



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 25, 2024

We should ask God to increase our hope when it is small,
awaken it when it is dormant, confirm it when it is wavering,
strengthen it when it is weak, and raise it up when it is overthrown.

–John Calvin

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

Prelude *Prelude in A Major, BWV 536* Johann Sebastian Bach

Call to Worship Psalm 84 (as adapted by Maren Tirabassi)

One: How lovely is your sanctuary in all our sanctuaries, O God.

**All: Our souls long for the pews or chairs, for the clear windows to the world
around, or glass in sparkling color that tells the sweet old stories.**

One: How lovely is your sanctuary, that teaches me to be a sparrow and not a peacock,
not proud even of the bright-colored fantail of a physical building, soaring stone
arch or lively storefront, but of the soft feathers of love and the wide wings of justice.

**All: Even small children find a second and holy home, even babies brought in arms
for Baptism, pets brought to Blessing the Animals, guests who sit in the back
pew because maybe, just maybe, they want a wedding here someday, guests
eating at a table for those unhoused—every bit as much a nest as your altar.**

One: Happy are those who worship in your home.

**All: Happy are those who meet to plan mission in the basements of a blessed place
or share a common room for prayer shawls and conversation.**

One: Happy are rehearsing choirs, some with concert voices and some with desert-dry
pitch, you refresh not with rain but training.

**All: They go from strength to strength who drink coffee and eat cake at coffee hour,
or just drink lots and lots and lots of coffee at AA, NA, and GamAnon meetings.**

One: We know your holy nest is also on livestream and FaceTime, honored on YouTube
and Zoom, for no good thing does God withhold from those who worship digitally.

All: How lovely is your sanctuary, in all our sanctuaries, O God.

Hymn 13 (p. 5) *Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him*

Hyfrydol

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 Et Misericordia (*Magnificat*, BWV 243) Johann Sebastian Bach

“And His mercy is on them that fear Him, from generation to generation.”

Children’s Moment

Hymn 100 (p. 6) O My Soul, Bless God, the Father (vv. 1-6) Stuttgart

Scripture Lessons

1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43. Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of the city of David, which is Zion. [...] ⁶Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. [...] ¹⁰And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord, ¹¹so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord. [...]

²²Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. ²³He said, “O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, ²⁴the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. ²⁵Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, ‘There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.’ ²⁶Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David.

²⁷“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! ²⁸Regard your servant’s prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; ²⁹that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. ³⁰Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive. [...]

⁴¹“Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name ⁴²—for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, ⁴³then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so

that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built. [...]"

Psalm 84. How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! ²My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

³Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. ⁴Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

⁵Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. ⁶As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. ⁷They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

⁸O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! ⁹Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed.

¹⁰For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness. ¹¹For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly. ¹²O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

Sermon “*Home Is Where the Heart Is*” Gail T. Dimick

Hymn 725 (p. 7) *O Jesus, I Have Promised* Nyland

Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

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 *Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier*, BWV 731 Johann Sebastian Bach

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*)

Strong and Giving God, receive our gifts of time, talent, and financial resources for the building of your kingdom, on earth as it is in heaven. May we give with a spirit of courage, trust, and empathy. May our faithful stewardship receive confirmation through changed lives and renewed communities for your glory. Amen.

Hymn 344 (p. 8) *Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us* Dulce Carmen

Benediction

Postlude *Wir glauben all an einen Gott, BWV 680* Johann Sebastian Bach

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Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Gail Temperley Dimick, Guest Pastor
Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • Betsy Alexander, Alto • Brian Clancy, Tenor
Chris Chase and Phil Hammond, Ushers • Susan Pratt, Liturgist

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.

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!

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 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!

13

Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him

Based on Psalm 148

"Foundling Hospital Collection," 1796

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7.D.

Melody by Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887



1 Praise the Lord! ye heavens, a - dore him; Praise him, an - gels, in the height;
 2 Praise the Lord! for he is glo - rious; Nev - er shall his prom - ise fail;



Sun and moon, re - joice be - fore him; Praise him, all ye stars of light.
 God hath made his saints vic - to - rious; Sin and death shall not pre - vail.



Praise the Lord! for he hath spo - ken; Worlds his might - y voice o - beyed;
 Praise the God of our sal - va - tion! Hosts on high, his power pro - claim;



Laws which nev - er shall be bro - ken For their guid - ance he hath made.
 Heaven, and earth, and all cre - a - tion, Laud and mag - ni - fy his name. A - men.



O My Soul, Bless God, the Father

100

Based on Psalm 103

Anonymous

"United Presbyterian Book of Psalms U. S. A.," 1871

STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.

