



# First Congregational Church of Lebanon

*United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming*

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**The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

July 27, 2025

Faith is both the conviction that justice can be accomplished  
and the refusal to accept injustice.

–Walter Brueggemann

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

## Prelude

## Call to Worship

One: It is in this place of holiness that we can come with our fears, our doubts, all the questions of our hearts.

**All: We come to this place, to hear the words of peace, of hope, of joy God speaks to us.**

One: It is in this place of discovery that we can come searching.

**All: We come to this place, to find the One who has been looking for us.**

One: It is in this place of openness that we can come knocking.

**All: We come to this place, to be embraced by the One whose heart is never locked.**

Hymn 15 (p. 4)      *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Lobe den Herren

## Prayer of Invocation

## Words of Welcome; Our Ministry and Mission

## Children's Moment

Hymn 418 (p. 5)      *O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee*

Maryton

## Scripture Lessons

*Colossians 2:6-19.* <sup>6</sup>As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

<sup>8</sup>See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup>For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup>and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. <sup>11</sup>In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; <sup>12</sup>when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup>And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup>erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup>He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

<sup>16</sup>Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. <sup>17</sup>These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. <sup>18</sup>Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, <sup>19</sup>and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.

*Luke 11:1-13.* [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” <sup>2</sup>He said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. <sup>3</sup>Give us each day our daily bread. <sup>4</sup>And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.”

<sup>5</sup>And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; <sup>6</sup>for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ <sup>7</sup>And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ <sup>8</sup>I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

<sup>9</sup>“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>10</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup>Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup>Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? <sup>13</sup>If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

**Sermon**

*“Living Prayer”*

Gail T. Dimick

**Hymn 101** (p. 6)

*There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy*

In Babilone

## 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.

We pray this, and 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

## 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 of love, we give these gifts back to you with humility, remembering times when we've needed help in our own lives. Help us use the gifts we give to love others as we have been loved. Amen.

Hymn 150 (p. 7)      O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High      Deus Tuorum Militum

## Benediction

## Postlude

\* \* \*

## *Leading Worship This Week*

The Rev. Gail Temperley Dimick, Guest Pastor

Sarah Hill, Guest Pianist • Jon Scott, Liturgist

Linda Gerlach and Deb Scott, Ushers • Bob Gerlach, Zoom Greeter

## 15

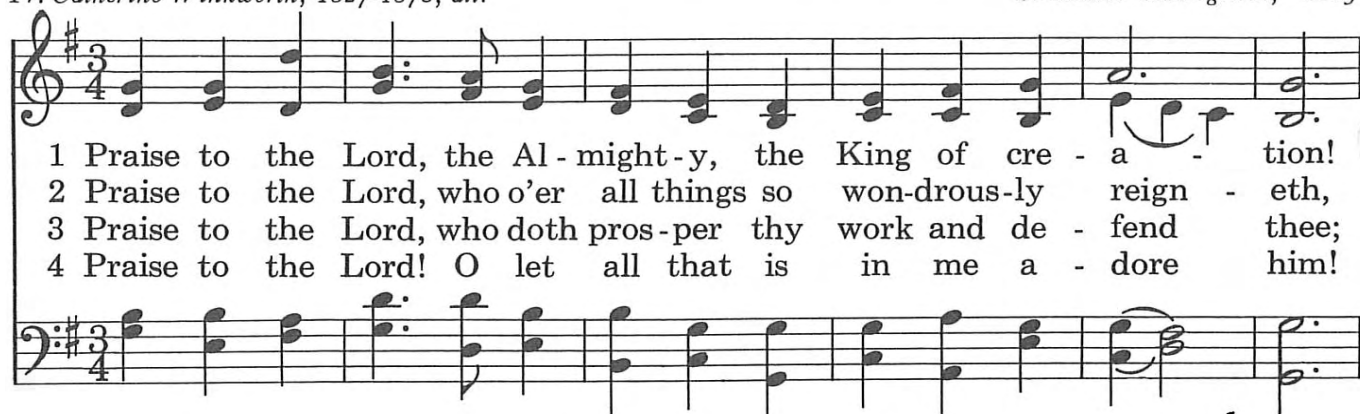
## Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Joachim Neander, 1650-1680

