



# First Congregational Church of Lebanon

*United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming*

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**The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

July 7, 2024

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen  
or even touched—they must be felt with the heart.

*–Helen Keller*

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

## **Prelude**

## **Call to Worship**

Psalm 48:1-3, 8-14

**One:** Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city of our God. His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King. Within its citadels God has shown himself a sure defense.

**All:** **As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God, which God establishes forever. We ponder your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple.**

**One:** Your name, O God, like your praise, reaches to the ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with victory. Let Mount Zion be glad, let the towns of Judah rejoice because of your judgments.

**All:** **Walk about Zion, go all around it, count its towers, consider well its ramparts; go through its citadels, that you may tell the next generation that this is God, our God forever and ever. He will be our guide forever.**

**Hymn 436** (p. 5)      *O God of Earth and Altar*

Llangloffan

## **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

### Children's Moment

Hymn 441 (p. 6)      *Once to Every Man and Nation*

Ebenezer

### Scripture Lessons

*2 Corinthians 12:2-10.* <sup>2</sup>I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. <sup>3</sup>And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— <sup>4</sup>was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. <sup>5</sup>On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup>But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, <sup>7</sup>even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. <sup>8</sup>Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, <sup>9</sup>but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. <sup>10</sup>Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

*Mark 6:1-13.* [Jesus] left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. <sup>2</sup>On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! <sup>3</sup>Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. <sup>4</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” <sup>5</sup>And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. <sup>6</sup>And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. <sup>7</sup>He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup>He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; <sup>9</sup>but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. <sup>10</sup>He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. <sup>11</sup>If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” <sup>12</sup>So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. <sup>13</sup>They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

**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 the church office to add or remove names.*

Today we offer our ongoing prayers for Pete, Marcia, 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.

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****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)**

Merciful God, in this time of reflection and offering, we acknowledge our weaknesses and limitations, knowing that it is through our struggles that we learn humility and dependence on you. As we bring forth our gifts, may we also bring our vulnerabilities, trusting in your grace to transform our weaknesses into strengths for the work of your kingdom. Amen. *(United Methodist GBOD)*

**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:  
 Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo - ry be to you, O Lord most  
 High. Bless-ed is the one that comes in the name of the  
 Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est, Ho - san-na in the high - est, Ho -  
 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 413 (p. 7) By *Gracious Powers*

Bonhoeffer

### Benediction

### Postlude

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#### *Leading Worship This Week*

The Rev. Gail Temperley Dimick, Guest Pastor

Sarah Hill, Piano • Linda Jacobs, Liturgist

Linda Gerlach, Phil Hammond, and Bob Ross, Ushers • Barb Jones, 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.*

### STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH—SPECIAL UCC OFFERING

This offering supports the growth of ministry and local congregations across the country. This year's theme—"On Holy Ground"—suggests the program's goal of establishing new churches and supporting existing ones. By renewing faith communities and funding fellowships for young, emerging leaders in our church, this program is vital to the health of our denomination.

*Please give as you are able to this nationwide effort to support church growth. We will accept contributions (payable to FCC, memo "Strengthen the Church") until Labor Day. Thank you!*

# O God of Earth and Altar

436

Gilbert K. Chesterton, 1874-1936

LLANGLOFFAN 7.6.7.6.D.  
Traditional Welsh Melody

1 O God of earth and al - tar, Bow down and hear our cry;  
2 From all that ter - ror teach - es, From lies of tongue and pen,  
3 Tie in a liv - ing teth - er The prince and priest and thrall;

Our earth - ly rul - ers fal - ter, Our peo - ple drift and die;  
From all the eas - y speech - es That com - fort cru - el men,  
Bind all our lives to - geth - er, Smite us and save us all;

The walls of gold en - tomb us, The swords of scorn di - vide;  
From sale and prof - a - na - tion Of hon - or and the sword,  
In ire and ex - ul - ta - tion A - flame with faith, and free,

Take not thy thun - der from us, But take a - way our pride.  
From sleep and from dam - na - tion, De - liv - er us, good Lord!  
Lift up a liv - ing na - tion, A sin - gle sword to thee. A - men.

