



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 2024

Faith idles when character shrivels.

–Miroslav Volf

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

Prelude

Praeludium in D Major

Dieterich Buxtehude

Call to Worship

Psalm 146

One: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

All: I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

One: Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

All: When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

One: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;

All: Who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

One: The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

All: The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

One: The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

All: The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

Hymn 6 (p. 5)

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above

Lyons

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

Anthem

With a Voice of Singing

Martin Shaw

Children's Moment

Jesus was a person, just like you and me. He lived long ago, and he spoke the way people back in his time did. And that creates problems for us. In today's lesson from

Mark, he speaks with a foreigner, and he seems to imply that she and her kind were not as good as dogs. Imagine that! Why would Jesus be so mean?

Well, he was speaking to first-century people, who had a different view of things. And Jesus also learned. He came to accept that foreigners were just as beloved by God as the Israelites, his own people. That was a radical claim then, but it's one we take for granted now. At least I hope we do. If we don't, we're not paying attention to what God is telling us through the Gospel.

Hymn 793 (p. 6) O Christ, the Healer

Erhalt uns, Herr

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 35:4-7a. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

James 2:1-13. My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? ⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹¹For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

Mark 7:24-37. ²⁴From there [Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and

throw it to the dogs.”²⁸ But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”²⁹ Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.”³⁰ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴ Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷ They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

Sermon “What We’re Called to Do” Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 796 (p. 7) *We Come to You for Healing, Lord* Land of Rest

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 God, we struggle with the question: which matters more, faith or works? Is believing enough to satisfy you, or is it doing good deeds? Help us to appreciate that we need to do both, that straying too far in one direction will lead us away from you. Help us to remember, to believe that you do not want some mindless profession or belief from us, nor do you want us to delude ourselves into thinking that we might author our own salvation through our works. Help us to understand instead that true faith involves action, that if we really believe in you, there will be no alternative but to do what is right, to do what you have called us to do for others.

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

From the Rising of the Sun

F. A. Gore Ouseley

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*)

We come before you, O God, with gratitude for all you have done for us. Now, seeking to emulate you, we share this morning's offering, knowing it will go to help your people, here in the Upper Valley and around the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Hymn 408 (p. 8)

All My Hope on God Is Founded

Michael

Benediction

Postlude

Rigaudon

André Campra

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Betsy Alexander, Liturgist

Linda and Ike Jacobs, Ushers • Dawn Troutman, 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 or speak with Rev. Silver directly.

KICK-OFF SUNDAY IS NEXT WEEK—SEPTEMBER 15!

Plan to join us in two Sundays 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 posted in the Parish Hall. Please help with this important meal for our neighbors!

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above

6

Based on Psalm 104
Robert Grant, 1779-1838, *all.*

LYONS 10.10.11.11.
Arr. from J. Michael Haydn ?, 1737-1806

1 O wor - ship the King, all glo - rious a - bove,
2 O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
3 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,
4 Thy boun - ti - ful care, what tongue can re - cite?
5 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,

O grate - ful - ly sing his power and his love;
Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space;
Al - might - y, thy power hath found - ed of old,
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
In thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;

Our Shield and De - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
Hath stab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
It streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
Thy mer - cies how ten - der, how firm to the end,

Pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
And dark is his path on the wings of the storm.
And round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
And sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
Our Ma - ker, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend! A - men.

793

O Christ, the Healer



1 O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for
 2 From ev - ery ail - ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies
 3 How strong, O Lord, are our de - sires, how weak our
 4 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og -
 5 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com -



health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to
 clam - or to be freed; yet in our hearts we
 knowl - edge of our - selves! Re - lease in us those
 nize the world's dis - ease; our com - mon life de -
 mu - ni - ty may find the whole - ness that, en -



be re - stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?
 would con - fess that whole - ness is our deep - est need.
 heal - ing truths un - con - scious pride re - sists or shelves.
 clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
 rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

This prayer for wholeness of body, mind, and spirit considers not only the infirmities of individuals but also those of localities, societies, and nations. In the midst of such widespread need, worshiping communities are called to continue Christ's healing work in the world.

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1967, alt.

MUSIC: Klug's *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1725

Text © 1969 Hope Publishing Company

ERHALT UNS, HERR

LM

Do Your Part to Fill the Cart!