Melody attr. to Christian F. Witt, 1660-1716

"Psalmodia Sacra," Gotha, 1715

1 O my soul, bless God, the Fa - ther; All with - in me bless his name;
2 Who for - giv - eth thy trans - gres - sions, Thy dis - ea - ses all who heals,
3 Far as east from west is dis - tant, He hath put a - way our sin;
4 As it was with - out be - gin - ning, So it lasts with - out an end;

Bless the Fa - ther, and for - get not All his mer - cies to pro - claim.
Who re - deems thee from de - struc - tion, Who with thee so kind - ly deals,
Like the pit - y of a fa - ther Hath the Lord's com - pas - sion been.
To their chil - dren's chil - dren ev - er Shall his right - eous - ness ex - tend: A - men.

5 Unto such as keep his covenant
And are steadfast in his way,
Unto those who still remember
His commandments and obey.

6 Bless the Father, all his creatures,
Ever under his control;
All throughout his vast dominion
Bless the Father, O my soul.

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.

O Jesus, I Have Promised 725

Capo 3: (C) (Am7) (F) (G) (C) (G) (C)
 E^b Cm7 A^b B^b E^b B^b E^b

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 O let me feel you near me! The world is ev - er near:
 3 O let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,
 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you

(C) (Am7) (Dm) (G) (C) (G7) (C)
 E^b Cm7 Fm B^b E^b B^b7 E^b

be now and al - ways near me, my Mas - ter and my friend;
 I see the sights that daz - zle; the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will;
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.

(Am) (D) (G) (F) (G)
 Cm F B^b A^b B^b

I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

(C) (Am7) (F) (G) (C) (Dm) (G) (C)
 E^b Cm7 A^b B^b E^b Fm B^b E^b

nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, draw still near - er and shield my soul from sin.
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, true guard - ian of my soul.
 now give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my friend.

This hymn written by an Anglican clergyman for the confirmation of his children in Victorian times appears here in updated language that may help to make its challenging commitments more immediate. The tune is named for the province in Finland from which it comes.

TEXT: John Ernest Bode, 1866, alt.

MUSIC: Finnish folk melody; adapt. and harm. David Evans, 1927

Music Adapt. and Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press

NYLAND

7.6.7.6.D

(alternate tune: ANGEL'S STORY, 724)

344

Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us

James Edmeston, 1791-1867

DULCE CARMEN 8.7.8.7.8.7.

"An Essay on the Church Plain Chant," 1782

1 Lead us, heaven - ly Fa - ther, lead us O'er the world's tem -
 2 Sav - ior, breathe for - give - ness o'er us; All our weak - ness
 3 Spir - it of our God, de - scend - ing, Fill our hearts with

pes - tuous sea; Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
 thou dost know; Thou didst tread this earth be - fore us;
 heaven - ly joy; Love with ev - ery pas - sion blend - ing,

For we have no help but thee, Yet pos - sess - ing
 Thou didst feel its keen - est woe; Lone and drear - y,
 Pleas - ure that can nev - er cloy; Thus pro - vid - ed,

ev - ery bless - ing, If our God our Fa - ther be.
 faint and wea - ry, Through the des - ert thou didst go.
 par - doned, guid - ed, Noth - ing can our peace de - stroy. A - men.



Coming in September!

All in the FCC Sanctuary

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.*

Roots and Branches: Music for Piano, Cello, and Birbyne—Saturday, Sept. 21, at 7:00 pm

Pianist Elizabeth Borowsky and her mother, renowned cellist Cecylia Barczyk, present a soulful musical journey with special guest Vytautas Kiminius, a virtuoso on the enchanting Lithuanian *birbyne*. The program weaves together Eastern European folk music and classical compositions in a captivating tapestry of sound. *More at intermusearts.org/vytautas-kiminius-tour-2024.html.*

KICK-OFF SUNDAY IS SEPTEMBER 15!

Plan to join us in three weeks when we will inaugurate a new program year for the **Children’s Community Corner**, with the annual Blessing of the Backpacks and festive fellowship.

Come celebrate FCC’s children as they start a new year at school and at church!

Community Dinners Returning on Sunday, September 22

Many thanks to Dawn Troutman for her efforts to lead the revival of our monthly dinners! The hope is that our congregation can offer guidance, with the hard work shared by outside volunteers.

And all are welcome to come, eat, and share fellowship, regardless of need or affiliation.

Anyone can lend a hand with dinner setup, serving, and cleanup—family, friends, coworkers, neighbors, ANYONE! And if you’re interested in leading a month, menu resources are available, and the church can reimburse costs; please contact the office.

Signups coming soon! Please join in providing this important meal for our neighbors!



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