## Once to Every Man and Nation

James Russell Lowell, 1819-1891, *alt.*

EBENEZER (TON-Y-BOTEL) 8.7.8.7.D.

Thomas J. Williams, 1869-1944

*In unison*

1 Once to ev - ery man and na - tion Comes the mo - ment to de - cide,  
 2 By the light of burn - ing mar - tyrs, Je - sus' bleed - ing feet I track,  
 3 Though the cause of e - vil pros - per, Yet 'tis truth a - lone is strong,

In the strife of truth with false - hood, For the good or e - vil side;  
 Toil - ing up new Cal - varies ev - er With the cross that turns not back;  
 Truth for - ev - er on the scaf - fold, Wrong for - ev - er on the throne.

Some great cause, God's new mes - si - ah, Of - fering each the bloom or blight,  
 New oc - ca - sions teach new du - ties, Time makes an - cient good un - couth;  
 Yet that scaf - fold sways the fu - ture, And, be - hind the dim un - known,

And the choice goes by for - ev - er 'Twi - xt that dark - ness and that light.  
 They must up - ward still and on - ward, Who would keep a - breast of truth.  
 Stand - eth God with - in the shad - ow Keep - ing watch a - bove his own. A - men.



## By Gracious Powers

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1944  
 Transl. Fred Pratt Green, 1972

Unison

1 By gra - cious powers so won - der - ful - ly shel - tered,  
 2 Yet is this heart by its old foe tor - ment - ed,  
 3 And when this cup you give is filled to brim - ming  
 4 Yet when a - gain in this same world you give us

and con - fi - dent - ly wait - ing, come what may,  
 still e - vil days bring bur - dens hard to bear;  
 with bit - ter sor - row, hard to un - der - stand,  
 the joy we had, the bright - ness of your sun,

We know that God is with us night and morn - ing,  
 O give our fright - ened souls the sure sal - va - tion  
 We take it thank - ful - ly and with - out trem - bling,  
 We shall re - mem - ber all the days we lived through,

and nev - er fails to greet us each new day.  
 for which, O God, you taught us to pre - pare.  
 out of so good and so be - loved a hand.  
 and our whole life shall then be yours a - lone.

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, professor, and leader of the German Opposition, composed the poem on which this hymn is based, "New Year 1945," while imprisoned by the Gestapo in Berlin. Four months later, Bonhoeffer was executed by special order of Himmler.*

Tune: BONHOEFFER 11.10.11.10.  
 Herbert G. Hobbs, 1976  
 Harm. Jan Helmut Wubbena, 1976

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### *Oak Hill Music Festival: Season Three!*—Weds., July 10, and Friday, July 12, both 7:00

Having successfully launched this innovative festival in 2022, Hanover-born bassoonist Leah Kohn and her violinist husband Niv Ashkenazi return with several other superb musicians for a week in residence at FCC. They'll play two concerts here—"Folk Music" and "The Romantic Virtuoso"—and a third in Norwich ("Landscapes") on Saturday, July 13. *Complete details, musician information, and ticket options at [www.oakhillmusicfestival.com](http://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 Dvorák. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at [classicopia.org/concert/czech-please/](http://classicopia.org/concert/czech-please/).*

### *Classicopia Summer Music Camp*—Week of August 5-10, FCC/UVMC

**Faculty Concert—Friday, August 9, 7:30 pm / Student Concert—Saturday, August 10, 10:00 am**  
Pianist Dan Weiser and a superb group of colleagues lead this week of immersive instruction in a range of instruments and voice for students aged 8-18. *More at [classicopia.org/summer-camp/](http://classicopia.org/summer-camp/).*

## 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](http://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!*





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