



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

EASTER SUNDAY

April 12, 2020

“Do not abandon yourselves to despair.
We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song.”

–St. John Paul II

All hymns are included after the order of worship, on pages 5-8.

Prelude *Christ lag in Todesbanden, LV 47*

F. W. Zachau

Easter Proclamation

Christ Conquers! Christ Reigns! Christ Commands!

Hymn 187 (Pilgrim; see p. 5) *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

Llanfair

Call to Worship (*Unison*; adapted from Psalm 118)

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, “His steadfast love endures forever.” The LORD is our strength and our might; he has become my salvation. We shall not die, but we shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD. Open to us the gates of righteousness, that we may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. We thank you that you have answered us and have become our salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the LORD’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

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.

Gloria (*Unison*)

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

If there's one word that I would use to define our faith, it is *hope*. While Christians should never avoid or deny what's wrong in the world, we are called to try to make things better, to help out, to show our hope to everyone.

Easter is about hope, the hope embodied in the Risen Christ. The Church teaches that Jesus was resurrected, that he was brought back from the dead by God. Now that's hope! Hope of a new life, of the future restored. Things may be challenging these days, but I pray that we'll all carry the spirit of Easter, of hope made real, with us in the days ahead.

Hymn 185 (Pilgrim; see **p. 6**) *Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain*

St. Kevin

Scripture Lesson

John 20:1-18. Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him,

and I will take him away.” ¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Sermon “*Moment of Discovery*” (see separate document)

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 182 (Pilgrim; see p. 7) *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

Easter Hymn

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 Bob Gerlach, who begins radiation therapy this week for prostate cancer.

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.

Today we offer this prayer:

Almighty God, in the midst of our worry, our fear, our confusion, our anxiety, we give thanks for the blessing of Easter. Though we are uncertain of what the future holds, of how this pandemic will unfold, we can be sure of your love, your power, your grace, and of the great thing that happened some 2000 years ago: the resurrection of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. In him, through him, the light overcame the darkness, despair yielded to hope, death was conquered by life. We confess these things knowing that sometimes it is hard for us to live as Easter People, but you love us nonetheless. For this we give thanks and praise, saying, “Alleluia, Christ the Lord is risen today.”

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 (*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

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 (*Unison*)

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 (*Unison*)

God of resurrection hope, on this day of joyful celebration we present to you this offering, inspired by the wondrous gift of new life you have shared with us in our risen Lord, and confident that it will contribute to the building of your Kingdom of love and grace. In Jesus' name we pray, Alleluia, Alleluia, Amen!

Hymn 193 (Pilgrim; see p. 8) *Thine Is the Glory*

Judas Maccabeus

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.

Postlude *Toccata in F Major, BuxWV 157*

D. Buxtehude

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.

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL!

We are glad you've joined us today to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord! Shout Alleluia, ring your bells, and share the joy of Christ's triumphant victory over death!

