



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

July 6, 2025

To my mind, the life of a lamb is no less precious than that of a human being.

—Mahatma Gandhi

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 5-7.

Prelude

Call to Worship

Adapted from Psalm 66:1-9 (trans. *The Message*)

One: All together now—applause for God! Sing songs to the tune of God's glory, set glory to the rhythms of his praise.

All: Say of God, "We've never seen anything like God!"

One: The whole earth falls to its knees—it worships you, sings to you, can't stop enjoying your name and fame.

All: Take a good look at God's wonders— they'll take your breath away.

One: God converted sea to dry land. Bless our God, O peoples!

All: Give God a thunderous welcome!

Hymn 16 (p. 5) *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

Praise My Soul

Prayer of Invocation

Words of Welcome; Our Ministry and Mission

Children's Moment

Scripture Lessons

Galatians 6:1-16 (trans. The Message). Live creatively, friends. If someone falls into sin, forgivingly restore him, saving your critical comments for yourself. You might be needing forgiveness before the day's out. ²Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens, and so complete Christ's law. ³If you think you are too good for that, you are badly deceived. ⁴Make a careful exploration of who you are and the work you have been given, and then sink yourself into that. Don't be impressed with yourself. Don't compare yourself with others. ⁵Each of you must take responsibility for doing the creative best you can with your own life. ⁶Be very sure now, you who have been trained to a self-sufficient maturity, that you enter into a generous common life with those who have trained you, sharing all the good things that you have and experience.

⁷Don't be misled: No one makes a fool of God. What a person plants, he will harvest. The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others—ignoring God!—⁸harvests a crop of weeds. All he'll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God's Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life. ⁹So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit. ¹⁰Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith.

¹¹Now, in these last sentences, I want to emphasize in the bold scrawls of my personal handwriting the immense importance of what I have written to you. ¹²These people who are attempting to force the ways of circumcision on you have only one motive: They want an easy way to look good before others, lacking the courage to live by a faith that shares Christ's suffering and death. All their talk about the law is gas. ¹³They themselves don't keep the law! And they are highly selective in the laws they do observe. They only want you to be circumcised so they can boast of their success in recruiting you to their side. That is contemptible! ¹⁴For my part, I am going to boast about nothing but the Cross of our Master, Jesus Christ. Because of that Cross, I have been crucified in relation to the world, set free from the stifling atmosphere of pleasing others and fitting into the little patterns that they dictate. ¹⁵Can't you see the central issue in all this? It is not what you and I do—submit to circumcision, reject circumcision. It is what God is doing, and he is creating something totally new, a free life! ¹⁶All who walk by this standard are the true Israel of God—his chosen people. Peace and mercy on them!

Luke 10:1-11. After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ²He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' ⁶And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' ¹⁰But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.' [...]"

Sermon

"Down to Earth"

Gail T. Dimick

Hymn 332 (p. 6)

As We Gather at Your Table

Beach Spring

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 the church office to add or remove names.

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, Mike, Steve, and Jeff.

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

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 give you thanks, Wise God, for cultivating generosity within us and alerting us to the needs around us. Use these gifts for the expansion of your will on earth and the blessing of your beloved. In your name and in hope, we give these gifts. 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.

Hymn 298 (pp. 7-8) *Lord, You Give the Great Commission*

Abbot's Leigh

Benediction

Postlude

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Gail Temperley Dimick, Guest Pastor

Nicholas Kleinschmidt, Guest Organist • Linda Jacobs, Liturgist

Bob Ross and Dawn Troutman, 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 the pastor directly.



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

SUMMER CONCERTS

All in the FCC Sanctuary

Classicopia: Mendelssohn Mania—Friday, July 18, at 7:30 pm

Dan Weiser welcomes violinist Andréa Picard Boecker and cellist Alicia Ward to play piano trios by Felix and Fanny Mendelssohn. Limited in their time by anti-semitism and sexism, these siblings survive in their powerful music. *Adults \$20, FCC mems \$15, children free; more at classicopia.org.*

Counterpoint Vocal Ensemble: In the Good Old Summertime—Saturday, July 19, at 7:00 pm

Director Nat Lew brings Vermont's professional choral ensemble back to FCC with a delightful selection of popular songs of the Gilded Age, from "Beautiful Dreamer" and "Sweet Adeline" to "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." *Adults \$20, seniors \$15, limited means \$5; more at counterpointchorus.org.*

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH—SPECIAL UCC OFFERING

This offering supports the growth of ministry and local congregations across the country. This year's theme—"Great and Wide"—suggests the diversified goal of establishing new churches and supporting existing ones. By renewing faith communities and funding fellowships for young, emerging leaders in our church, this program is vital to the health of our denomination.

