership of the Children's Community Corner throughout the year.

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.

478

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-1895

ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with Refrain

Traditional English Melody

Adapted by Martin Shaw, 1875-

In unison

REFRAIN

All things bright and beau-ti - ful, All crea-tures great and small,

All things wise and won - der - ful, The Lord God made them all.

1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, Each lit - tle bird that sings,
 2 The pur - ple-head - ed moun-tain, The riv - er run - ning by,
 3 The cold wind in the win - ter, The pleas-ant sum-mer sun,

He made their glow-ing col - ors, He made their ti - ny wings.
 The sun-set, and the morn-ing That bright-ens up the sky,
 The ripe fruits in the gar - den, He made them ev - ery one.

Repeat Refrain

Lesbia Scott, 1898- , alt.

GRAND ISLE Irregular
John H. Hopkins, 1861-1945

In unison

1 I sing a song of the saints of God Patient and brave and true,
 2 They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, And his love made them strong;
 3 They lived not on - ly in a - ges past, There are hun-dreds of thou-sands still;

Who toiled and fought and lived and died For the Lord they loved and
 And they fol-lowed the right, for Je - sus' sake, The whole of their good lives
 The world is bright with the joy-ous saints Who love to do Je - sus'

knew. And one was a doc - tor, and one was a queen, And
 long. And one was a sol - dier, and one was a priest, And
 will. You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, In

one was a shep-herd-ess on the green: They were all of them
 one was slain by a fierce wild beast: And there's not an - y
 church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea; For the saints of

saints of God, and I mean, God help - ing, to be one too.
 rea - son, no, not the least, Why I shouldn't be one too.
 God are just folk like me, And I mean to be one too.

485

This Is My Father's World

Mallie D. Babcock, 1858-1901, alt.

TERRA BEATA S.M.D.

Traditional English Melody

Adapted by Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852-1930

In unison

1 This is my Fa-ther's world; And to my lis-tening ears, All
 2 This is my Fa-ther's world; The birds their car - ols raise, The
 3 This is my Fa-ther's world; Oh, let me ne'er for - get That

na - ture sings, and round me rings The mu - sic of the spheres.
 morn - ing light, the lil - y white, De - clare their Mak - er's praise.
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought Of
 This is my Fa-ther's world; He shines in all that's fair; In the
 This is my Fa-ther's world; Why should my heart be sad? The

rocks and trees, of skies and seas, His hand the won - ders wrought.
 rus - tling grass I hear him pass; He speaks to me ev - ery - where.
 Lord is king; let the heav - ens ring. God reigns; let the earth be glad.



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.*

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.*

15th Annual Carolan Festival—Saturday, June 29, at 7:00 pm

UVMC hosts an all-day gathering for those who play, listen, sing, or dance to the music of Irish harper and composer Turlough O'Carolan (1670-1738). After a full afternoon of workshops at several downtown locations, the evening concert at FCC will feature harpers Dominique Dodge and Rachel Clemente. *Adults \$25 (suggested), under-18 free; more at carolanfestvt.com.*

Classicopia: The Folk Cello—Sunday, June 30, at 2:00 pm (Rescheduled from April 21)

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/the-folk-cello/.*

Oak Hill Music Festival: Season Three!—Week of July 8-13 (Dates/Programs TBD)

Hanover-born bassoonist Leah Kohn and her violinist husband Niv Ashkenazi lead this third cast of professional musicians for a week in residence at FCC. They'll play two concerts here during the week, with a third likely in Norwich. *More details and ticket options at www.oakhillmusicfestival.com.*

Classicopia: Czech, Please!—Sunday, July 14, at 2:00 pm

Dan Weiser welcomes violinist Andréa Picard Boecker and cellist Alicia Ward for a program of music that dances and moves the spirit, in piano trios by Bedrich Smetana and Antonín Dvořák. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at classicopia.org/concert/czech-please/.*



Upper Valley
Habitat
for Humanity®

SHELTER SUNDAY
FATHER'S DAY
JUNE 16, 2024

Helping People in Need in the Upper Valley

Upper Valley Habitat for Humanity is the local affiliate of an international, ecumenical ministry providing decent, affordable home ownership for deserving families who could not otherwise afford to buy a home. This is one of the most valuable steps a family can take to gain a firm footing and thrive on their own.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Houses are built by community volunteers, with local vendors providing free or deeply discounted materials and services. Each selected family contributes at least 300 hours of "sweat equity," participating directly in the construction of their own house.

A Hand Up, Not a Hand-out

Homes are sold to families at the actual cost of the house, at no profit, with a zero-interest mortgage. The family repays the loan, providing Habitat with funds for more homebuilding activities.

SHELTER SUNDAY – How FCC Helps Habitat

On June 16, you can help fulfill the dreams of local families with a contribution in honor or memory of the fathers in your life. Any amount is most welcome, regardless of how many dedications you'd like to make.

Please fill out the dedication form and return it to the church office **no later than 12:00 pm on Thursday, June 13**; you may also simply email or call the office with your information. All dedications will be printed in the worship bulletin on June 16.

If you choose, a card recognizing your gift will be sent to those you wish to honor (please include a mailing address), or you can pick up the card at church and send it yourself.

SHELTER SUNDAY

The Excitement Is Building...

If you'd like to honor or remember the father(s) in your life with a contribution for Shelter Sunday, please complete and return this form to the church office (PO Box 230, Lebanon, NH 03766). You may also contact the office directly (603-448-4281/church@fccleb.org) with your information.

Any amount is gratefully welcome!

Dedications received by 12:00 pm on Thursday, June 13, will be listed in the bulletin on FATHER'S DAY, JUNE 16.

Given by _____

In honor of _____

Please send a card (include addresses)

In memory of _____

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

Sponsored by the Mission & Social Action Committee



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@fcclleb.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@fcclleb.org • prayer@fcclleb.org • music@fcclleb.org • www.fcclleb.org