



# First Congregational Church of Lebanon

*United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming*

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## The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 20, 2025

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that  
some have entertained angels without knowing it.

–Hebrews 13:2

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

**Prelude**

*Chorale in E Major*

César Franck

### Call to Worship

One: God has called us to this place. What do you see?

**All: We see people who model for us God's joyous embrace of all people.**

One: God has brought us to this place. What do you hear?

**All: We hear God's hope that we are able to see each person as our sister or brother.**

One: God has challenged us to open our lives and hearts to others. What will you do?

**All: We will do only one thing: welcome everyone in God's name!**

**Hymn 14** (p. 4)

*The God of Abraham Praise*

Leoni

### Prayer of Invocation

### Words of Welcome; Our Ministry and Mission

**Musical Offering**

"Psalm 23" (from *Ten Biblical Songs*)

Antonín Dvorák

### Children's Moment

**Hymn 111** (pp. 56)

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Divinum Mysterium

### Scripture Lessons

*Genesis 18:1-10a.* The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup>He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. <sup>3</sup>He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your

servant. <sup>4</sup>Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup>Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.”

<sup>6</sup>And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” <sup>7</sup>Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it.

<sup>8</sup>Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. <sup>9</sup>They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” <sup>10</sup>Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” [...]

*Luke 10:38-42.* <sup>38</sup>Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. <sup>39</sup>She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to what he was saying. <sup>40</sup>But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.” <sup>41</sup>But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; <sup>42</sup>there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”

**Sermon**

*“Welcomed Guests”*

Gail T. Dimick

**Hymn 448** (p. 6)

*Thy Kingdom Come, O Lord*

St. Cecilia

### **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**

*Air, from Suite in D Major*

Johann Sebastian Bach

## 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 our Provider, receive these gifts for your creation, for your kingdom, for your glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Hymn 20 (p. 7)      *God of Abraham and Sarah*      Constantine

## Benediction

Postlude      *Intermezzo in C Major*      Hermann Schröder

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## *Leading Worship This Week*

The Rev. Gail Temperley Dimick, Guest Pastor  
Peter Beardsley, Guest Organist • Brian Clancy, Tenor • Phil Hammond, Liturgist  
Linda and Ike Jacobs, Ushers • Stacey Steele, 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](mailto:prayer@fccleb.org) or speak with the pastor directly.*

# The God of Abraham Praise

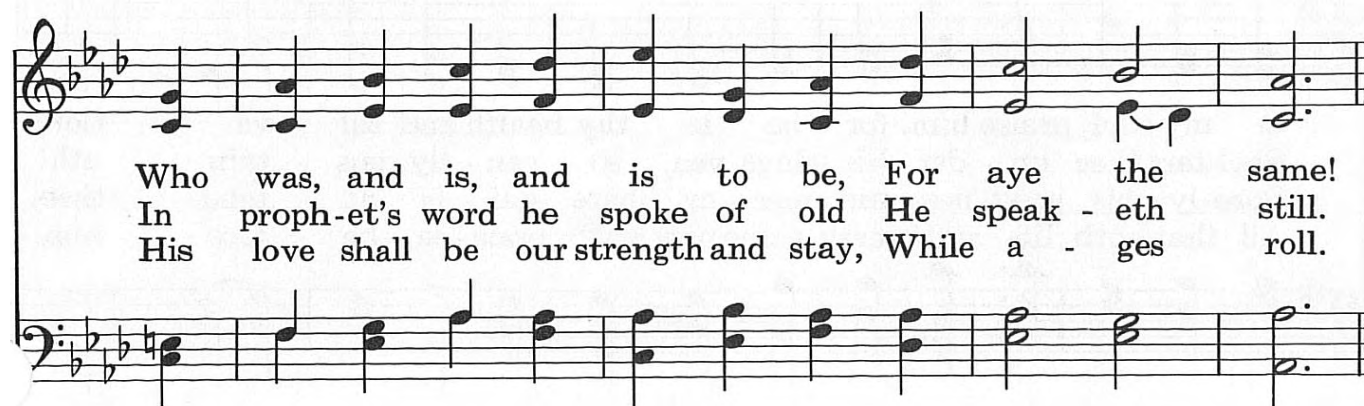
14

Revised Version of the "Yigdal"  
Daniel ben Judah, c.1400  
Tr. Newton Mann, 1836-1926,  
and Max Landsberg, 1845-1928


LEONI 6.6.8.4.D.  
Traditional Hebrew Melody  
Adapted by Meyer Lyon, 1751-1797



1 The God of A-braham praise, All prais - ed be his name,  
2 His spir - it flow - eth free, High surg - ing where it will;  
3 He hath e - ter - nal life Im - plant - ed in the soul;



Who was, and is, and is to be, For aye the same!  
In proph-et's word he spoke of old He speak - eth still.  
His love shall be our strength and stay, While a - ges roll.



