



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

PALM SUNDAY

April 5, 2020

“The essential fact of Christianity is that
God thought all men worth the sacrifice of his son.”

—William Barclay

All hymns are included after the order of worship, on pages 6-8.

Call to Worship (Adapted from Psalm 118:1,21-24)

Leader: Give thanks to our God, whose love is without end!

People: **We thank God that he is our salvation.**

Leader: What the world deems worthless, God treasures.

People: **We marvel at all that God does.**

All: **This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Let us give thanks to our God, whose love is without end!**

Hymn 155 (Pilgrim; see p. 6) *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

St. Theodulph

Prayer of Invocation

God, though we worship in different locations this day, we know your Spirit is with us, joining us together as one people. Lift up our worship, inspire our prayers, infuse them with your grace, your love, your power. We pray this in your Son's name. Amen.

Lenten Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Open our hearts to you, that we may receive your forgiveness and be redeemed by your reconciling love. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Know that all who come before God with an open and contrite heart, that all who sincerely repent, are forgiven.

Gloria

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Words of Welcome; Our Ministry and Mission

During this time, we are not meeting in person. All are encouraged to stay in touch with one another by phone, email, or written cards. If you would like to organize a Zoom teleconference or telephone meeting, please be in touch with the Rev. Steve Silver (603-448-4281/silver@fccleeb.org), and he'll get you set up and ready to go.

Children's Moment

Today is Palm Sunday. Many of you will recall my making a palm cross with you and offering to show you how this is done. We'll do that on the YouTube service recording and during our Zoom service. But if you read this morning's lesson from Matthew carefully, you'll see that people also waved branches and laid down coats when Jesus entered Jerusalem. I'm sure you can find a branch, even a twig, or pull a coat out of the closet to show you are welcoming Jesus. After all, he isn't looking for a palm frond, but your heart.

Hymn 202 (Pilgrim; see p. 7) *Jesus Shall Reign, Where'er the Sun*

Duke Street

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 21:1-11. When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ⁵"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." ⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" ¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Sermon "Who Is This?" (see separate document)

Stephen R. Silver

Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

On this day we offer our ongoing prayers for Pete, Lloyd, Jessica, Martha, Micah, Joanne, Max, Kelee, Tammy, Arlene, Ruth, Ryle, Emily, John, Shirley, Dan, Roger, Jim, Beth, Evelyn, Susan, Barbara, and Max.

We pray for Larry Doyle, who will be having a medical procedure this week.

We pray for Bob Gerlach's work colleague, whose son, although under care, has threatened to hurt himself.

We pray for Nan Parsons' mother Louise, a passenger on the *Celebrity Eclipse* cruise ship, whose journey was extended due to COVID-19 concerns. We also pray for her fellow passengers, especially those exposed to the virus. Nan's mom is at home and in quarantine, and we pray that she stays well.

We pray for all those struggling with financial challenges, reduced hours and unemployment, and fears about the future.

We pray for the healthcare workers and first responders who are on the front line dealing with this pandemic.

We pray for wisdom and humility from all our leaders.

This day we offer a prayer, from the Rev. Dr. Charles Hambrick-Stowe, which speaks to this unusual Lent:

In this strange Lenten season, Lord,
when worship is remote,
help us devote our souls to love,
not fear or feeling bored.

If patience now is running thin,
as home is feeling small,
give thanks we have a home at all,
and for our kith and kin.

In this true Lenten season, Lord,
we're giving up so much.
Is it enough? God, you're the judge,
but are you keeping score?

Lord Jesus, you would isolate
yourself in solitude,
to fast and to communicate,
in tune with Abba God.

In this our Lenten season, Lord,
the cross before our face,
with Jesus in Gethsemane,
sufficient is your grace.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

In times like this, it is especially fitting that we remember those who are without, those who are often ignored, those who are in need. In this spirit, we invite your support of this church, its mission, and its ministry. Please mail in your offering as you are able, in support of this church's continuing work in and for the community.

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures here below,
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Dear God, we share our gifts today, not in the hope that someone else will do the work that you have called us to do, but in the expectation that we will enable others to join us in building your kingdom. Let this offering serve as a reminder of your love and as a means for serving you and your creation. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

For communion, you are invited to have some bread and juice on hand. We will share in the bread and cup at the appointed time. If you would like to receive a blessing, please let the officiant know.

Invitation and Communion Prayer

Sanctus

Ho - ly, Ho - ly Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts:
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo - ry be to you, O Lord most
High. Bless-ed is the one that comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho -
san - na in the high - est.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving

Because the broken bread has meant our healing, because the outpoured cup has meant our life, because our common sharing has meant the communion of our souls, and because we have here been graced by your presence, God, we give you thanks and pray that our lives may be renewed in the life and the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn 157 (Pilgrim; see p. 8) *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

Rathbun

Responsive Prayer on Christ's Passion

Leader: Our Redeemer entered Jerusalem to the cheers of the crowd, only to be abandoned and betrayed. He suffered death, was buried, and rose again for our sake. With love let us adore him, aware of our needs. Christ our teacher, for us you were obedient, even to death.

