



# First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

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## The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 21, 2024

For since we see in Christ some things so human that they appear to share in the common frailty of humanity, and some things so divine that they are manifestly the expression of the Divine, the narrowness of human understanding is inadequate to cope. Overcome with amazement and admiration, it knows not where to turn.

—Origen of Alexandria (ca. 185-253), on the mystery of the Trinity

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

### Prelude

### Call to Worship

Psalm 89:20-37

One: I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him;

**All: My hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.**

One: The enemy shall not outwit him; the wicked shall not humble him.

**All: I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.**

One: My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him, and in my name his horn shall be exalted.

**All: I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.**

One: He shall cry to me, “You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!”

**All: I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.**

One: Forever I will keep my steadfast love for him, and my covenant with him will stand firm.

**All: I will establish his line forever and his throne as long as the heavens endure.**

One: If his children forsake my law and do not walk according to my ordinances,

**All: If they violate my statutes and do not keep my commandments,**

One: Then I will punish their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with scourges;

**All: But I will not remove from him my steadfast love, or be false to my faithfulness.**

One: I will not violate my covenant, or alter the word that went forth from my lips.

**All: Once and for all I have sworn by my holiness; I will not lie to David.**

One: His line shall continue forever, and his throne endure before me like the sun.

**All: It shall be established forever like the moon, an enduring witness in the skies.**

**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**

Do you like to study? Because, as you get older, you will have to.

If you want to truly know a subject, you will have to study. If you'd like to stay up on the latest developments, you will have to study. And, ideally, you will love something so much that you will need to study it for the rest of your life.

That's one of the reasons I have study leave each year. I will take a week to study things that will help me in my ministry and deepen my faith.

Hymn 803 (p. 6)      *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

Resignation

**Scripture Lessons**

*2 Samuel 7:1-14a.* Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. <sup>12</sup>When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you,

who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup>He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup>I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. [...]

*Mark 6:30-34, 53-56.* <sup>30</sup>The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup>He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. <sup>32</sup>And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. <sup>33</sup>Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. <sup>34</sup>As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. [...]

<sup>53</sup>When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. <sup>54</sup>When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, <sup>55</sup>and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. <sup>56</sup>And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

**Sermon**                                 "Full House"                                 Stephen R. Silver

**Hymn 824** (p. 7)                 *There Is a Place of Quiet Rest*                                 McAfee

### **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, 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.

O great God, we know that you are not like us. We know that many of the things we need you do not. You do not need a bank account, nor fast cars, nor weapons or drugs. Instead, you seek mercy and justice, you desire that we care for our brothers and sisters. You want to be in relationship, with us. To be with us, no matter what. Help us to be motivated as you are by love, and by grace, to set aside our greed and our desire, to be like the one who came in your name, your son, Jesus.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of the risen 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*)

We come before you, O God, with gratitude for all you have done for us. Now, seeking to emulate you, we share this morning's offering, knowing it will go to help your people, here in the Upper Valley and around the world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Hymn 495 (p. 8)      *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*      Beecher

## Benediction

## Postlude

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### *Leading Worship This Week*

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor  
Nicholas Kleinschmidt, Guest Organist • Bob Ross, Liturgist  
Linda and Ike Jacobs, 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.*

## 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!*

# The God of Abraham Praise

14

Revised Version of the "Yigdal"  
 Daniel ben Judah, c.1400  
 Tr. Newton Mann, 1836-1926,  
 and Max Landsberg, 1845-1928

LEONI 6.6.8.4.D.  
 Traditional Hebrew Melody  
 Adapted by Meyer Lyon, 1751-1797

1 The God of A-braham praise, All prais - ed be his name,  
 2 His spir - it flow - eth free, High surg - ing where it will;  
 3 He hath e - ter - nal life Im - plant - ed in the soul;

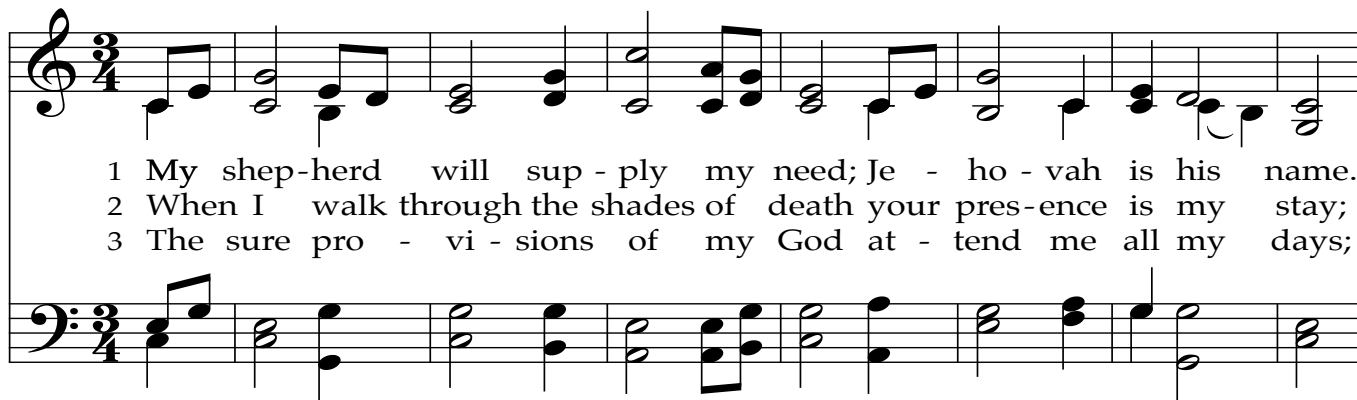
Who was, and is, and is to be, For aye the same!  
 In proph-et's word he spoke of old He speak - eth still.  
 His love shall be our strength and stay, While a - ges roll.