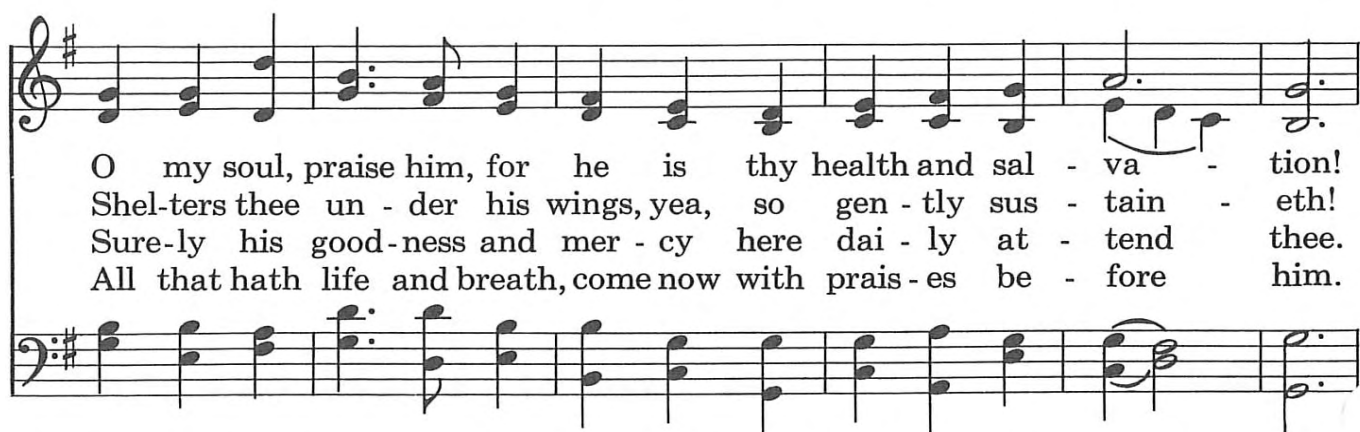
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8.

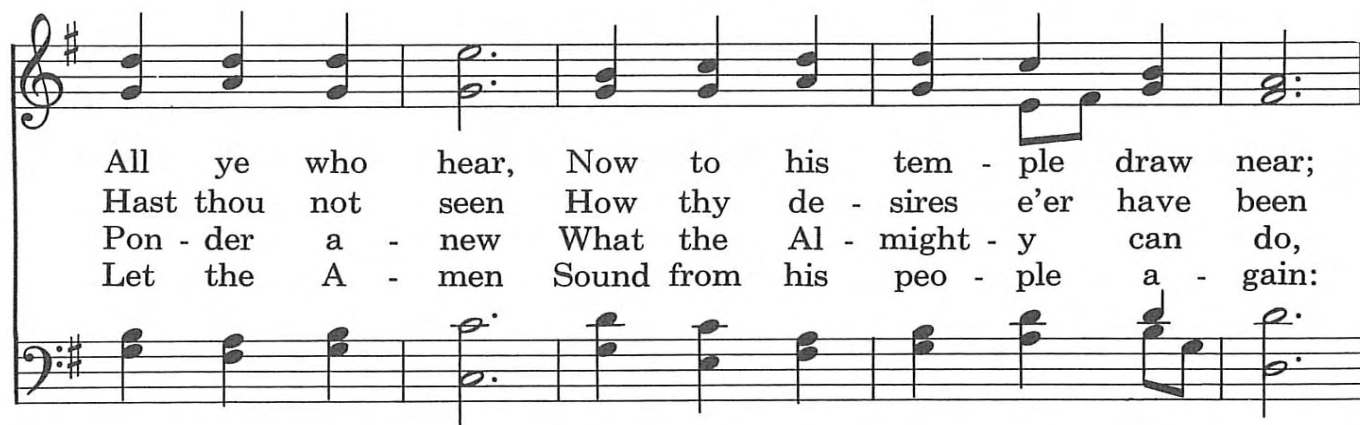
"Stralsund Gesangbuch," 1665



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre-a-tion!  
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign-eth,  
 3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy work and de-fend thee;  
 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a-dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal-va-tion!  
 Shel-ters thee un-der his wings, yea, so gen-tly sus-tain-eth!  
 Sure-ly his good-ness and mer-cy here dai-ly at-tend thee.  
 All that hath life and breath, come now with prais-es be-fore him.



