



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

July 13, 2025

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 4-7.

Prelude *Prelude on “Brother James’ Air”* Searle Wright

Call to Worship

One: God created Heaven and Earth, and it was good. He created a heaven on Earth called Eden.

All: And it was good.

One: He created man and woman to live within Eden and called them Adam and Eve.

All: And it was good.

One: Like any good father, God set some boundaries. The Tree of Knowledge was off-limits, but the temptation was too great. Adam and Eve fell from grace, and since then we have struggled in an imperfect world, with people of varying degrees of integrity and enlightenment. God sent his Son to show us the Light.

All: And it was good.

One: Jesus was born in an unexpected way. He was not a king’s child, or a warrior’s. He was of humble beginnings and became a man of humility—not at all what the Hebrew church at the time was expecting. He led a life on earth not as a God, but as a man. But he was anything but ordinary.

All: And it was good.

One: He was sacrificed as the Lamb of God and defied death by rising again to forgive our sins and save us from ourselves.

All: And it was good.

One: We are here today to honor, praise, and worship our God and his Son, joining in a celebration of his life.

All: And it is good. Let us worship God!

Hymn 8 (p. 4) *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* Hymn to Joy

Prayer of Invocation

Words of Welcome; Our Ministry and Mission

Musical Offering *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* Will Thompson

Children's Moment

Hymn 327 (p. 5) *Jesus Loves Me*

Jesus Loves Me

Scripture Lessons

(All texts from NKJV)

Proverbs 24:11-12. ¹¹Deliver those who are drawn toward death, and hold back those stumbling to the slaughter. ¹²If you say, "Surely we did not know this," does not He who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds?

Amos 5:16-24. ¹⁶Therefore the Lord God of hosts, the Lord, says this: "There shall be wailing in all streets, and they shall say in all the highways, 'Alas! Alas!' They shall call the farmer to mourning, and skillful lamenters to wailing. ¹⁷In all vineyards there shall be wailing, for I will pass through you," says the Lord.

¹⁸Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! For what good is the day of the Lord to you? It will be darkness, and not light. ¹⁹It will be as though a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him! Or as though he went into the house, leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him! ²⁰Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light? Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it?

²¹"I hate, I despise your feast days, and I do not savor your sacred assemblies. ²²Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them, nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings. ²³Take away from Me the noise of your songs, for I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments. ²⁴But let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream.

Ephesians 4:1-6. I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ²with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

1 Peter 5:6-11. ⁶Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. ⁸Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. ¹⁰But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. ¹¹To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Sermon *"Living a Calling"*

Candis Darcey

Hymn 757 (pp. 56) *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

Kingsfold

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, 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 *Life's Railway to Heaven* M. E. Abbey/C. D. Tillman

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*)

Thank you, God, for inspiring generosity of spirit and giving in us. May we give these gifts freely, with the hope that they will be used to further your work here on earth, guided by the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Hymn 473 (p. 7) *Blessed Assurance* Assurance

Benediction

Postlude *Prelude on "Amazing Grace"* Herbert Colvin

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Leading Worship This Week

Candis Darcey, Guest Preacher

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • Phil Hammond, Baritone • Brian Clancy, Liturgist
Corrine Erskine and Barb Jones, Ushers • Sue Pratt, 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.

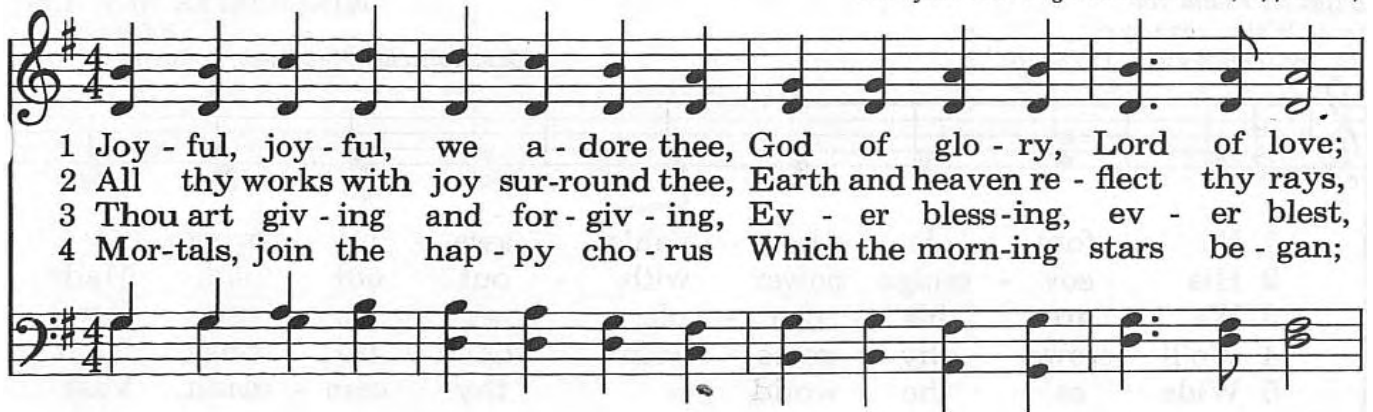
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

