

First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ - Open and Affirming

The Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 26, 2022

"There is something deeply hypocritical about praying for a problem you are unwilling to solve."

—Miroslav Volf

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

Prelude Wenn wir in höchsten Nöten sein Johann Christoph Bach

Call to Worship Psalm 77:11-15

Leader: I will call to mind the deeds of the LORD; I will remember your wonders of old.

People: I will meditate on all your work, and muse on your mighty deeds.

Leader: Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so great as our God?

People: You are the God who works wonders; you have displayed your might

among the peoples.

All: With your strong arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of

Jacob and Joseph.

Hymn 15 (p. 5) Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Lobe den Herren

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

One of the interesting things about my ministry is the work I get to do beyond the four walls of our church. Whether I'm visiting a parishioner, or serving on a hospital board, or working on behalf of the United Church Funds, all I do is part of my ministry. It is part of doing the work I and, frankly, all of us are called to do on behalf of Jesus Christ.

Working together, helping out is what Jesus would have us do. As you get older, you will be asked to volunteer to lend your knowledge and energy to other organizations beyond your family or employer. My hope is that you will respond positively and with enthusiasm.

Hymn 240 (p. 6) Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove

St. Agnes

Scripture Lessons

2 *Kings* **2:1-2**, **6-14**. Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. […]

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." ¹⁰He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

¹³He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" When he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

Luke 9:51-62. ⁵¹When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶Then they went on to another village.

⁵⁷As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹To another he said, "Follow me." But

he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶²Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Sermon "Blowin' in the Wind" Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 241 (p. 6) Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers

Nun danket all'

Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

As we hold our community members in prayer, please exercise care and discretion when sharing. Help us keep our prayer list current by contacting the church office to add or remove names.

Today we offer our ongoing prayers for Pete, Lloyd, Arlene, Evelyn, Barbara, Greg, Edith, Jan, Eileen, Michelle, Stephanie, Juanita, Terry, Dan, and Ethan.

We pray for the people—especially the youth—of Ukraine, that they may know peace.

O God, who speaks to us in a still small voice, who calls to us in the maelstrom, we wish to hear you. Give us the wit, the ability, to heed your word, to listen to your call, even if it is inconvenient. Like Elisha, we wish to receive your spirit. And though there are times our actions contradict this desire, we pray you know that what we want is to grow closer to you, to be shaped by you, to be shaped by your love, grace, and saving power.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of your Son, 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 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior Jan Bender

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)

God, who has given us everything, we give you our thanks. We know our gratitude can never measure up to your generosity, but you still welcome it. We hope, we pray that we will learn from your example and do likewise. As we present our gifts this morning, we resolve to be more appreciative, to be more helpful, to remember that there are those in this world who desperately need our help and our love. It is our blessing to be able to do this, for your children, our sisters and brothers in Christ. Amen.

Hymn 727 (p. 7)

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

Servant Song

Benediction

Postlude

Prelude on St. Fulbert

Craig Sellar Lang

Leading Worship This Week

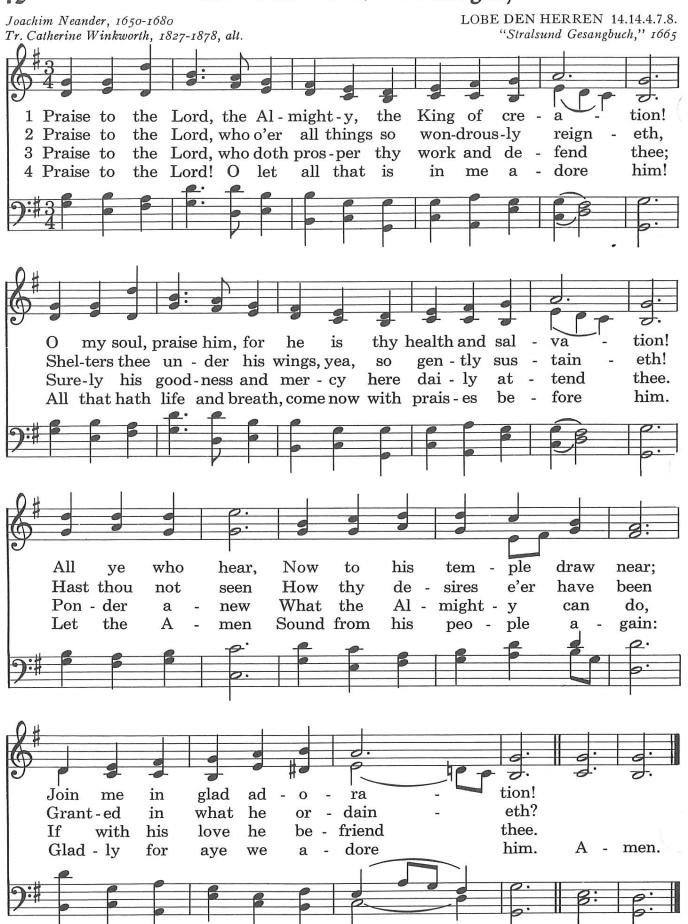
The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor
Lester Gibbs, Guest Organist • Stacey Steele, Liturgist
Corrine Erskine and Sue Pratt, Ushers • Bob Gerlach, Zoom Greeter

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 or speak with Rev. Silver directly.