Please give as you are able to this nationwide effort to support church growth. We will accept contributions (payable to FCC, memo "Strengthen the Church") until Labor Day. Thanks!

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

16

Based on Psalm 103
Henry F. Lyle, 1793-1847

PRAISE MY SOUL 8.7.8.7.8.7.
John Goss, 1800-1880



1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en, To his feet thy
2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor To our fa - thers
3 Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; Well our fee - ble
4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him, Ye be - hold him

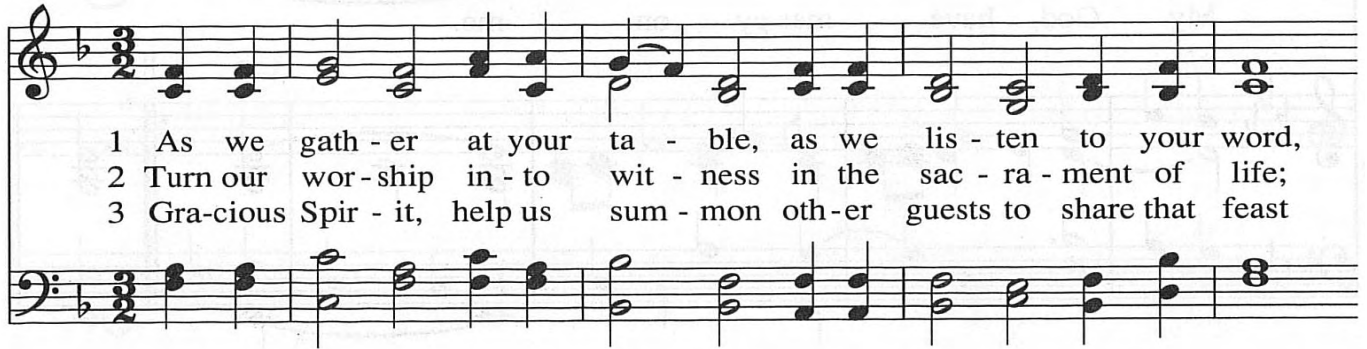
trib - ute bring; Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
in dis - tress; Praise him, still the same for - ev - er,
frame he knows; In his hands he gen - tly bears us,
face to face; Sun and moon, bow down be - fore him;

Who, like me, his praise should sing? Praise him! praise him!
Slow to chide, and swift to bless. Praise him! praise him!
Res - cues us from all our foes. Praise him! praise him!
Dwell - ers all in time and space, Praise him! praise him!

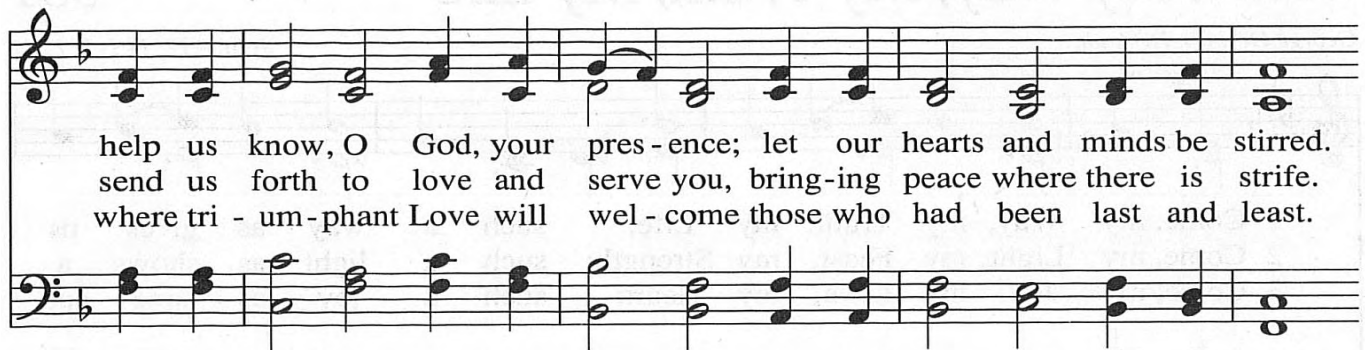
Praise him! praise him! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King!
Praise him! praise him! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!
Praise him! praise him! Wide - ly as his mer - cy flows!
Praise him! praise him! Praise with us the God of grace! A - men.

