

Wow. That sounds bad, doesn't it? Not the kind of thing that should warrant forgiveness. But when we care for others, we will extend forgiveness. Forgiveness is not being weak, nor is it a free pass. Extending forgiveness is not an act of inexplicable softness, but an act of grace. And to show us the power of forgiveness, we have the example of Jesus, who has forgiven us. Each of us. And will. Always.

Hymn 269 (p. 5) *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

St. Thomas

Scripture Lessons

Genesis 3:8-15. ⁸They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." ¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

Mark 3:20-35. ²⁰[A]nd the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹When [Jesus'] family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." ²²And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." ²³And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. ²⁷But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

²⁸"Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"— ³⁰for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

³¹Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. ³²A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." ³³And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" ³⁴And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

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, Denzil, and Lisa.

Creator God, who fashioned the world and all in it, who made every living creature, we come before you seeking forgiveness. We feel exposed, just as Adam felt in the garden; we know there is no hiding, as much as we might try. So, we now acknowledge our sins, we own them, and we ask that you, in your loving forbearance, will grant us your forgiveness.

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.

Musical Offering Adagio e piano, *Trio in G Major*, BWV 1039

J. S. Bach

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, you have given us much, and indeed, if we are honest, we will acknowledge that you are ultimately responsible for all the gifts in our lives. Help us to share some of your bounty with others, to be generous with our sisters and brothers, as you were with us in Jesus. In his name we pray, Amen.

Hymn 700 (p. 7) *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

I'm Gonna Live

Benediction

Postlude Presto, *Trio in G Major*, BWV 1039

J. S. Bach

The Church of Christ, in Every Age

306

Fred Pratt Green, 1969

1 The church of Christ, in every age be -
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a

set by change, but Spir - it led, Must
vic - tims of in - jus - tice cry For
car - ing church that longs to be A

claim and test its her - i - tage and
shel - ter and for bread to eat, and
part - ner in Christ's sac - ri - fice, and

keep on ris - ing from the dead.
nev - er live be - fore they die.
clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.

Poet Fred Pratt Green has been a chaplain, parish minister, administrator, and playwright. Since retiring from parish responsibilities in 1969, he has been an active hymnwriter and makes his home in Norwich, England.

Tune: WAREHAM L.M.
William Knapp, 1738

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I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

269

Timothy Dwight, 1752-1817

ST. THOMAS S.M.

Williams' "New Universal Psalmist," 1770

1 I love thy king - dom, Lord, The house of thine a - bode,
2 I love thy Church, O God; Her walls be - fore thee stand,
3 For her my tears shall fall, For her my prayers as - cend,
4 Be - yond my high - est joy I prize her heaven - ly ways,
5 Sure as thy truth shall last, To Zi - on shall be given

The Church our blest Re - deem - er saved With his own pre - cious blood.
Dear as the ap - ple of thine eye, And grav - en on thy hand.
To her my cares and toils be given Till toils and cares shall end.
Her sweet com - mun - ion, sol - emn vows, Her hymns of love and praise.
The bright - est glo - ries earth can yield, And bright - er bliss of heaven. A - men.

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Harpsichord • Jason Smoller, Oboe • Leslie Stroud, Flute
Brian Clancy, Liturgist • Deb and Jon Scott, Ushers • Linda Jacobs, 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.

My Faith Looks Up to Thee


348

Ray Palmer, 1808-1887, alt.

OLIVET 6.6.4.6.6.6.4.
Lowell Mason, 1792-1872



1 My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread, And griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold; sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray; Take all my
My zeal in - spire; As thou hast died for me, Oh, may my
Be thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day; Wipe sor - row's
Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -



guilt a - way; Oh, let me from this day Be whol - ly thine.
love to thee Pure, warm, and changeless be, A liv - ing fire.
tears a - way; Nor let me ev - er stray From thee a - side.
trust re - move; Oh, bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul. A - men.



700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

1 I'm gon-na live so (live so)
 2 I'm gon-na work so (work so) God can use me an - y -
 3 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
 4 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

where, Lord, an - y - time!
 (an - y - time!)
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na

live so (live so)
 work so (work so) God can use me an - y -
 pray so (pray so)
 sing so (sing so)

where, Lord, an - y - time!
 (my Lord,) (an - y - time!)
 (an - y - time!)

This African American spiritual has more depth than may at first appear: for people who are bound in slavery to sing about dedicating themselves to God's use shows a profound awareness of God-given self-worth despite circumstances that would deny their human or spiritual value.



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 (Various Dates/Programs)

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 in Norwich. *Full schedule, 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/.*

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:

LISTEN COMMUNITY SERVICES

For a list of current and ongoing needs, please visit listencs.org/food-pantry#itemsweneedthemost 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!



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@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 • prayer@fcclieb.org • music@fcclieb.org • www.fcclieb.org