



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

^{3:3}Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. ⁴The 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. ⁵At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And 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. ⁷And 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. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give 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?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God 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, ¹²I 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. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. ¹⁴If 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. ⁵¹[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."

⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³So 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. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This 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." [...]

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

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

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Based on Psalm 103
Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847

PRAISE MY SOUL 8.7.8.7.8.7.
John Goss, 1800-1880



1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en, To his feet thy
2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor To our fa - thers
3 Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; Well our fee - ble
4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him, Ye be - hold him



trib - ute bring; Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
in dis - tress; Praise him, still the same for - ev - er,
frame he knows; In his hands he gen - tly bears us,
face to face; Sun and moon, bow down be - fore him;



Who, like me, his praise should sing? Praise him! praise him!
Slow to chide, and swift to bless. Praise him! praise him!
Res - cues us from all our foes. Praise him! praise him!
Dwell - ers all in time and space, Praise him! praise him!



Praise him! praise him! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King!
Praise him! praise him! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!
Praise him! praise him! Wide - ly as his mer - cy flows!
Praise him! praise him! Praise with us the God of grace! A - men.



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Be Thou My Vision

*Ancient Irish**Tr. by Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931**Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935*

SLANE 10.10.9.10.

*Traditional Irish Melody**Harm. by David Evans, 1874-1948**In unison*

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,
 4 High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

Nought be all else to me save that thou art.
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 Thou mine in - her - it - ance, now and al - ways;
 May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Thou my great Fa - ther, I thy true son;
 Thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
 High King of heav - en, my treas - ure thou art.
 Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all. A - men.

James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.

SONG 67 C.M.

Orlando Gibbons, 1583-1625

1 O thou by whom we come to God, The Life, the Truth, the Way,
 2 We per - ish if we cease from prayer; O grant us power to pray;
 3 God of all grace, we come to thee With bro - ken, con - trite hearts;
 4 Give deep hu - mil - i - ty; the sense Of god - ly sor - row give;
 5 Give these, and then thy will be done; Thus strength - ened with all might,

The path of prayer thy - self hast trod, Lord, teach us how to pray.
 And, when to meet thee we pre - pare, Lord, meet us by the way.
 Give, what thine eye de - lights to see, Truth in the in - ward parts.
 A strong, de - sir - ing con - fi - dence To hear thy voice and live.
 We by thy Spir - it, and thy Son, Shall pray, and pray a - right. A - men.

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!

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

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Edward H. Plumptre, 1821-1891

MARION S.M. with Refrain
Arthur H. Messiter, 1834-1916



1 Re - joi - ce, ye pure in heart; Re - joi - ce, give thanks and sing;
2 Bright youth and snow-crowned age, Strong men and maid - ens meek,
3 With voice as full and strong As o - cean's surg - ing praise,
4 Yes, on through life's long path, Still chant - ing as ye go,



Your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, The cross of Christ your King!
Raise high your free, ex - ult - ing song, God's won - drous prais - es speak.
Send forth the hymns our fa - thers loved, The psalms of an - cient days.
From youth to age, by night and day, In glad - ness and in woe.



REFRAIN



Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, Re - joi - ce, give thanks and sing. A - men.



Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce,

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 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.*

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@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 • prayer@fcclleb.org • music@fcclleb.org • www.fcclleb.org