Matt. 22:1-10; Luke 14:16-24

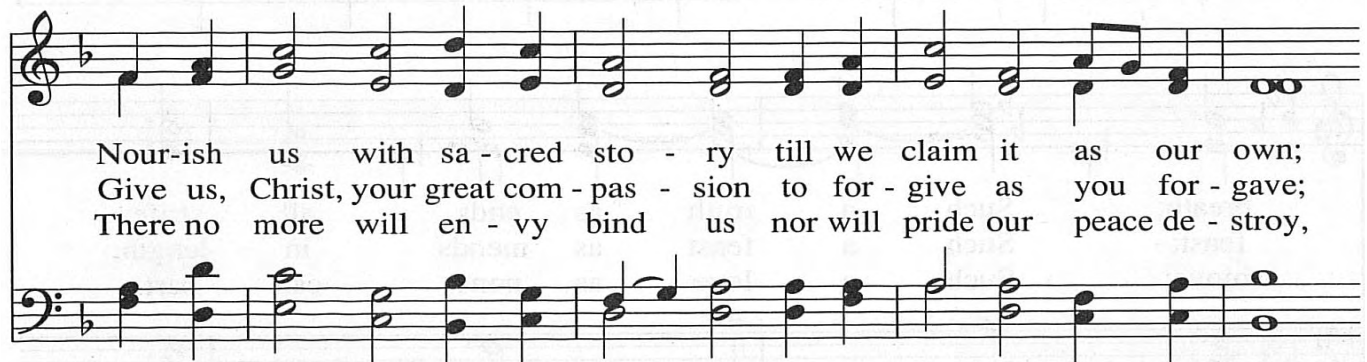
Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989



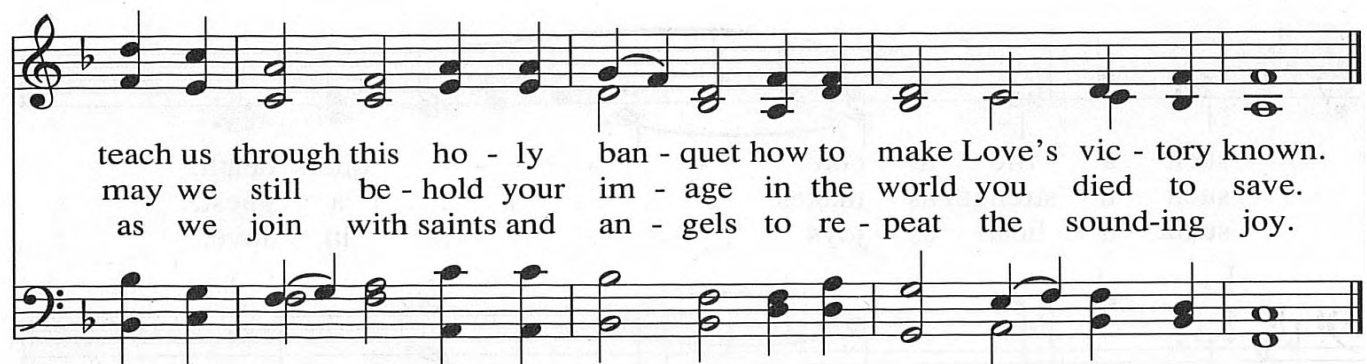
1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.



Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

In this hymn, commissioned by an Episcopal parish in Virginia for the celebration of its tricentennial, Carl P. Daw, Jr., utilized a familiar phrase from Isaac Watts' "Joy to the World," which was the motto for the celebration: "Repeat the sounding joy."

