



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 17, 2025

We may encounter many defeats, but we must not be defeated.

–Maya Angelou

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

Prelude

Call to Worship

(Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries)

One: Children of God, for the sake of the joy, we gather...

All: We gather to worship, to encounter grace, to grow in faith.

One: For the sake of the joy, we proclaim...

All: We proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, the love of God that surrounds us and forms us into a community marked by love for God, self, neighbor, and all creation.

One: For the sake of the joy, we respond...

All: We respond with our lives, ready to embody our faith as agents of God's already-and-not-yet kingdom.

One: For the sake of the joy, God sends us...

All: God sends us into the world to meet our neighbors with the defiant joy and persevering love of the gospel today and every day.

One: Come, let us worship the Triune God who dwells with us as we gather, proclaim, respond, and go forth from this place.

All: Come, let us worship! Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn 87 (p. 4) *God Moves in a Mysterious Way*

Dundee

Prayer of Invocation

Words of Welcome; Our Ministry and Mission

Children's Moment

Hymn 481 (p. 5) *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*

Grand Isle

Scripture Lessons

Hebrews 11:29-12:2. ²⁹By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³²And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. ³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1}Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Luke 12:49-56. ⁴⁹[Jesus continued,] “I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain’; and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time? [...]”

Sermon

“Still Have Joy”

Gail T. Dimick

Hymn 348 (p. 6)

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Olivet

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.

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*)

Enduring and Gracious God, you have surrounded us with a great cloud of witnesses, those who have gone before us and those who walk beside us in faith. As we bring our gifts before you, we offer them in gratitude, knowing that our generosity is part of your ongoing work in the world. Strengthen us to run with perseverance the race set before us, so that through our giving and through our living, we may reflect the joy of Christ and the love that unites all your saints. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn 342 (p. 7) *Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor*

Rhuddlan

Benediction

Postlude

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Gail Temperley Dimick, Guest Pastor
Sarah Hill, Guest Pianist • Brian Clancy, Liturgist
Carol and Chuck Stone, Ushers • Stacey Steele, Zoom Greeter

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

87

William Cowper, 1731-1800

DUNDEE C.M.

"Scottish Psalter," 1615



1 God moves in a mys - te - rious way His won - ders to per - form;
2 Ye fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take; The clouds ye so much dread
3 Judge not the Lord by fee - ble sense, But trust him for his grace;
4 Blind un - be - lief is sure to err, And scan his work in vain;



He plants his foot-steps in the sea And rides up - on the storm.
Are big with mer - cy, and shall break In bless - ings on your head.
Be - hind a frown - ing prov - i - dence He hides a smil - ing face.
God is his own in - ter - pret - er, And he will make it plain. 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 or speak with the pastor directly.

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.

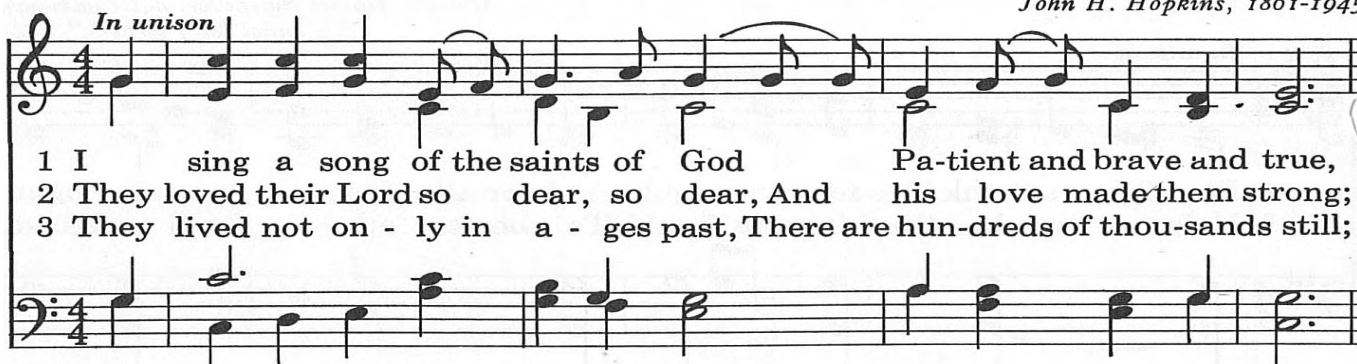
Please give as you are able to this nationwide effort to support church growth. We will accept contributions (payable to FCC, memo "Strengthen the Church") until Labor Day. Thanks!

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

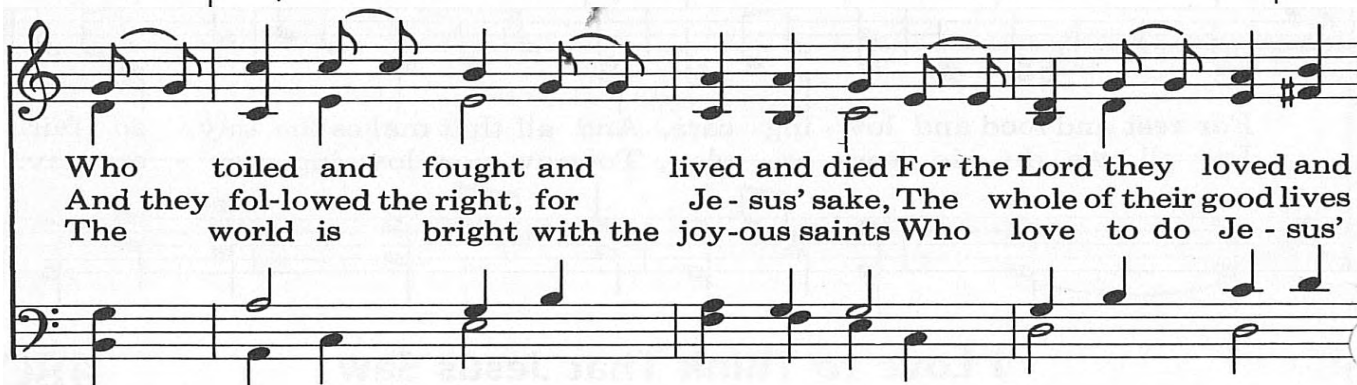
Many thanks to the Scott Family for leading our next monthly dinner! Let's support their efforts with food donations and serving/cleanup help. **Sign-ups coming soon.**

