



## Scripture Lessons

*Isaiah 50:4-9a.* <sup>4</sup>The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. <sup>5</sup>The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. <sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. <sup>7</sup>The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; <sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. <sup>9</sup>It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? [...]

*Mark 8:27-38.* <sup>27</sup>Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” <sup>28</sup>And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” <sup>29</sup>He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” <sup>30</sup>And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup>Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

**Sermon**                                      “Who Do You Say I Am?”                                      Stephen R. Silver

**Hymn 26** (p. 6)                              *Earth and All Stars!*                                      Earth and All Stars

## 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, Jacobe, and June.

O God of Guidance, we come before you this morning as we prepare to embark on a new year of discovery together. Be with our young people as they learn about you and your servants. Be with us adults as we too try to learn, and help us to always remember

the words of the old Puritan teaching, that there is always new light to be shed. We do not know everything. But there is much for us to learn, much for us to confirm. Let us do that with an abiding faith and with gratitude to you for all you have shared with us. 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**                      *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*                      Maurice Bevan

### **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*)

Dear God, you came to us in Jesus to teach us a new way, one rooted in sacrifice, grace, and love. We offer these gifts as acknowledgment of our desire to embody what he taught, to continue to be your students through whose actions our neighbors might learn more about your Good News. In the name of your son, our teacher, we pray. Amen.

**Hymn 490** (p. 7)              *Now in the Days of Youth*                      Diademata

### **Benediction**

**Postlude**                      *Scherzo*                      Ludwig van Beethoven

\* \* \*

### *Leading Worship This Week*

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Laurel Stavis, Liturgist  
Phil Hammond and Stacey Steele, Ushers • Dominic Watson, Zoom Greeter

\* \* \*

*All are welcome to gather after worship for festive fellowship and lunch! Many thanks to Rachel Silver and the parents of the Children's Community Corner for organizing this event.*

Lesbia Scott, 1898- , alt.

GRAND ISLE Irregular  
John H. Hopkins, 1861-1945

*In unison*

1 I sing a song of the saints of God Patient and brave and true,  
 2 They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, And his love made them strong;  
 3 They lived not on - ly in a - ges past, There are hun-dreds of thou-sands still;

Who toiled and fought and lived and died For the Lord they loved and  
 And they fol-lowed the right, for Je - sus' sake, The whole of their good lives  
 The world is bright with the joy-ous saints Who love to do Je - sus'

knew. And one was a doc - tor, and one was a queen, And  
 long. And one was a sol - dier, and one was a priest, And  
 will. You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, In

one was a shep-herd-ess on the green: They were all of them  
 one was slain by a fierce wild beast: And there's not an - y  
 church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea; For the saints of

saints of God, and I mean, God help - ing, to be one too.  
 rea - son, no, not the least, Why I shouldn't be one too.  
 God are just folk like me, And I mean to be one too.

## 478

## All Things Bright and Beautiful

Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-1895

ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with Refrain

Traditional English Melody

Adapted by Martin Shaw, 1875-

In unison

REFRAIN

All things bright and beau-ti - ful, All crea-tures great and small,

All things wise and won - der - ful, The Lord God made them all.

1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, Each lit - tle bird that sings,  
 2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun-tain, The riv - er run - ning by,  
 3 The cold wind in the win - ter, The pleas - ant sum - mer sun,

He made their glow - ing col - ors, He made their ti - ny wings.  
 The sun - set, and the morn - ing That bright - ens up the sky,  
 The ripe fruits in the gar - den, He made them ev - ery one.

## 26

## Earth and All Stars!

1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!  
 2 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals!  
 3 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers! Sing to the  
 4 Knowl - edge and truth! Loud sound - ing wis - dom!

Lord a new song! Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing  
 Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming  
 Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing  
 Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing

snow - storm!  
 cel - los! Sing to the Lord a new song! God has done  
 work - ers!  
 mem - bers!

mar - vel - ous things. We too sing prais - es with a new song!

This lively text was written for the 90th anniversary of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. Echoing Psalm 98, it is a prime example of a 20th-century hymn style based on phrases rather than complete sentences. The exuberant tune was created expressly for these words.



Walter J. Mathams, 1853-1932

DIADEMATA S.M.D.  
George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

1 Now in the days of youth, When life flows fresh and free,  
2 Teach us wher-e'er we live, To act as in thy sight,  
3 Teach us to love the true, The beau - ti - ful and pure,  
4 Spir - it of Christ, do thou Our first bright days in - spire,

Thou Lord of all our hearts and lives We give our-selves to thee;  
And do what thou wouldst have us do With ra - di - ant de - light,  
And let us not for one short hour An e - vil thought en - dure;  
That we may live the life of love And loft - i - est de - sire;

Our fer - vent gift re - ceive, And fit us to ful - fill,  
Not choos - ing what is great, Nor spurn - ing what is small,  
But give us grace to stand De - cid - ed, brave, and strong,  
And be by thee pre - pared For larg - er years to come,

Through all our days, in all our ways, Our heavenly Fa-ther's will.  
But take as from thy hands our tasks And glo - ri - fy them all.  
The lov - ers of all ho - ly things, The foes of all things wrong.  
And for the life in - ef - fa - ble With-in the Fa-ther's home. A-men.



*The Anonymous Coffeeshouse*—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).*

**Community Dinners Return Next 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!*

**The 2024 Lebanon CROP Walk—Sunday, October 13**

Every year thousands across the country join the CROP Hunger Walk, organized by Church World Service to fight hunger, food insecurity, and poverty worldwide. First held in Bismarck, ND, in October 1969, the walk has become a community event in over 2000 towns, as local organizations advocate for hunger relief and share fellowship on a crisp fall afternoon.

**All are welcome to participate in this year’s walk—in any or all of these ways:**

**WALK!**—Whether on your own or as a group of family and friends, register online at [events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/event/hanovernh](http://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/event/hanovernh). Then, invite donations in your name.

**SERVE!**—FCC will offer light food and refreshments on the front lawn, renewing a long tradition of post-walk hospitality. Volunteers may contribute food and/or help with set-up (*details TBD*).

**DONATE!**—Sponsor a walker or give at [events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/event/hanovernh](http://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/event/hanovernh).

**Please note that all contributions should be made online (not through FCC).**



## 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!*

## 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](http://www.ucc.org/nin). Thank you!*

## "Into the Potter's Hands" NHC-UCC Annual Meeting, October 26

All are invited—lay or ordained leaders, congregation members, friends, and visitors—to participate in the **223rd Annual Meeting** of the NH Conference of the UCC, at Geneva Point Center in Moultonborough. This year's theme, "**Into the Potter's Hands: Regeneration and Renewal**," draws inspiration from Jeremiah 18:6, and the keynote speaker is Rev. Darrell Goodwin, who has served the UCC in various roles in conferences across the country.

**In addition to worship, the business meeting, and other plenary events on October 26, several optional connecting sessions are available online October 15-29.**

*FCC will pay for up to four delegates to attend (in person or online); contact the church office if you're interested. Online registration open through Tuesday, October 8. For full schedule and more details, please visit [www.nhcucc.org/events/am-2024](http://www.nhcucc.org/events/am-2024).*

## 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/](http://uppervalleyhaven.org/current-wish-lists/).



**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](mailto: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)*

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