The one e - ter - nal God, Ere aught that now ap - pears;  
 Es - tab-lished is his law, And change-less it shall stand,  
 Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - ed be his name

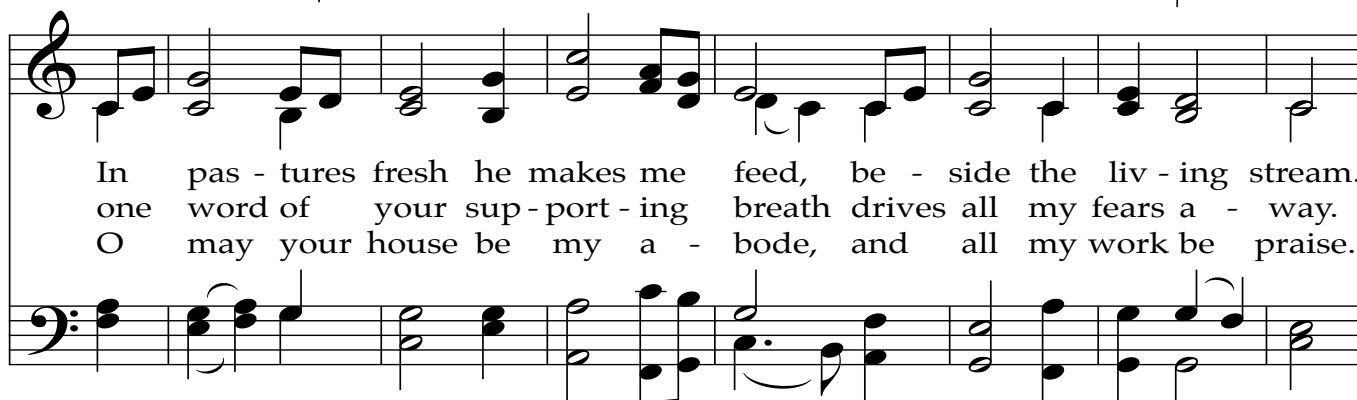
The First, the Last: be - yond all thought His time - less years!  
 Deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, On sea, or land.  
 Who was, and is, and is to be, For aye the same! A-men.

# My Shepherd Will Supply My Need 803

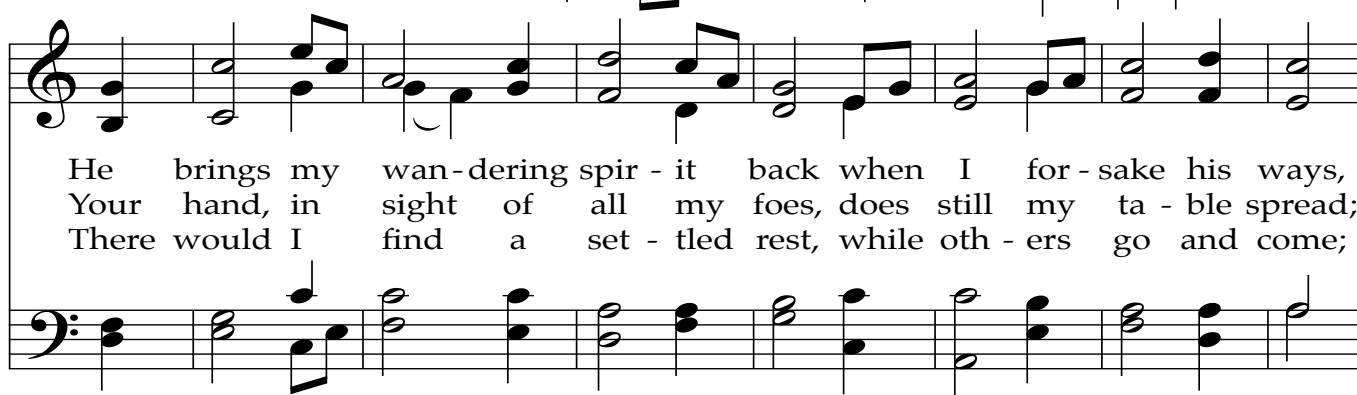
(Psalm 23)