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

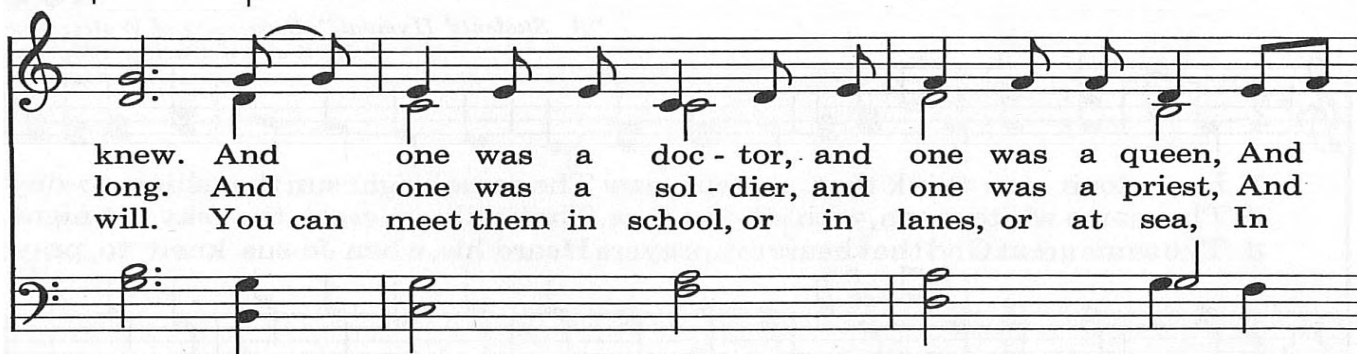
Lesbia Scott, 1898- , alt.

GRAND ISLE Irregular
John H. Hopkins, 1861-1945*In unison*


1 I sing a song of the saints of God Patient and brave and true,
2 They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, And his love made them strong;
3 They lived not on - ly in a - ges past, There are hun-dreds of thou-sands still;



Who toiled and fought and lived and died For the Lord they loved and
And they fol-lowed the right, for Je - sus' sake, The whole of their good lives
The world is bright with the joy-ous saints Who love to do Je - sus'



knew. And one was a doc - tor, and one was a queen, And
long. And one was a sol - dier, and one was a priest, And
will. You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, In



one was a shep-herd-ess on the green: They were all of them
one was slain by a fierce wild beast: And there's not an - y
church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea; For the saints of



saints of God, and I mean, God help - ing, to be one too.
rea - son, no, not the least, Why I shouldn't be one too.
God are just folk like me, And I mean to be one too.

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

348

Ray Palmer, 1808-1887, alt.

OLIVET 6.6.4.6.6.6.4.
Lowell Mason, 1792-1872



1 My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3 While life's dark maze I tread, And griefs a - round me spread,
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold; sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray; Take all my
 My zeal in - spire; As thou hast died for me, Oh, may my
 Be thou my guide; Bid dark-ness turn to day; Wipe sor-row's
 Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -

guilt a - way; Oh, let me from this day Be whol - ly thine.
 love to thee Pure, warm, and changeless be, A liv - ing fire.
 tears a - way; Nor let me ev - er stray From thee a - side.
 trust re-move; Oh, bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul. A-men.



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

LATE SUMMER CONCERTS

All in the FCC Sanctuary

Classicopia: The Sound of America—This 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.

342 Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor

1 Judge E - ter - nal, throned in splen - dor, Lord of lords and
2 Still the wea - ry folk are pin - ing for the hour that
3 Crown, O God, your own en - deav - or; cleave our dark - ness

King of kings, with your liv - ing fire of judg - ment
brings re - lease, and the cit - y's crowd - ed clang - or
with your sword; feed the faith - less and the hun - gry

purge this land of bit - ter things; so - lace all its
cries a - loud for sin to cease, and the home - steads
with the rich - ness of your word; cleanse the bod - y

wide do - min - ion with the heal - ing of your wings.
and the wood - lands plead in si - lence for their peace.
of this na - tion through the glo - ry of the Lord.

More than a century after it was written, this plea for national purification has lost none of its power, nor has the need for social justice grown less acute. It is set to a traditional Welsh tune named for a long-inhabited town in north Wales overlooking the River Clywd.

TEXT: Henry Scott Holland, 1902, alt.
MUSIC: Welsh melody; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

RHUDDLAN
8.7.8.7.8.7



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@fcclleb.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@fcclleb.org • prayer@fcclleb.org • music@fcclleb.org • www.fcclleb.org