

Children's Moment

Saul was an eager beaver. He wanted to get things done. In some ways, he was a bully. But did he consider the cost of his zeal, of who he would have to steamroll to achieve his goals? Not the way God would want him to. And we see that in Acts.

God steps in and stops Paul. The bully is put in his place, and given a fresh start. After three days, Paul was ready to hit the road again. But now he's on a different mission, one that involves embracing those he persecuted. It's a story with a happy ending. The bully is reformed. And in being changed, Saul became Paul and changed the world.

Hymn 504 (p. 6) *You Walk along Our Shoreline*

Salley Gardens

Scripture Lessons

Acts 9:1-20. Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"⁵ He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one.⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.⁹ For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord."¹¹ The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying,¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight."¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem;¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name."¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel;¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."¹⁷ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized,¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus,²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

John 21:1-19. After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way.² Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples.³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” ⁶He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. ¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” ¹⁹(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

Sermon

“Choose Your Own Adventure”

Stephen R. Silver

Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

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

We offer our ongoing prayers for Pete, Marcia, Arlene, Evelyn, Greg, Jan, Edith, Eileen, Waneta, Terry, Juanita, Dan, Travis, Garrett, Sue, Rick, Edward, Priscilla, Ron, Lauren, Brian, Micah, Al, Steve, Denzil, Jacobe, Reg, Chris, Pam, Ellen, Tricia, Deserai, Jon, Elizabeth, Dominic, Stacey, Juliet, Alicia, Terri, and Mike.

Forgive us, O God, for our willful blindness, for our eagerness to be distracted. We choose not to see what we believe to be inconvenient. We allow ourselves to be swayed by that which makes us feel better. We all too often look away when we are called to be involved. We pray that we will respond to your call as Paul did—that the scales that block our eyes will fall away and we will be drawn into your light. We pray that we may know grace, and peace, and purpose.

We offer these prayers, with 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

I Give You a New Commandment

Peter Aston

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*)

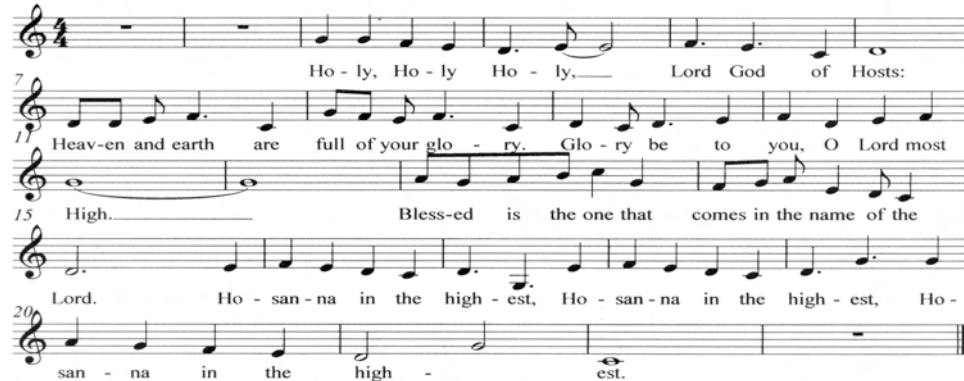
Lord of the Resurrection, God of New Life, just as you called the disciples, you have called us. We thank you for calling us to serve and to follow you, and we respond to this invitation with gratitude and enthusiasm. In this spirit, we offer our gifts this morning to feed and tend to your people. In 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:
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo - ry be to you, O Lord most
High. Bless-ed is the one that comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho -
san - na in the high - est.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

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.

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

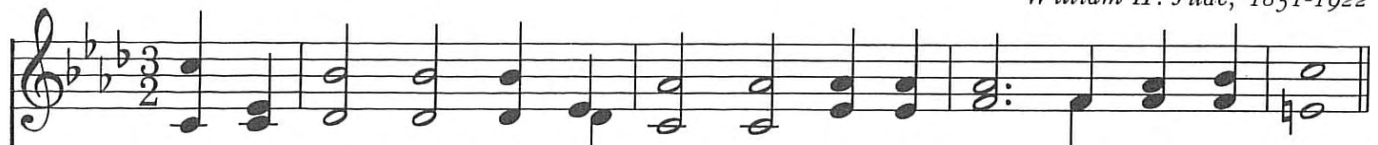
Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • Betsy Alexander, Soprano • Laurel Stavis, Alto
Sue Pratt, Liturgist • Linda Gerlach and Dawn Troutman, Ushers • Bob Gerlach, Zoom

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.

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Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult

First Tune

*Cecil F. Alexander 1818-1895*GALILEE 8.7.8.7.
William H. Jude, 1851-1922

1 Je - sus calls us, o'er the tu - mult Of our life's wild, rest-less sea;
 2 As of old, Saint An-drew heard it By the Gal - i - le - an lake,
 3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship Of the vain world's gold-en store,
 4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, Days of toil and hours of ease,
 5 Je - sus calls us; by thy mer - cies, Sav-ior, may we hear thy call,



Day by day his sweet voice sound-eth, Say-ing, "Christian, fol - low me."
 Turned from home and toil and kin-dred, Leav-ing all for his dear sake.
 From each i - dol that would keep us, Say-ing, "Christian, love me more."
 Still he calls, in cares and pleas-ures, "Christian, love me more than these."
 Give our hearts to thine o - be-dience, Serve and love thee best of all. A-men



You Walk along Our Shoreline

504

Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1984; alt.