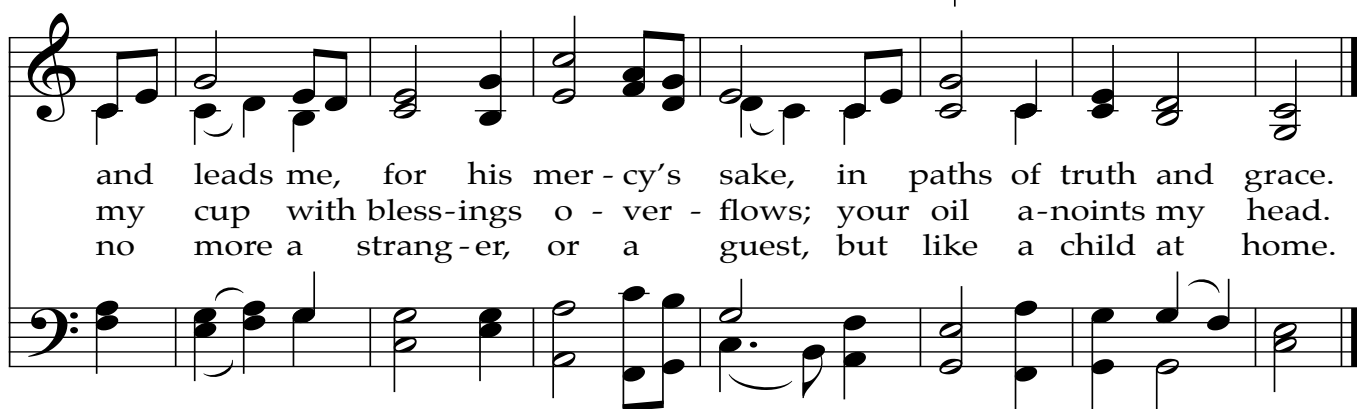
1 My shep-herd will sup - ply my need; Je - ho - vah is his name.  
2 When I walk through the shades of death your pres-ence is my stay;  
3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;



In pas - tures fresh he makes me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.  
one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.  
O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.



He brings my wan - dering spir - it back when I for - sake his ways,  
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;  
There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;



and leads me, for his mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.  
my cup with bless - ings o - ver - flows; your oil a - noints my head.  
no more a strang - er, or a guest, but like a child at home.

The effectiveness of this beloved paraphrase of Psalm 23 owes much to the flowing shape note melody that serves as a "living stream" to carry the text, which in turn has been given a remarkable clarity and lightness through the poet's masterful use of single-syllable words.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

MUSIC: U.S.A. folk melody; Lewis's *Beauties of Harmony*, 1828; harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 1986  
Music Harm. © 1990 Dale Grotenhuis

RESIGNATION

CMD

(alternate harmonization, 74)

# There Is a Place of Quiet Rest 824

Near to the Heart of God

1 There is a place of qui - et rest, near to the heart of God,  
2 There is a place of com - fort sweet, near to the heart of God,  
3 There is a place of full re - lease, near to the heart of God,

a place where sin can - not mo - lest, near to the heart of God.  
a place where we our Sav - ior meet, near to the heart of God.  
a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God.

## Refrain

O Je - sus, blest Re - deem - er, sent from the heart of God,

hold us, who wait be - fore thee, near to the heart of God.

A Presbyterian campus pastor and choir director in Missouri wrote this simple but moving hymn in response to the death of two young nieces from diphtheria. By distilling such personal grief into the shared assurances of faith, these words have brought comfort to many.

# Called as Partners in Christ's Service

495

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

John 15:12-17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14-22



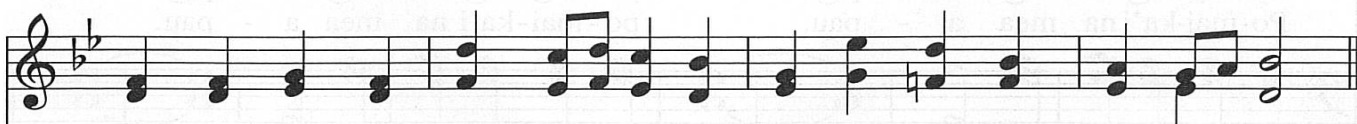
1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,  
2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,  
4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.  
Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.  
That sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,  
Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,  
Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,  
Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



E-quality part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.  
Blend-ing hu-man skills to-gether gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.  
Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.  
Mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.



*One of Jane Parker Huber's most widely sung texts, this hymn was originally written for a women's breakfast at the 1981 Presbyterian General Assembly meeting to celebrate the partnership of women and men in service of the church.*

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.

John Zundel, 1855

For another key, see 43, 368



## **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!*

## **Church Street to Be Partially Closed Starting August 13**

Please note that the construction of the new Lebanon fire station, beginning next month with the demolition of the current one, requires the **closure of the northern end of Church Street, between Colburn Park and the entrance to FCC's parking lot.** Access to FCC's lot and lower Church St will be possible *only* via detours along Water and Valley Sts or from Spring St.

**Upon completion of the new station, the City of Lebanon intends to permanently convert that northern segment of Church St to one-way, northbound traffic.**



**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)**