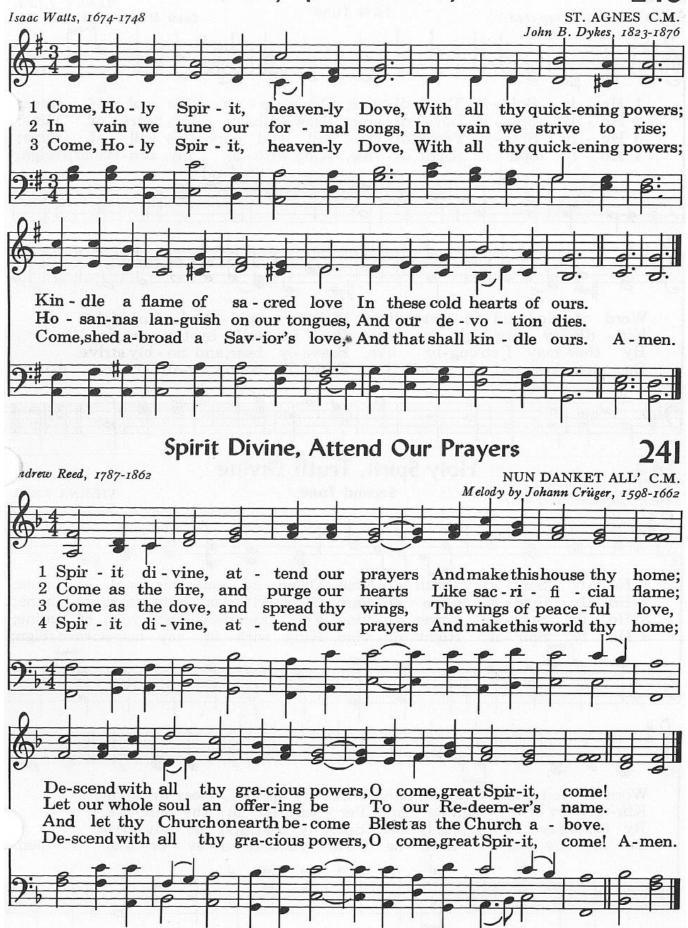
Service of Ordination and Outdoor Reception for Eliot Fay This Sunday, June 26, at 2:00 pm—FCC Sanctuary

All are invited to join in celebrating this momentous achievement in Eliot's journey in ministry—which our congregation has helped shepherd and sponsor for the past several years, through the Grafton-Orange-Sullivan Association. A light outdoor reception will follow. Congratulations, Eliot!

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



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Will You Let Me Be Your Servant 727

The Servant Song



The opening and closing stanza expresses the essence of this folk-style song about the mutuality of servant ministry: those who serve must also be willing to be served. This is what Christ intended when he commanded the disciples to "wash one another's feet" (John 13:14).



July Concerts

Masks, distanced seating, and proof of vaccination required.

Oak Hill Music Festival-Wednesday, July 13, and Saturday, July 16, both at 7:30

Hanover-born bassoonist Leah Kohn, back in the Upper Valley after establishing an impressive performance career in Los Angeles, inaugurates what she hopes to build into an annual festival of professional musicians and exciting repertoire, both familiar and innovative. They'll use FCC as a rehearsal space and offer two programs here, entitled "From the New Hampshire Woods" and "Breath." Complete details, musician information, and ticket options at www.oakhillmusicfestival.com.

Counterpoint: The Woods and the Waters-Friday, July 15, at 7:30

Director Nathaniel Lew brings VT's professional choral ensemble back to Lebanon for the first time in four years to celebrate landscapes near and far, with guest pianist Alison Cerutti. Music by Jude Navari, Benjamin Britten, and NH's own Amy Beach, along with the premiere of a piece by composer Travis Ramsey and poet Jim Schley—who both live in the Upper Valley. Adults \$20, seniors \$15, students and limited means \$5; more at counterpointchorus.org/upcoming/.

Register Now for Classicopia's Summer Music Camp!—Two Sessions: August 8-13 and 15-20

This immersive program offers instrumental and vocal instruction to students aged 8-18, with outstanding faculty and guest artists. *More details and registration at classicopia.org/summer-camp/*.



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@fccleb.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 • Nancy Parsons, Children's Community Corner Jon Scott, Chair of Church Council • Linda Gerlach, Chair of Deacons • Barbara Jones, Moderator Brian Clancy, Church Administrator

Church Office Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9:00-12:00 (or by appointment as needed) 603-448-4281 • church@fccleb.org • prayer@fccleb.org • music@fccleb.org • www.fccleb.org