All ye who hear, Now to his tem-ple draw near;  
 Hast thou not seen How thy de-sires e'er have been  
 Pon-der a-new What the Al-might-y can do,  
 Let the A-men Sound from his peo-ple a-gain:



Join me in glad ad-o-ra-tion!  
 Grant-ed in what he or-dain-eth?  
 If with his love he be-friend thee.  
 Glad-ly for aye we a-dore him. A-men.

# O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee

418

Washington Gladden, 1836-1918

MARYTON L.M.  
H. Percy Smith, 1825-1898

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with thee In low - ly  
2 Help me the slow of heart to move By some clear,  
3 Teach me thy pa - tience; still with thee In clos - er,  
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray Far down the

paths of serv - ice free; Tell me thy se - cret, help me  
win - ning word of love; Teach me the way - ward feet to  
dear - er com - pa - ny, In work that keeps faith sweet and  
fu - ture's broad - ening way, In peace that on - ly thou canst

bear The strain of toil, the fret of care.  
stay, And guide them in the home - ward way.  
strong, In trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.  
give, With thee, O Mas - ter, let me live. A - men.

*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.*

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

Many thanks to Corrine Erskine and Linda Jacobs for leading this month's dinner! We have all food contributions covered, but all are welcome to attend and help out as needed.

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


## There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

## First Tune


Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863

IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.  
Traditional Dutch Melody



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, Like the wide - ness of the sea;  
2 For the love of God is broad-er Than the meas - ure of man's mind;



There's a kind-ness in his jus - tice, Which is more than lib - er - ty.  
And the heart of the E - ter - nal Is most won - der - ful - ly kind.



There is no place where earth's sor-rows Are more felt than up in heaven;  
If our love were but more sim - ple, We should take him at his word;



There is no place where earth's fail-ings Have such kind-ly judg-ment given.  
And our lives would be all sun-shine In the sweet-ness of our Lord. A-men.



## 150

## O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

First Tune

Latin: 15th century

Tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819-1885, alt.

DEUS TUORUM MILITUM L.M.

Grenoble Church Melody

*In unison*

1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high, How pass - ing  
 2 For us bap - tized, for us he bore His ho - ly  
 3 For us he prayed, for us he taught, For us his  
 4 For us to wick - ed men be - trayed, Scourged, mocked, in  
 thought and fan - ta - sy, That God, the Son of God, should  
 fast, and hun - gered sore; For us temp - ta - tions sharp he  
 dai - ly works he wrought, By words and signs and ac - tions,  
 pur - ple robe ar - rayed, He bore the shame - ful cross and  
 take Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake.  
 knew; For us the temp - ter o - ver - threw.  
 thus Still seek - ing not him - self, but us.  
 death; For us gave up his dy - ing breath. A - men.

5 For us he rose from death again,  
 For us he went on high to reign;  
 For us he sent his Spirit here  
 To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

6 All glory to our Lord and God  
 For love so deep, so high, so broad;  
 The Trinity whom we adore  
 For ever and for evermore.



**UVMC's Colburn Park Trad Music Festival!—This Saturday-Sunday, July 26-27**

Two days of great music from a variety of lively folk traditions, outside in Colburn Park and at UVMC and FCC, including a concert in our Sanctuary at 2:00 on Sunday. *Full details and schedule at [uvmusic.org/event/colburn-park-trad-music-festival](http://uvmusic.org/event/colburn-park-trad-music-festival).*

**Classicopia Summer Music Camp—Monday-Saturday, August 4-9**

**Faculty Concert—Friday, August 8, 7:00 pm / Student Concert—Saturday, August 9, 10:00 am**

Join us for these special performances by the distinguished faculty and young student musicians at Classicopia's wonderful summer camp. *Friday admission \$15-20, Saturday free; more at [classicopia.org](http://classicopia.org).*

**Classicopia: The Sound of America—Sunday, August 17, at 2:00 pm**

Dan Weiser welcomes back sensational violinist Tim Schwarz for a delightful survey of the diversity and energy of American music, from folk tunes and Black spirituals to ragtime and blues, Jewish traditions and jazz to musical theater. *Adults \$20, FCC mems \$15, children free; more at [classicopia.org](http://classicopia.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)**