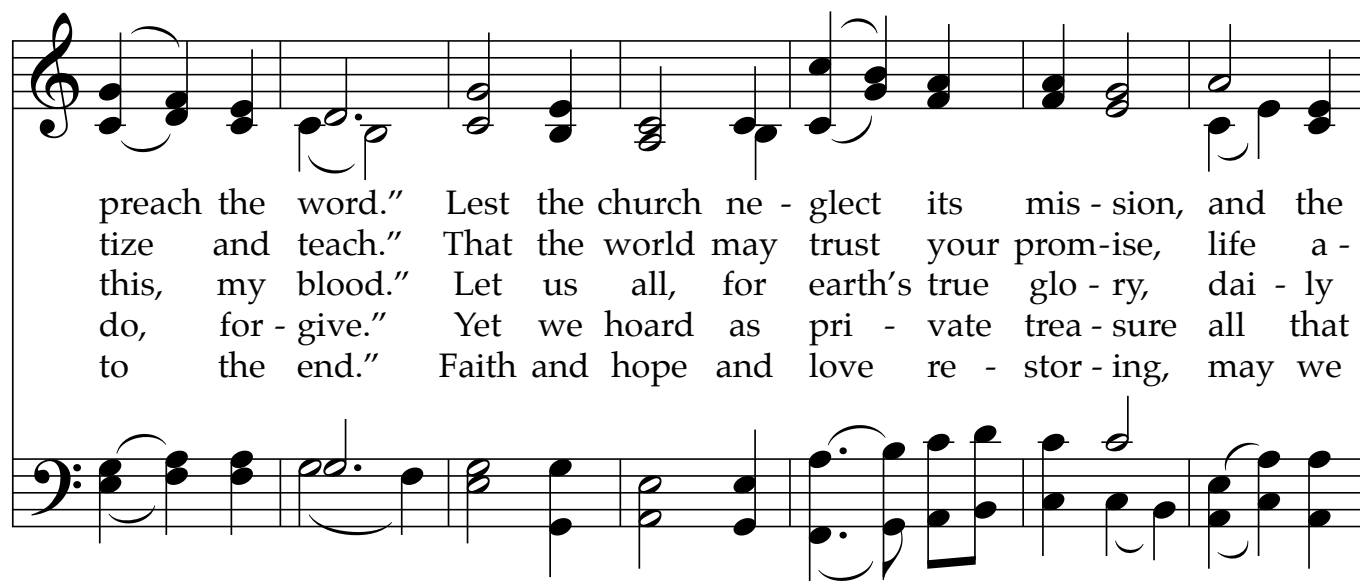
Tune: BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7.D.
 The Sacred Harp, 1844
 Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1992

Words Copyright © 1989 by Hope Publishing Company

298 Lord, You Give the Great Commission



1 Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This, my bod - y;
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther, what they
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion, and the
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise, life a -
 this, my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry, dai - ly
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure all that
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing, may we



gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness to your
 bun - dant meant for each, give us all new fer - vor,
 lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the world a -
 you so free - ly give. May your care and mer - cy
 serve as you in - tend, and, a - mid the cares that

pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty: with the Spir - it's
lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:
claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:

gifts em - power us for the work of min - is - try.

United by the refrain after each stanza, this text relies on passages from Matthew and Luke to highlight various dimensions of the church's mission and ministry in the world. It was written for use with this tune, composed in the village near Bristol, England, for which it is named.

TEXT: Jeffery W. Rowthorn, 1978
MUSIC: Cyril Vincent Taylor, 1941
Text © 1978 Hope Publishing Company
Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company

ABBOT'S LEIGH
8.7.8.7.D

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:

LISTEN COMMUNITY SERVICES

For a list of current and ongoing needs, please visit listencs.org/food-pantry#itemsweneedthemost 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!

Community Dinner Sunday, July 27, at 5:00—All Are Welcome!

Many thanks to Corrine Erskine and Linda Jacobs for leading our next monthly dinner! Let's support their efforts with food donations and serving/cleanup help. **Sign-ups coming soon.**

As always, all are welcome to come, eat, and enjoy fellowship—regardless of need or affiliation.



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 • **Brian Clancy**, Church Administrator

Jon Scott, Chair of Church Council • **Linda Gerlach**, Chair of Deacons • **Barbara Jones**, Moderator

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00-2:00 (or by appointment as needed)

603-448-4281 • church@fccleb.org • prayer@fccleb.org • music@fccleb.org • www.fccleb.org