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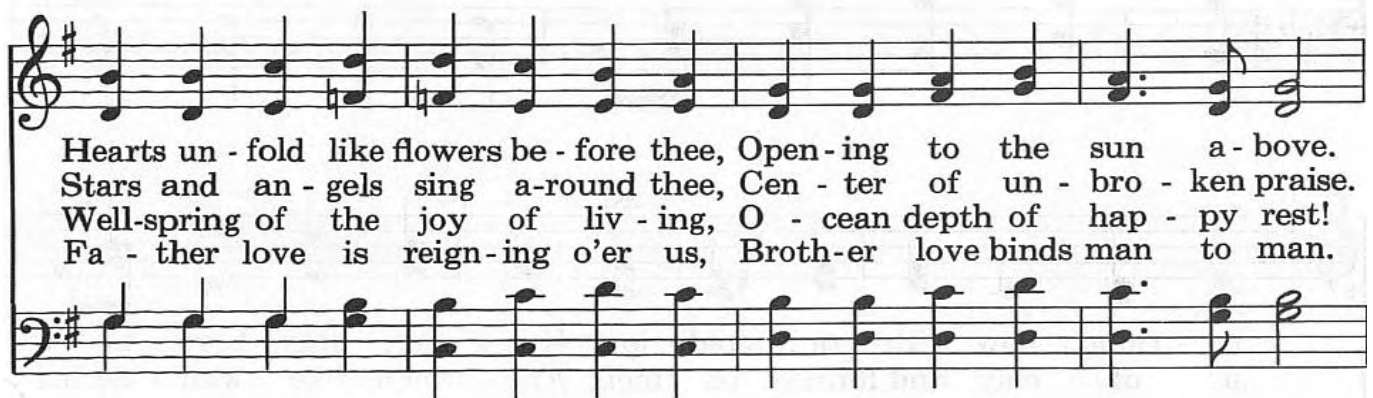
Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933

HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D.

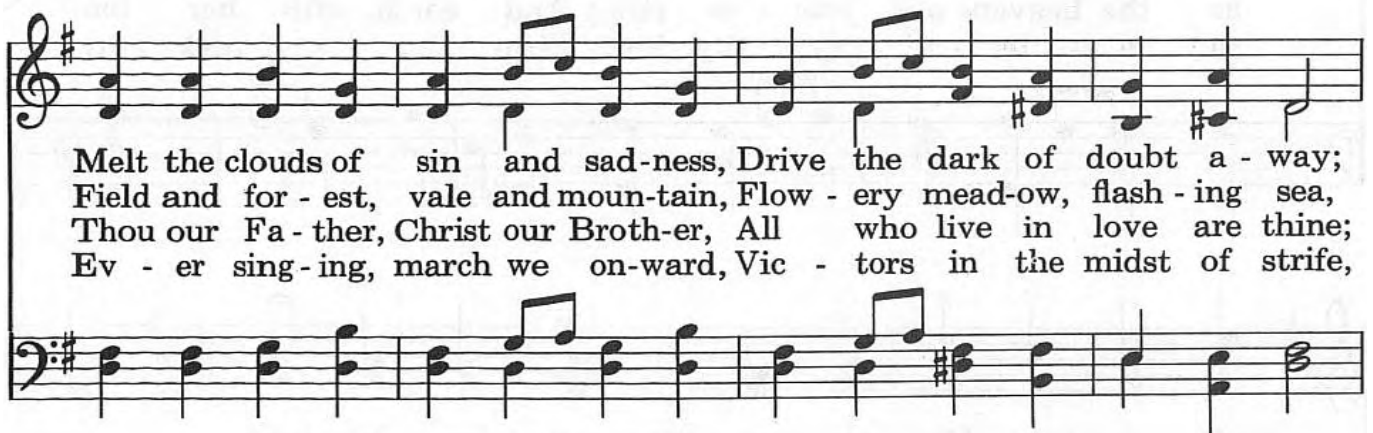
Arr. from Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, Earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,
4 Mor-tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn-ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean depth of hap - py rest!
Fa - ther love is reign-ing o'er us, Broth-er love binds man to man.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness, Drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - ery mead-ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Broth-er, All who live in love are thine;
Ev - er sing-ing, march we on-ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor-tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, Call us to re - joice in thee.
Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the joy di-vine.
Joy - ful mu-sic leads us sun-ward In the tri-umph song of life. A-men.

St. 1, Anna B. Warner, 1860
St. 2-3, David Rutherford McGuire, 1971

1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so.
 2 Je - sus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long a - go,
 3 Je - sus loves me! Still to - day, walk-ing with me on my way,

Lit - tle ones to him be - long; they are weak, but he is strong.
 Tak - ing chil - dren on his knee, say - ing, "Let them come to me."
 Want-ing as a friend to give light and love to all who live.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the
 2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man
 3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might-y
 4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing

Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make
 race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -
 stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to
 word, and walk the road the saints have trod till

plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their
 spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly
 cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -
 all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may

thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the
 proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our dis - cord
 store an earth where con - flicts cease, a world that
 we give thanks in one ac - cord to God who

poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.
 spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.
 was cre - at - ed for a har - mo - ny of peace.
 calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.

This text placing stewardship in the context of faithful witness was written by a retired Presbyterian minister to be part of the 1986 stewardship campaign titled "Called to Be Disciples." The tune name recalls the Sussex village where the arranger first heard the melody.

Acts 17:30-31; Rev. 7:9-14

Fanny Crosby, 1873; alt.



1 Bless-ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a
 2 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light! Vi - sions of
 3 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, I in my



fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of
 rap - ture now burst on my sight; An - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a -
 Sav - ior am hap - py and blessed; Watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a -



God, born of the Spir - it, washed in Christ's blood.
 bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
 bove, filled with God's good - ness, lost in Christ's love.

*Refrain*

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long;



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.



After hearing Phoebe Knapp play this tune on the piano, Fanny Crosby composed the poem on the spot. In her almost 95 years, Crosby wrote more than 8,500 gospel hymns and songs.

Tune: ASSURANCE Irr.
 Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873



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 \$30, seniors \$25, 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!

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@fcclieb.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@fcclieb.org • prayer@fcclieb.org • music@fcclieb.org • www.fcclieb.org