The one e - ter - nal God, Ere aught that now ap - pears;  
Es - tab - lished is his law, And change-less it shall stand,  
Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - ed be his name



The First, the Last: be - yond all thought His time - less years!  
Deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, On sea, or land.  
Who was, and is, and is to be, For aye the same! A-men.

## III

## Of the Father's Love Begotten

*Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-c.410*  
*Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, St. 1, alt.*  
*Tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877, Sts. 2,3*

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.  
 13th century Plainsong, Mode V

1 Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten, Ere the worlds be - gan to be,  
 2 O ye heights of heaven a - dore him; An - gel hosts, his prais - es sing;  
 3 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,

He is Al-pha and O - me - ga, He the source, the end - ing he;  
 Powers, do-min-ions, bow be - fore him, And ex - tol our God and King;  
 Hymn and chant and high thanks-giv - ing, And un - wea - ried prais - es be:

Of the things that are, that have been, And that  
 Let no tongue on earth be si - lent, Ev - every  
 Hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion, And e -

fu - ture years shall see, Ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
 voice in con - cert ring, Ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
 ter - nal vic - to - ry, Ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

## 448 Thy Kingdom Come, O Lord

Frederick L. Hosmer, 1840-1929

ST. CECILIA 6.6.6.6.  
 Leighton G. Hayne, 1836-1883

1 Thy king - dom come, O Lord, Wide - cir - cling as the sun;  
 2 One in the bond of peace, The serv - ice glad and free  
 3 Speed, speed the longed - for time Fore - told by rap - tured seers  
 4 Till rise in or - dered plan On firm foun - da - tions broad,

Ful - fil of old thy word And make the na - tions one:  
 Of truth and right - eous - ness, Of love and eq - ui - ty.  
 The proph - e - cy sub - lime, The hope of all the years,  
 The com - mon - wealth of man, The cit - y of our God. A - men.

### 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.*

*James Gertmenian, 1986; alt.*

1 God of A - bra - ham and Sar - ah, God of Mo - ses, Mir - iam's Guide;  
 2 God who danc - es in cre - a - tion, spin - ning stars a - bove our heads;  
 3 God who loves the poor in spir - it, God who com - forts those who mourn;  
 4 In our lives from birth to dy - ing, depth of sor - row, height of joy;

God of Da - vid and the proph - ets, God in Je - sus glo - ri - fied:  
 God whose face is scribed in mu - sic, by whose hand the earth is fed:  
 Balm for wounds, the friend of sin - ners, tak - ing the side of earth's for - lorn:  
 Prais - ing God in ev - ery sea - son, let ev - ery key our hearts em - ploy.

Up from the dust you raise a peo - ple, breathe in the breath of life, of soul;  
 Up from the ground you raise the moun - tains, raise our spir - its, lift our eyes;  
 Up from the depths you raise your peo - ple, giv - ing them cour - age for the day;  
 Praise is the heal - ing, praise, the glo - ry, praise is the fin - al mys - ter - y;

Down through the years the peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias make them whole!  
 Down through the years your peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias flood the skies!  
 Down through the years the peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias light their way!  
 Down through the years let peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias set them free!

*The healing power of praise and the history of God's dealings with humankind are the themes of this hymn, written by a United Church of Christ minister who is the grandson of Armenian immigrants. The tune is named for his father.*

Tune: CONSTANTINE 8.7.8.7.D.  
 Melody by James Gertmenian, 1986  
 Harm. Ronald Huntington, 1986; alt.



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](http://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](http://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](http://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!*



**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](mailto: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](mailto:church@fcclieb.org) • [prayer@fcclieb.org](mailto:prayer@fcclieb.org) • [music@fcclieb.org](mailto:music@fcclieb.org) • [www.fcclieb.org](http://www.fcclieb.org)**