

## First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ - Open and Affirming

# The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 18, 2024

Most young adults I know aren't looking for a religion that answers all of their questions, but rather a community of faith in which they feel safe to ask them.

-Rachel Held Evans

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 4-7.

Prelude

Rhosymedre ("Lovely")

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Call to Worship

Psalm 34:9-14 (trans. The Message)

One: Worship God if you want the best; worship opens doors to all of God's goodness.

All: Young lions on the prowl get hungry, but God-seekers are full of God.

One: Come, children, listen closely; I'll give you a lesson in God worship.

All: Who out there has a lust for life? Can't wait each day to come upon beauty?

One: Guard your tongue from profanity, and no more lying through your teeth.

All: Turn your back on sin; do something good. Embrace peace—don't let it get away!

Hymn 16 (p. 4)

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Praise My Soul

#### 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 Habe deine Lust an dem Herren, SWV 311

Heinrich Schütz

"Let your joy be in the Lord; he will give you what your heart desires. Dedicate your way to the Lord, and trust in him; he will make all things well. Trouble not yourself over the wicked; do not be envious of the evildoers, since, like the grass, they will soon be mowed down, and like the green weed, they will wither. Hope in the Lord, and do good; so shall you dwell in the land, and be nourished. Alleluia!"

#### Children's Moment

Hymn 391 (p. 5) Be Thou My Vision

Slane

#### Scripture Lessons

1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14. <sup>2:10</sup>Then David slept with his ancestors, and was buried in the city of David. <sup>11</sup>The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. <sup>12</sup>So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established. [...]

<sup>3-3</sup>Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. <sup>4</sup>The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. <sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup>And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

<sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. <sup>13</sup>I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. <sup>14</sup>If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life."

*John 6:51-58.* <sup>51</sup>[Jesus continued, "...]I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

<sup>52</sup>The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" <sup>53</sup>So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; <sup>55</sup>for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." […]

Sermon "Taking It All In"

#### 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.

#### 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 Prière Théodore Dubois

#### 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 and Wise God, you give freely, and we receive freely. Sow in us discernment, understanding, and wisdom to be good stewards of the bounty we receive and the resources we have earned. Let us treat them all as gifts to be shared so that none will be in want or need to live full and abundant lives. Amen. (Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay)

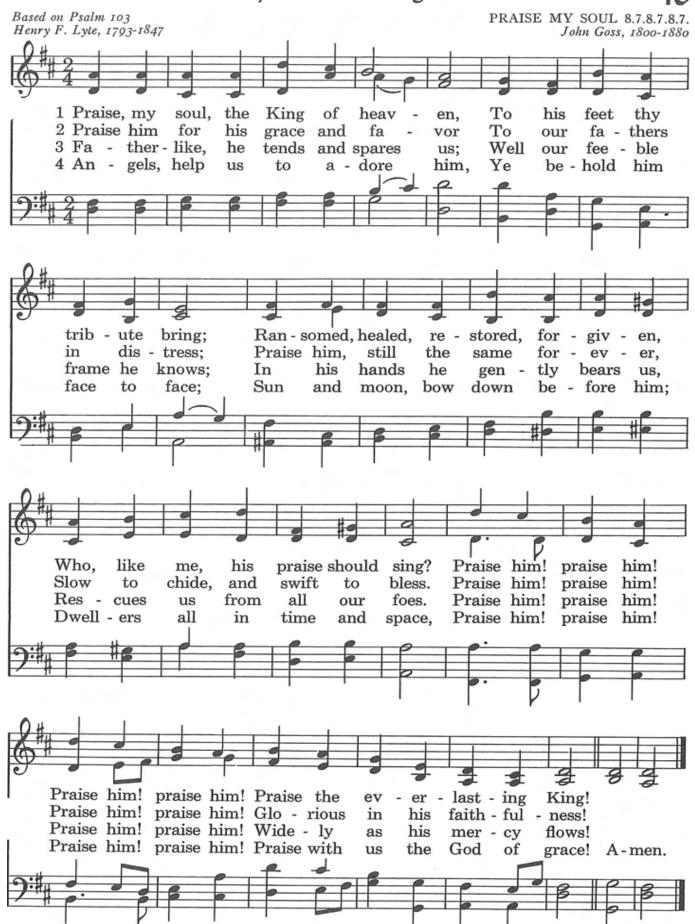
Hymn 345 (p. 7) Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart (vv. 1-6) Marion