People: **Teach us to obey God's will in all things.**

Leader: Christ our life, by dying on the cross you destroyed the power of evil and death:

People: **Enable us to die with you, and to rise with you in glory.**

Leader: Christ our strength, you were despised and humiliated as a condemned criminal:

People: **Teach us the humility by which you saved the world.**

Leader: Christ our salvation, you gave your life out of love for us:

People: **Help us to love one another.**

Leader: Christ our Savior, on the cross you embraced all time with your outstretched arms:

People: **Gather all the scattered children of God into your realm.**

Leader: Jesus, Lamb of God,

People: **Have mercy on us.**

Leader: Jesus, bearer of our sins,

People: **Have mercy on us.**

Leader: Jesus, redeemer of the world,

People: **Grant us peace.**

Leader: Eternal God, as we are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ, so give us the grace of repentance, that we may pass through the grave with him and be born again to eternal life. For he is the One who was crucified, dead, and buried, the One who rose again for us: Jesus our Savior. Amen.

Benediction

My friends, life is short. We do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So, be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. Go forth with the love of God, the grace of our lord Jesus Christ, and the companionship of the Holy Spirit, this day and forevermore. Amen.

Theodulph of Orleans, c.760-c.821
Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

ST. THEODULPH 7.6.7.6.D.
Melody by Melchior Teschner, 1584-1635

1 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To thee, Re - deem - er, King,
2 Thou art the King of Is - rael, Thou Da - vid's roy - al son,
3 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; Ac - cept the prayers we bring,

To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring!
Who in the Lord's name com - est, The King and bless - ed One;
Who in all good de - light - est, Thou good and gra - cious King.

The peo - ple of the He - brews With palms be - fore thee went;
To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, They sang their hymns of praise;
All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To thee, Re - deem - er, King,

Our praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore thee we pre - sent.
To thee, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.
To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring! A - men.

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

DUKE STREET L.M.

John Halton, d.1793

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun Doth his suc -
 2 For him shall end - less prayer be made, And prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue Dwell on his

ces - sive jour - neys run; His king - dom stretch from
 throng to crown his head; His name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song, And in - fant voic - es

shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise With ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on his name. A-men.

While we recognize that Holy Week is a crucial time of the liturgical year, the public-health needs of our community require us to continue to avoid gathering in person.

HOWEVER, we will provide worship resources in some form(s) online for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday, in order to offer everyone the opportunity to participate in the journey of Holy Week, through Christ's Passion, Crucifixion, and Resurrection.

Joys, Concerns, and Prayer Requests

If you wish to have a joy, concern, or prayer request lifted up in the service, or if you know of anyone who may need special prayers, a card or phone call, or some other form of pastoral care, please email prayer@fccleb.org, or contact the church office or the Rev. Steve Silver directly.

John Bowring, 1792-1872

RATHBUN 8.7.8.7.
Ithamar Conkey, 1815-1867

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tower-ing o'er the wrecks of time;
 2 When the woes of life o'er-take me, Hopes de-ceive, and fears an - noy,
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam-ing Light and love up - on my way,
 4 Bane and bless-ing, pain and pleas-ure, By the cross are sanc - ti - fied;
 5 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tower-ing o'er the wrecks of time;

All the light of sa - cred sto - ry Gath-ers round its head sub-lime.
 Nev - er shall the cross for-sake me: Lo! it glows with peace and joy.
 From the cross the ra-diance stream-ing Adds more lus-ter to the day.
 Peace is there that knows no meas-ure, Joys that through all time a-bide.
 All the light of sa - cred sto - ry Gath-ers round its head sub-lime. A-me!

Do Your Part to "Fill the Cart"—From Home!

We are no longer collecting items for our shopping cart, but local need is as urgent as ever.

Listen's food pantry on Hanover Street (next to Sacred Heart Church) continues to accept non-perishable donations, and they are serving to-go meals during the week in White River. However, the closure of the Listen Store is a huge financial loss. The Haven, too, has seen rising demand at their food pantry and would greatly appreciate financial donations as well.

In lieu of filling our cart, please consider making a contribution directly to Listen, the Haven, the UV Humane Society, or another local organization that serves the needs of our community. Thanks to everyone for fighting local poverty and food insecurity!

One Great Hour of Sharing: "Invest in Futures"—Special UCC Mission Offering

This nationwide offering funds vital mission initiatives around the world. It supports healthcare, education, agriculture, refugee assistance, and emergency relief in over 130 countries. OGHS funds are leveraged with local, national, and global partners to maximize their impact.

We will continue to collect this offering throughout the coming weeks. Please consider a contribution as you are able, and thanks! (Payable to FCC, with "OGHS" in the memo line.)



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@fccleb.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

Susan Sorensen, Interim Organist and Choir Director • Nancy Parsons, Church School Superintendent

Barbara Teeter, Chair of Deacons • Linda Jacobs, Chair of Church Council • Barbara Jones, Moderator

Brian Clancy, Church Administrator

Church Office Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9:00-12:00 (or by appointment as needed)

603-448-4281 • church@fccleb.org • prayer@fccleb.org • music@fccleb.org • www.fccleb.org