

have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” (*John 3:16-17*) So, there you have it. God sent Jesus to help us, not to punish us.

Hymn 404 (p. 6) *Take My Life and Let It Be*

Vienna

Scripture Lessons

Job 23:1-9, 16-17. Then Job answered: ²“Today also my complaint is bitter; his hand is heavy despite my groaning. ³Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his dwelling! ⁴I would lay my case before him, and fill my mouth with arguments. ⁵I would learn what he would answer me, and understand what he would say to me. ⁶Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power? No; but he would give heed to me. ⁷There an upright person could reason with him, and I should be acquitted forever by my judge.

⁸“If I go forward, he is not there; or backward, I cannot perceive him; ⁹on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him; I turn to the right, but I cannot see him. [...] ¹⁶God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me; ¹⁷If only I could vanish in darkness, and thick darkness would cover my face!”

Mark 10:17-31. ¹⁷As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” ²⁰He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

²⁸Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” ²⁹Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

Sermon

“Road Hazards”

Stephen R. Silver

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.

On this early October Sunday, we are challenged: what do we remember? What do we honor? What do we do about our future, both our individual paths and the one we hold in common? There is so much to decide, too much information to sift through. We feel that we are alone, facing a new situation.

But Mark's Gospel reminds us otherwise. We may feel that we are faced with grave, unprecedented choices, but then we remember the young man who was told that is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than it is for a person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Tough, even insurmountable choices have long been before us. We remember this, and we remember that we are not alone, that God holds us, cares for us, in all we do. For this strength, for this love, we give God thanks.

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*Tu Pauperum Refugium*

Josquin des Prez

"You are a refuge for the poor, the cure for infirmity, the hope of exiles, the strength of workers, the path for the wanderer, truth and life. And now, Redeemer God, I take refuge with you alone. I worship you, true God, I hope in you, I trust in you. Jesus Christ, my salvation, help me that my soul should never fall asleep in death."

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*)

Almighty God, ruler of all: we present these gifts as a pledge to use the money, skills, and time with which you have blessed us to help with the building of your new creation, here in the Upper Valley and around the world. In the name of your Son, our Savior, we pray. Amen.

Hymn 725 (p. 8) *O Jesus, I Have Promised* Nyland

Benediction

Postlude *A Benediction (God Be in My Head)* Alec Rowley

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Phil Hammond, Liturgist
Linda and Bob Gerlach, Ushers • Sue Pratt, Zoom Greeter

The 2024 Lebanon CROP Walk—This 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. 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.
Please note that all contributions should be made online (not through FCC).

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!

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Walter C. Smith, 1824-1908, alt.

ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.

Welsh Hymn Melody

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est to both great and small;
 4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 And with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee. A - men.

Take My Life and Let It Be

404

Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879

VIENNA 7.7.7.7.

Melody by Justin H. Knecht, 1752-1817

1 Take my life, and let it be Con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands, and let them move At the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my will, and make it thine; It shall be no long - er mine;
4 Take my love: my Lord I pour At thy feet its treas - ure store;

Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them flow in cease-less praise.
Take my feet, and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
Take my heart, it is thine own; It shall be thy roy - al throne.
Take my - self, and I will be Ev - er, on - ly, all for thee. A - men.

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!

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.

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

399

George Matheson, 1842-1906

ST. MARGARET 8.8.8.6.

Albert L. Peace, 1844-1912

1 O Love that wilt not let me go,
2 O Light that fol - lowest all my way,
3 O Joy that seek - est me through pain,
4 O Cross that lift - est up my head,

I rest my wea - ry soul in thee;
I yield my flick - ering torch to thee;
I can - not close my heart to thee;
I dare not ask to fly from thee;

I give thee back the life I owe,
My heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray,
I trace the rain - bow through the rain,
I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead,

That in thine o - cean depths its flow May rich - er, full - er be.
That in thy sun - shine's blaze its day May bright - er, fair - er be.
And feel the prom - ise is not vain That morn shall tear - less be.
And from the ground there blos - soms red Life that shall end - less be. A - men.

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.

The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, Oct. 11 and 25, Nov. 8 and 22, Dec. 6, all 7:30 pm
Our comfy community venue for live folk music continues its fifth season! Come and go as you please; food and drink available. *Free admission. For performers and more, visit anoncoffee.org.*

Classicopia: Fabulous Four-Hand Frolic—Saturday, October 12, at 7:30 pm

Pianists Dan Weiser and Elizabeth Borowsky share the keyboard for this thrilling four-hand program of French and American composers. Music of Georges Bizet, Gabriel Fauré, and NH's own Amy Beach, along with George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, which celebrates its centennial this year. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at classicopia.org.*

Cameo Baroque: An All-Bach Benefit for the Open Door—Sunday, October 27, at 2:00 pm

Four superb musicians (Ernie Drown, Beth Hilgartner, Leslie Stroud, and Laurie Rabut) celebrate the music of Johann Sebastian Bach in this fall program. *Free-will donation to benefit FCC's Open Door Ministry for community assistance. More on Cameo Baroque at cameoarts.org.*

Sunflower Woodwind Quintet (Presented by UVMC)—Sunday, November 10, at 1:00 pm

This excellent wind ensemble offers musical variety from classical showpieces to dance tunes and a new commission, "Turning Toward." *Free-will donation benefits UVMC tuition assistance; more at uvmusic.org.*

Classicopia: Jewish Jazz—Saturday, November 16, at 7:30 pm

UVMC Community Chorus—Saturday, November 23, at 4:00 pm

Henry Danaher, Organ—Saturday, November 23, at 7:00 pm

Cameo Baroque: Benefit for the UV Haven's 19 Days—Saturday, November 30, at 7:00 pm

"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.



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