



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

August 10, 2025

When I feed the poor, they call me a saint, but when I ask
why the poor are hungry, they call me a communist.

–Dom Hélder Câmara

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

Prelude

Pastorale, op. 19

César Franck

Call to Worship

Psalm 33:12-22

One: Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen
as his heritage.

All: The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all humankind.

One: From where he sits enthroned, he watches all the inhabitants of the earth—

All: He who fashions the hearts of them all, and observes all their deeds.

One: A king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

All: The war horse is a vain hope for victory, and by its great might it cannot save.

One: Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his
steadfast love, to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

All: Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and shield.

One: Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

All: Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

Hymn 14 (p. 4)

The God of Abraham Praise

Leoni

Prayer of Invocation

Words of Welcome; Our Ministry and Mission

Children's Moment

Hymn 320 (p. 5)

The Church of Christ in Every Age

Wareham

Scripture Lessons

Genesis 15:1-6. After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ²But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” ⁴But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” ⁵He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Luke 12:32-40. ³²[Jesus said,] “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Sermon

Beth Hilgartner

Hymn 343 (p. 6) *In Heavenly Love Abiding*

Nyland

Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

As we hold 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.

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 “Confidence” (Songs Without Words, op. 19, no. 4) Felix Mendelssohn

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*)

Gracious and loving God, we dedicate these material gifts and offer our hands and hearts to your service. We pray that all will be used to further your holy work of reconciliation in Christ’s name. Amen.

Hymn 445 (p. 7) *Father Eternal, Ruler of Creation* Langham

Benediction

Postlude *The Lost Chord* Arthur Sullivan

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Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Beth Hilgartner, Guest Preacher
Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • Betsy Alexander, Liturgist
Corrine Erskine and Bob Ross, Ushers • Dawn Troutman, 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.

The God of Abraham Praise

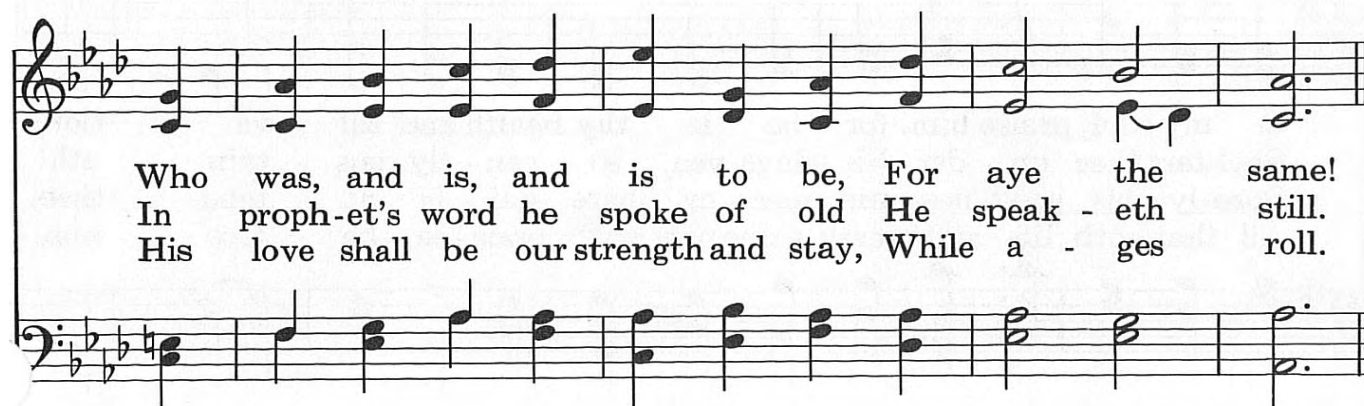
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Revised Version of the "Yigdal"
Daniel ben Judah, c.1400
Tr. Newton Mann, 1836-1926,
and Max Landsberg, 1845-1928

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



1 The God of A-bra-ham 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.

320 The Church of Christ in Every Age



1 The church of Christ in ev - ery age, be - set by
 2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
 3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
 4 For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
 5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
 of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
 church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
 fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
 be - dience to our Lord: to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
 bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
 sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
 share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
 out re - serve, and spread Christ's lib - er - at - ing word.

In this challenging text by a British Methodist minister, the odd-numbered stanzas develop the image of "the servant church," while the second surveys the many needs and the fourth describes the true source of strength for the task.

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1969
 MUSIC: William Knapp, 1738
 Text © 1971 Hope Publishing Company

WAREHAM
 LM

In Heavenly Love Abiding

343

Anna L. Waring 1823-1910

NYLAND 7.6.7.6.D.

Traditional Finnish Melody

Harm. by David Evans, 1874-1948



1 In heav-en-ly love a - bid - ing, No change my heart shall fear,
2 Wher - ev - er he may guide me, No want shall turn me back;
3 Green pas - tures are be - fore me, Which yet I have not seen;



And safe is such con - fid - ing, For noth - ing chang-es here.
My shep-herd is be - side me, And noth - ing can I lack.
Bright skies will soon be o'er me, Where the dark clouds have been.



The storm may roar with - out me, My heart may low be laid,
His wis - dom ev - er wak - eth; His sight is nev - er dim;
My hope I can - not meas - ure; The path to life is free;



But God is round a - bout me, And can I be dis-mayed?
He knows the way he tak - eth, And I will walk with him.
My Sav - ior has my treas - ure, And he will walk with me. A-men.



Laurence Housman, 1865-1959

LANGHAM 11.10.11.10.10.

Geoffrey Shaw, 1879-1943

In unison

1 Fa - ther e - ter - nal, Rul - er of cre - a - tion, Spir - it of
 2 Ra - ces and peo - ples, lo, we stand di - vid - ed, And shar - ing
 3 En - vious of heart, blind - eyed, with tongues con - found - ed, Na - tion by
 4 How shall we love thee, ho - ly, hid - den Be - ing, If we love

life, which moved ere form was made, Through the thick dark - ness
 not our griefs, no joy can share; By wars and tu - mults
 na - tion still goes un - for - given; In wrath and fear, by
 not the world which thou hast made? O give us broth - er -

cov - ering ev - ery na - tion, Light to man's blind - ness, O be thou our
 love is mocked, de - rid - ed, His con - quering cross no king - dom wills to
 jeal - ous - ies sur - round - ed, Build - ing proud towers which shall not reach to
 love for bet - ter see - ing Thy Word made flesh, and in a man - ger

aid: Thy king - dom come, O Lord, thy will be done.
 bear: Thy king - dom come, O Lord, thy will be done.
 heaven: Thy king - dom come, O Lord, thy will be done.
 laid: Thy king - dom come, O Lord, thy will be done. A - men.



Classicopia Summer Music Camp: Student Concert!—Saturday, August 9, at 10:00 am

Join us for a special performance by the distinguished faculty and young student musicians at Classicopia's wonderful summer camp. *Free admission; more at 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.*

The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Friday, Sept. 12, and Saturday, Sept. 27, at 7:30 pm

Our comfy community venue for live folk music opens its sixth season! Come and go as you please; food and drink available. *Free admission. For performers and more, visit anoncoffee.org.*

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!

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!

Community Dinner: Sunday, August 24, at 5:00—All Are Welcome!

Many thanks to the Scott Family 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