#### Benediction

Postlude Jesu, meine Freude Christian Heinrich Rinck

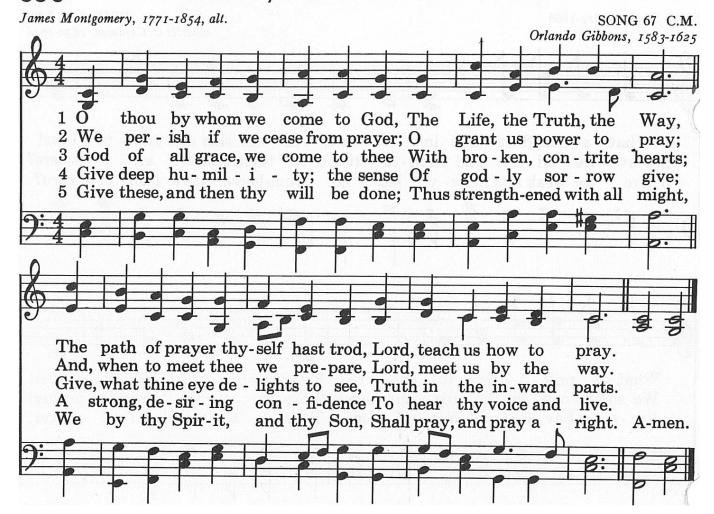
#### Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Gail Temperley Dimick, Guest Pastor Ernie Drown, Organ/Harpsichord • Betsy Alexander and Laurel Stavis, Mezzo-Sopranos Brian Clancy, Zoom Greeter • Betsy Bowse, Liturgist





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### Do Your Part to Fill the Cart!

We're currently collecting non-perishable food and personal-care items on behalf of:

LISTEN COMMUNITY SERVICES

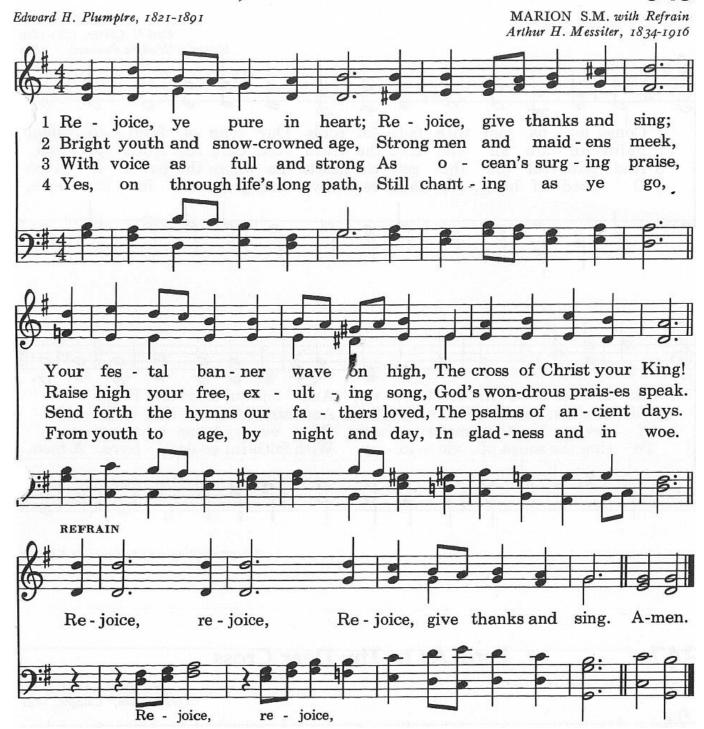
For a list of current and ongoing needs, please visit listencs.org/food-pantry#itemsweneedthemost or see the list that is attached to the shopping cart itself.

Direct financial contributions to any Upper Valley service organization are always needed and much appreciated. Thanks for joining the fight against local poverty and hunger!

#### 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!



- 5 Still lift your standard high, Still march in firm array, As warriors through the darkness toil Till dawns the golden day!
- 6 Praise him who reigns on high,
  The Lord whom we adore,
  The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
  One God for evermore!

# Music at the Meetinghouse

#### **Late Summer Concerts**

All in the FCC Sanctuary

#### Classicopia: Four-Hand Dance—Saturday, August 17, at 7:30 pm

Dan Weiser and good friend Philip Liston-Kraft offer a delightful program for four-hand piano, with energizing music by Edvard Grieg, Johannes Brahms, Moritz Moszkowski, Franz Lizst, 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.

Elizabeth Borowsky, Piano, and Cecylia Barczyk, Cello—Sat/Sun, September 21/22 (TBD) Virtuoso pianist Elizabeth Borowsky welcomes back her mother, internationally renowned cellist Cecylia Barczyk, for a wonderful concert with special guest Vytautas Kiminius, a virtuoso on the Lithuanian birbyne. Music of J. S. Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven, François Francoeur, and much more. Day/time to be determined; more information to come!

# **Church Street Partially Closed Until Late 2025**

Please note that construction of Lebanon's new fire 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 is now possible *only* via detours along Water and Valley Sts or from Spring St.

\*NOTE: While attending Sunday morning worship, you may park in the UVMC parking lot, adjacent to FCC and accessed from the mid-block driveway on South Park St. Please park on the gravel portion of the lot **only**; the paved portion belongs to the neighboring business.

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.

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.



#### 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@fccleb.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@fccleb.org • prayer@fccleb.org • music@fccleb.org • www.fccleb.org