



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 4, 2024

As long as you are proud, you cannot know God. A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you.

—C. S. Lewis

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

Prelude

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Johann Sebastian Bach

Call to Worship

Psalm 51:1-12

One: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.

All: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

One: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

All: Against you, you alone, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

One: Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

All: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

One: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

All: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

One: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

All: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

One: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

All: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Hymn 410 (p. 5) *God Is Calling through the Whisper*

W złobie leży

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 *In the Garden*

C. Austin Miles

Children's Moment

Hymn 522 (pp. 6-7) *I Am the Bread of Life*

I Am the Bread

Scripture Lessons

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13. ²⁶When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. ²⁷When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son.

But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord, ¹and the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. ²The rich man had very many flocks and herds; ³but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meager fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. ⁴Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him." ⁵Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; ⁶he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

⁷Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; ⁸I gave you your master's house, and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. ⁹Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, for you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. ¹¹Thus says the Lord: I will raise up trouble against you from within your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this very sun. ¹²For you did it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun." ¹³David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." Nathan said to David, "Now the Lord has put away your sin; you shall not die. [...]"

John 6:24-35. [...] ²⁴So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

²⁵When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷Do not work for

the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.” ²⁸Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” ²⁹Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” ³⁰So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?” ³¹Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” ³²Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

³⁵Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. [...]”

Sermon

“The Other Shoe Drops”

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, 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 Jacobe.

O Holy One, we come before you today, knowing that we have erred—but that you still want us nonetheless. We are flawed, we are fallen, yet each of us is your child, and all of us are your people. Let us never forget this. Equip us for the work you would have us do, strengthen us for the journeys we must undertake, guide us along the path you would have us travel.

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

Adagio molto, from Sonata No. 2

Alexandre Guilmant

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*)

Generous Creator: Throughout the ages you have graciously fed your people, giving them, life, and faith, and hope. Now, in gratitude we present our offering and our commitment to share with others as you have shared with us. In the name of Jesus we pray, who called us to share the bread and the cup, to serve our brothers and sisters, and to be your people. 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:
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 432 (p. 7) *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord*

Repton

Benediction

Postlude *Festival Postludium*

Johann Hermann Loud

410 God Is Calling through the Whisper

1 God is call-ing through the whis-per of the Spir - it's deep-est sighs,
2 God is call-ing through the voic-es of our neigh-bors' ur-gent prayers,
3 God is call-ing through the mu-sic of sub-lime and hu-man arts,

through the thrill of sud-den beau-ties that can catch us by sur-prise.
through their long-ing for re-demp-tion and for res-cue from de-spair.
through the hymns of earth and an-gels, and the car-ols of our hearts.

Flash of light-ning, crash of thun-der; hush of still-ness, rush of won-der:
Place of hurt or face of need-ing; stri-dent cry or si-lent plead-ing:
Lift of joy and gift of sing-ing; days and nights our prais-es bring-ing:

God is call-ing—can you hear? God is call-ing—can you hear?
God is call-ing—can you hear? God is call-ing—can you hear?
God is call-ing—and we hear! God is call-ing—and we hear!

This wide-ranging text reminds us of the many surprising and urgent ways God calls to us, both to draw us near and to send us forth. In the third line of music it is especially effective at harnessing the momentum of the phrases that are each a note higher than the one before.

TEXT: Mary Louise Bringle, 2003

MUSIC: Polish carol; harm. Wilbur Lee, 1958

Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.

Music Harm. © 1958 Broadman Press (admin. Music Services)

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

8.7.8.7.8.8.7.7

(this tune in a higher key, 128)

522

I Am the Bread of Life

Leader or All A F#m A C#m

1 "I am the bread of life. You who
2 "The bread that I will give is my
3 "Un - less you eat of the
4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion;
5 Yes, Lord, I be - lieve that

D Esus E

come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -
flesh for the life of the world, and if you
flesh of the Son of Man and
I am the life. If you be -
you are the Christ, the

A C#m D E/D A C#m

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
eat of this bread, you shall live for -
drink of his blood, and drink of his
lieve in me, e - ven though you
Son of God, who has

F#m F#m/E Bm7 E

me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
ev - er; you shall live for - ev - er."
blood, you shall not have life with - in you."
die, you shall live for - ev - er."
come in - to the world."

Refrain All A E A D E

"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,"

and I will raise you up on the last day."

As the quotation marks suggest, the first four stanzas and refrain are quoted from Jesus (John 6:35, 44, 51, 53; 11:25), while the fifth stanza draws on the words of Martha (John 11:27), voicing our response also. Being mindful of these differences allows more prayerful singing.

TEXT: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, 1966, rev.

MUSIC: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, 1966

Text and Music © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993 GIA Publications, Inc.

I AM THE BREAD

Irregular

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord 432

- 1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call
- 2 But if, for - get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
- 3 We mar - vel how your saints be - came in hin - dranc - es more sure:
- 4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,

to live ac - cord - ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re -
if world - ly pres - sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un -
whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame the ca - sual way we wear your
in old rou - tines or ven - tures new, may we not cease to look to

stored, that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.
wind its tan - gled skein of care: our in - ward life re - pair.
name, and by our faults ob - scure your power to cleanse and cure.
you: the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav - ored, done.

This reflection on Christian vocation was written to provide a new text for a pre-existing tune, and the poet has crafted his words so well that the two parts mesh smoothly. The tune is named for a noted British boarding school, whose music director was a friend of the composer.

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1981

MUSIC: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1888

Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

REPTON

8.6.8.8.6.6

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Harpsichord • Phil Hammond, Baritone • Barb Jones, Liturgist

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!

Church Street to Be Partially Closed Starting August 13

Please note that construction of the new Lebanon fire station, beginning next month with the demolition of the current station, 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 Street to one-way, northbound traffic.



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Late Summer Concerts

All in the FCC Sanctuary

Classicopia Summer Music Camp This Week!

Faculty Concert—Friday, August 9, 7:00 pm / Student Concert—Saturday, August 10, 10:00 am

Join us for these special performances by the distinguished faculty and young student musicians at Classicopia's wonderful summer camp. *Friday admission \$15-20, Saturday free; more at classicopia.org.*

Classicopia: Let's Dance—Saturday, August 17, at 7:30 pm

Dan Weiser and good friend Philip Liston-Kraft offer a surprise program for four-hand piano, with energizing music by Edvard Grieg, Johannes Brahms, Moritz Moszkowski, Franz Liszt, Antonin Dvorak, and more. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15; more at classicopia.org.*

The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Friday, Sept. 13, and Saturday, Sept. 28, all at 7:30 pm

Our comfy community venue for live folk music opens its fifth season! Come and go as you please; food and drink available. *Free admission. For performers and more, visit anoncoffee.org.*

Upper Valley Baroque: Le Vent Français—Saturday, September 14, at 2:00 and 7:00

Known for superb performances on period instruments, Upper Valley Baroque brings its chamber series to FCC. “Winds Across Europe” showcases 17th-century woodwind innovations in music of François Couperin, Jean-Baptiste Lully, Georg Philipp Telemann, and more. *Adults \$35 and up; ticket options, performer listings, and full program information at uppervalleybaroque.org/concerts.*



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)

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