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

THE UPPER VALLEY HAVEN

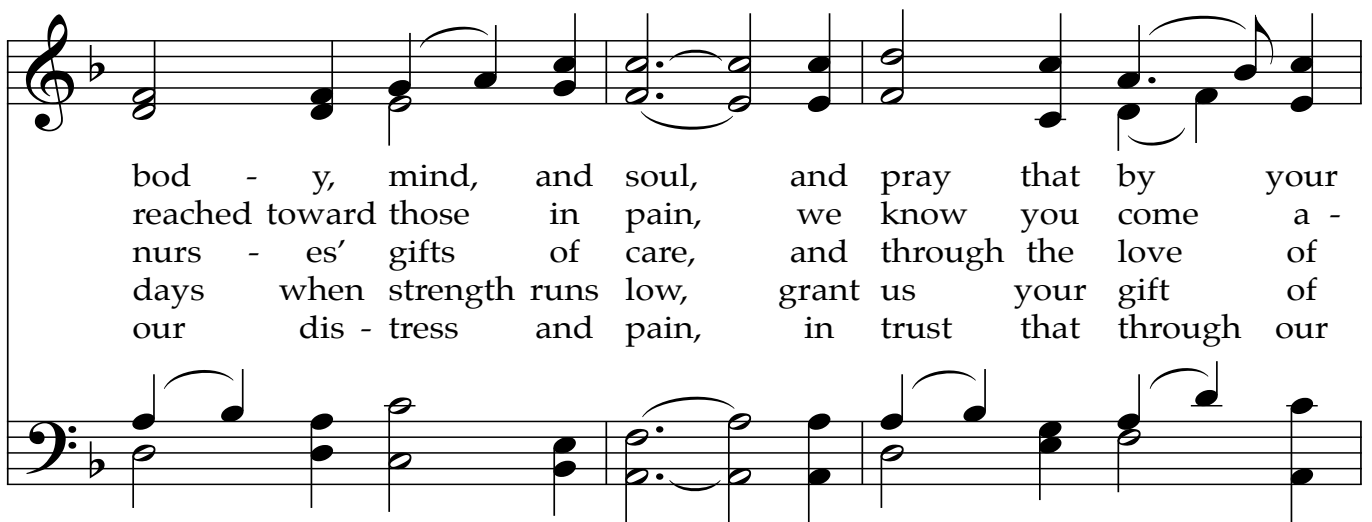
For a list of current and ongoing needs, please visit uppervalleyhaven.org/current-wish-lists/
 or see the list that is attached to the shopping cart itself.