Mark 1:16–20; John 17:20–26

1 You walk a - long our shore - line where land meets un - known sea.
2 You call us, Christ, to gath - er the peo - ple of the earth.
3 We cast our net, O Je - sus; we seek your prom - ised reign;

We hear your voice of pow - er, "Now come and fol - low me. And
We can - not fish for on - ly those lives we think have worth. We
We work for love and jus - tice; we learn to hope through pain. You

if you still will fol - low through storm and wave and shoal,
spread your net of gos - pel a - cross the wa - ter's face,
call on us to gath - er God's daugh - ters and God's sons,

Then I will make you fish - ers, but of the hu - man soul."
Our boat a com - mon shel - ter for all found by your grace.
To let your judg - ment heal us so that all may be one.

Hymnwriter Sylvia Dunstan credited an article by Michael Steinhauser in the March 1984 issue of Practice of Ministry in Canada entitled "Fishing: A Metaphor for Ministry" as the inspiration for her text. Dunstan was an ordained minister of the United Church of Canada.

Tune: SALLEY GARDENS 7.6.7.6.D.
Traditional Irish melody
Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

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Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

498

Capo 3: (D)

(Bm)

(G)

F

Dm

B \flat



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the Gal - i -
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a qui - et
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in faith we
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us in your

(D)

(Bm)

F

Dm



le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of Life from heav - en, was their
 room one night. In the bread and wine you gave them, Christ, you
 gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the a - ges: "I am
 name to share bread for which the mil - lions hun - ger, words that

(G)

(D)

(A)

B \flat

F

C



food for - ev - er - more.
 came as Light from Light. By your bod - y bro - ken
 with you; do not fear!"
 tell your love and care.

(Bm)

(F \sharp m)

(Bm)

(G)

(A)

(D)

Dm

Am

Dm

B \flat

C

F



for us, by your wine of life out-poured, Je - sus, feed a -

(Bm)

(G)

(D)

Dm

B \flat

F



gain your peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The first two stanzas of this text deal with events in the past (the feeding of the multitude and the Last Supper) and the final two with events in the present. The recurring last four lines of each stanza serve as an affirmation of Christ's continuing presence at all times.

TEXT: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 2005

MUSIC: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. James H. Wood, 1958

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Music Harm. © 1958, ren. 1986 Broadman Press/Van Ness Press, Inc. (admin. Music Services)

BEACH SPRING

8.7.8.7.D



Bel Canto Chamber Singers: *On Beauty*—Saturday, May 3, at 7:00 / Sunday, May 4, at 4:00

In music for choir, piano, strings, and percussion, Bel Canto responds to inhumanity with the beauty of nature and spirit. The program spans classical to contemporary, spirituals to folk and shape-note, with an array of poetic texts. *Admission by donation (\$15 suggested); more at belcantosingers.org.*

***The Anonymous Coffeehouse: Season Finale!*—Friday, May 9, at 7:30 pm**

Our comfy community venue for live folk music wraps up its fifth season! Come and go as you please; food and drink available. *Free admission. For performers and more, visit anoncoffee.org.*

***Cameo Baroque Benefit Concert: Handel and His Rivals*—Saturday, May 10, at 7:00 pm**

This superb ensemble explores the world of G. F. Handel, offering his music alongside pieces by John F. Lampe, Thomas Arne, and G. B. Bonocini, as well as selections from *The Beggar's Opera*. *Free-will donation to benefit Vermont Foodbank; more at vtfoodbank.org and cameoarts.org.*

***Upper Valley Music Center: Sing & Play 30 for 30*—Sat.-Sun., May 17-18 (various times)**

Celebrating 30 years of music-making by each other, for each other! Recitals, class concerts, and individual performances will happen all over town! *Free to all; full details at uvmusic.org/events.*

***Classicopia: Alive and Kicking (Living Composers)*—Saturday, May 24, at 7:30 pm**

Pianist Dan Weiser welcomes back the Borowsky siblings (violinist Emmanuel and cellist Frances) for wonderful trios by Heleen Verleur, Paul Schoenfield, and Stephen Dankner—each drawing freely from various historical genres. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at classicopia.org.*

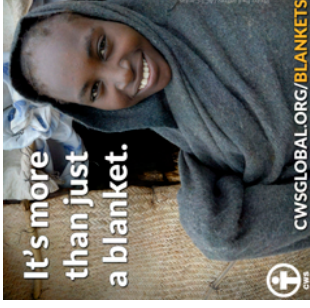
Do Your Part to Fill the Cart!

Join the fight against local poverty and food insecurity with contributions to our shopping cart in the Parish Hall. We're currently collecting non-perishable food and personal-care items for:

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!



Mother's Day is Blanket Sunday

We are pleased to participate once again in Church World Service's **CWS BLANKETS** program, a special mission project that provides blankets and essential supplies to people in crisis worldwide. (For more, please visit www.cwsblankets.org.)

If you'd like to honor or remember the mother(s) in your life with a contribution to **CWS BLANKETS**, please complete this form and either put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church (PO Box 230, Lebanon, NH 03766). The suggested minimum donation is \$10, but any amount is welcome!

Dedications must be received by noon on THURSDAY, MAY 8 to be included in the bulletin for MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 11.

Given by _____

In honor of _____

Please send a card (include address on back)

In memory of _____

Contribution: _____ (payable to FCC, memo "Blanket Sunday")



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