



# First Congregational Church of Lebanon

*United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming*

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## The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2024

The key to Christian living is a thirst and hunger for God. And one of the main reasons people do not understand or experience the sovereignty of grace and the way it works through the awakening of sovereign joy is that their hunger and thirst for God is so small.

–John Piper

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

### Prelude

### Call to Worship

Psalm 15

One: O LORD, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

**All: Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart;**

One: Who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;

**All: In whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear the LORD; who stand by their oath even to their hurt;**

One: Who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

**All: Those who do these things shall never be moved.**

Hymn 66 (p. 5)      *For the Beauty of the Earth* (vv. 1-6)

Dix

### 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

Hymn 717 (p. 6)      *For the Life That You Have Given*

Pleading Savior

### Scripture Lessons

*Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9.* So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the

Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.[...]

<sup>6</sup>You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” <sup>7</sup>For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? <sup>8</sup>And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

<sup>9</sup>But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children—[...]

*Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23.* Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup>and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) <sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” <sup>6</sup>He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; <sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ <sup>8</sup>You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

[...] <sup>14</sup>Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

[“...”] <sup>21</sup>For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

Sermon

“In and Out”

Stephen R. Silver

### Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

*As we hold community members in prayer, please exercise care and discretion when sharing.*

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 pray today for ourselves, our families, our friends, and our community. As we mark the end of summer, and look forward to a new program year, we ask that you be with us, in all we do. Bless our planning, bless our working, bless our dreams, and make them all worthy of you and your hopes for the world.

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

### 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*)

Mighty, gracious God: You have made us in your image, forming us to build and serve, to imagine and love. With thanks for your many reconciling, empowering acts of creation, we present these gifts, grateful to be partners in bringing about your kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray. 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:  
7 Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo - ry be to you, O Lord most  
11 High. Bless-ed is the one that comes in the name of the  
15 Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho -  
20 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 93 (p. 7)

*Come, Labor On*

Ora Labora

Benediction

Postlude

\* \* \*

### *Leading Worship This Week*

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Sarah Hill, Guest Pianist • Stacey Steele, Liturgist

Linda Gerlach and Bob Ross, Ushers • Bob Gerlach, 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.*

## **LAST CALL! STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH—SPECIAL UCC OFFERING**

This offering serves the growth of ministry and local congregations across the country, supporting existing churches and establishing new ones. Renewing faith communities and funding fellowships for young, emerging church leaders, this program is vital to the health of our denomination.

*Please give as you can to this nationwide effort to support church growth. We'll accept contributions (payable to FCC, memo "Strengthen the Church") through the coming week. 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.

**Currently, we are collecting non-perishable food and personal-care items on behalf of:**

**THE UPPER VALLEY HAVEN**

**For a list of current and ongoing needs, please visit [uppervalleyhaven.org/current-wish-lists/](http://uppervalleyhaven.org/current-wish-lists/) 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!*

# For the Beauty of the Earth

66

Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, *alt.*

DIX 7.7.7.7.7.  
*Abridged from a chorale by  
Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872*

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, For the beau - ty of the skies,  
2 For the beau - ty of each hour Of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's de - light,  
4 For the joy of hu - man love, Broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,

For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,  
For the mys - tic har - mo - ny Link - ing sense to sound and sight,  
Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, For all gen - tle thoughts and mild,

Lord of all, to thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise. A - men.

5 For each perfect gift of thine  
Unto us so freely given,  
Graces, human and divine,  
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven,

6 For thy Church that evermore  
Lifteth holy hands above,  
Offering up on every shore  
Her pure sacrifice of love,

## **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!*

# 717 For the Life That You Have Given

For the life that you have giv - en, for the love in

Christ made known, with these fruits of time and la - bor, with these

gifts that are your own: here we of - fer, Lord, our prais - es;

heart and mind and strength we bring; give us grace to

love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing.

The text was commissioned in 1987 by Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, where it has continued to be used each Sunday as the offertory response. The triune activity of God as Creator (line 1), Savior (line 2), and Sustainer (line 7) enables and inspires our thanks and praise.

TEXT: Carl P. Daw Jr., 1987

MUSIC: Leavitt's *Christian Lyre*, 1830/31

Text © 1990 Hope Publishing Company

PLEADING SAVIOR

8.7.8.7.D

(alternate harmonization, 23)

Jane L. Borthwick, 1813-1897, alt.

ORA LABORA 4.10.10.4.

T. Tertius Noble, 1867-1953

*In unison*

1 Come, la - bor on. Who dares stand i - dle on the har - vest plain  
 2 Come, la - bor on. Claim the high call - ing an - gels can - not share;  
 3 Come, la - bor on. A - way with gloom - y doubts and faith - less fear!  
 4 Come, la - bor on. No time for rest, till glows the west - ern sky,

While all a - round him waves the gold - en grain? And to each serv - ant  
 To young and old the gos - pel glad - ness bear; Re - deem the time; its  
 No arm so weak but may do serv - ice here; By fee - blest a - gents  
 Till the long shad - ows o'er our path - way lie, And a glad sound come

does the Mas - ter say, "Go work to - day."  
 hours too swift - ly fly. The night draws nigh.  
 may our God ful - fill His right - eous will.  
 with the set - ting sun, "Well done, well done!" A - men.





Music  
at the  
Meetinghouse

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://intermusearts.org/vytautas-kiminius-tour-2024.html).*

## 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.*

## 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@fcclieb.org](mailto:church@fcclieb.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@fcclieb.org](mailto:church@fcclieb.org) • [prayer@fcclieb.org](mailto:prayer@fcclieb.org) • [music@fcclieb.org](mailto:music@fcclieb.org) • [www.fcclieb.org](http://www.fcclieb.org)**