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

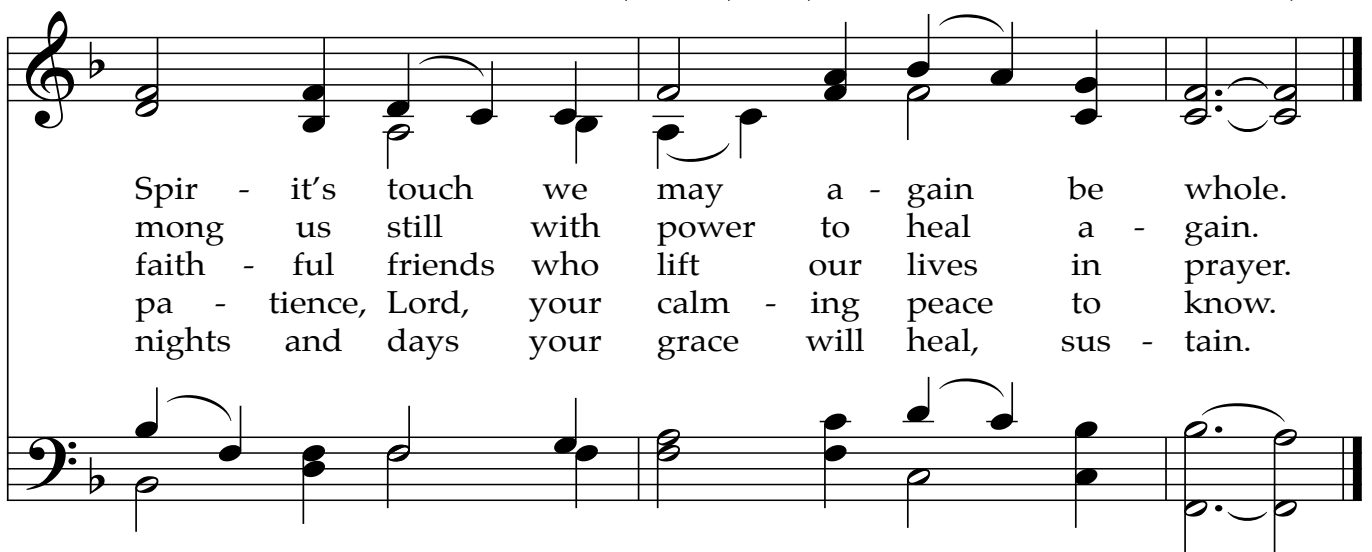
We Come to You for Healing, Lord 796



1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of
2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and
3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through
4 Through nights of pain and wake - ful - ness, through
5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in



bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your
reached toward those in pain, we know you come a -
nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of
days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of
our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our



Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.
mong us still with power to heal a - gain.
faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.
pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.
nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

Unlike many hymns on the theme of healing, this text appropriately includes the ministry of medical personnel as instruments of God's healing activity. It also acknowledges that illness is not limited to physical symptoms, but involves mental, emotional, and spiritual dimensions.

TEXT: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 2002

MUSIC: American folk melody; arr. Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938

Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.

Music Arr. © 1938, ren. The H. W. Gray Company (admin. Alfred Music Publishing)

LAND OF REST

CM

(alternate harmonization, 691)

All My Hope on God Is Founded

408

Joachim Neander, c. 1680

Ps. 62:5-8; 1 Tim. 6:17

Paraphr. by Robert Bridges, 1899; alt.

1 All my hope on God is found - ed: who else can my hope re-new?
2 Well does the al - might-y Giv - er boun-teous gifts on us be-stow!
3 In glad hymns to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of praise be done,

Still through change and chance God guides me, on - ly good and on - ly true.
With de - light our souls are nour-ished; plea-sure leads us where we go.
high a - bove all prais - es prais - ing for the love in Christ made known.

God un - known, grace a - lone, calls my heart to be God's own.
At God's hand does love stand; joy a - waits each new com - mand.
Hear Christ's call, one and all; those who fol - low shall not fall.

The musical score consists of three systems. Each system includes a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (grand staff with treble and bass clefs). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor) and the time signature is 8/7. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

British composer Herbert Howells studied with Charles V. Stanford at the Royal College of Music in London and later taught there. The tune was composed for an English school and was named for Howells' son who died in childhood.

Tune: MICHAEL 8.7.8.7.3.3.7.
Herbert Howells, 1930, 1977

Music Copyright © 1930, renewed 1977 by Novello Music



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 upervalleybaroque.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.*

Neighbors in Need Special UCC Offering—Mental-Health Justice for All!

The UCC’s Neighbors in Need program supports ministries of justice and compassion across the country. Two-thirds of the collection funds the UCC’s **Justice and Witness Ministries** in local and national initiatives, advocacy efforts, and the fight against systemic injustice. The rest goes to the **Council for American Indian Ministry**, a voice for Native Americans in the UCC, sustaining a proud denominational tradition of support. **This year, NIN focuses on mental-health justice, treating mental health as a God-given right and dismantling the shame and stigma around it.**

Please contribute as you’re able to this vital mission program, by cash or check (payable to FCC, memo “Neighbors in Need”) or online at www.ucc.org/nin. Thank you!

FCC Outing Club—Fall Foliage on Farnum Hill, Lebanon

Sunday, September 29—Meet at Trailhead on Rolling Ridge Rd at 12:30 pm

All are welcome—regardless of ability!—to enjoy this low-impact hike, led as always by ranger-extraordinaire **Ron Bailey**. We’ll follow a route we’ve not taken before, walking the Farnum Hill ridge to Middle and North Peaks, which afford great views for foliage season. Ron may offer a brief geology lecture, at no extra charge! *To reach trailhead, take Poverty Lane to Foliage View Rd, then left on Rolling Ridge Rd; trailhead is about 100 yards up on the right. Park along road, off pavement. Bring water, lunch or snacks, bug/tick repellent, and appropriate clothing.*

Bring your friends, family, and/or dogs, and share this experience of God’s creation!



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