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Latin: 14th century

English translation, "New Version," 1698

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, St. 4

LLANFAIR 7.7.7.7. with Alleluias

Melody by Robert Williams, c.1781-1821

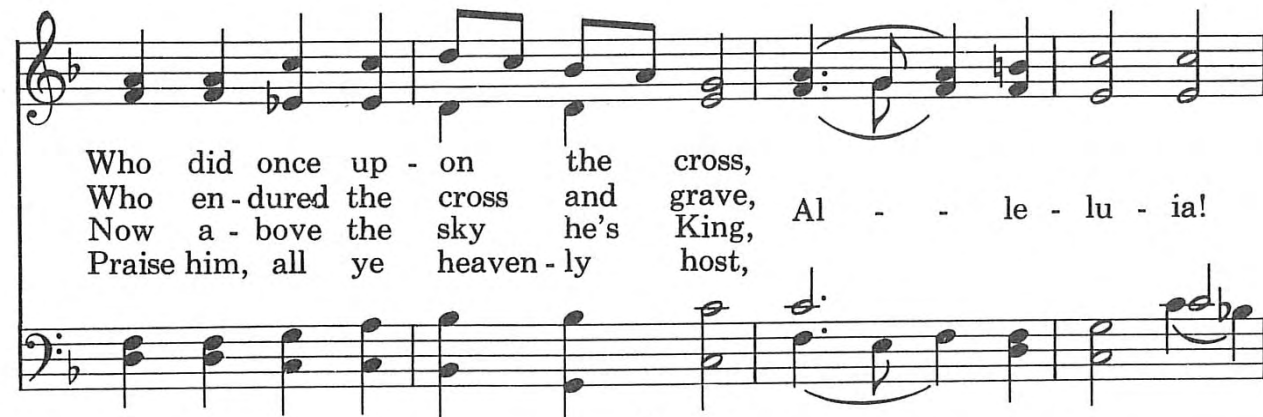
Harm. by John Roberts, 1822-1877



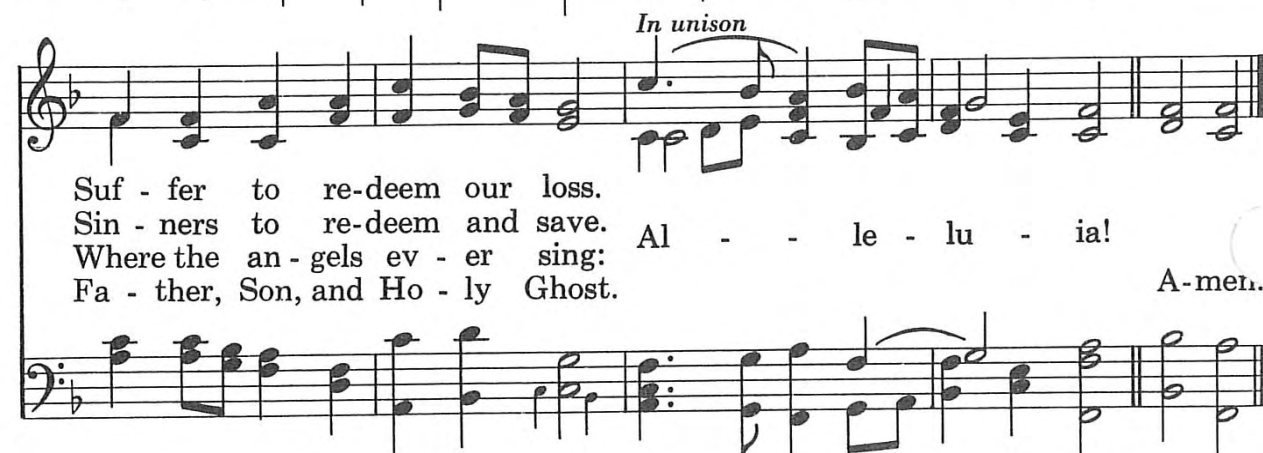
1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day,
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing: Al - - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured,
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove:



Our tri-umph-ant ho - ly day,
 Un - to Christ, our heaven-ly King, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured,
 Praise e - ter - nal as his love,



Who did once up - on the cross,
 Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Now a - bove the sky he's King,
 Praise him, all ye heaven - ly host,



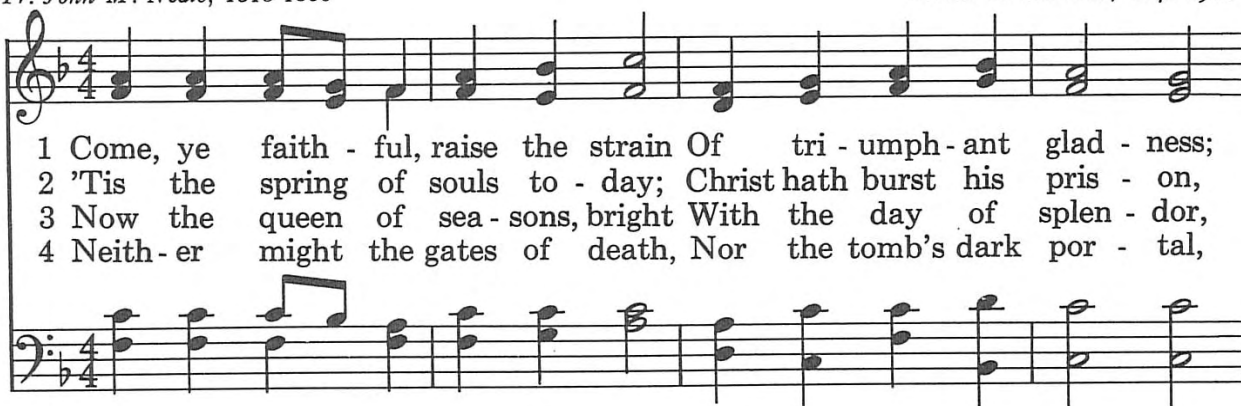
In unison
 Suf - fer to re-deem our loss.
 Sin - ners to re-deem and save. Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Where the an - gels ev - er sing:
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A-men.

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

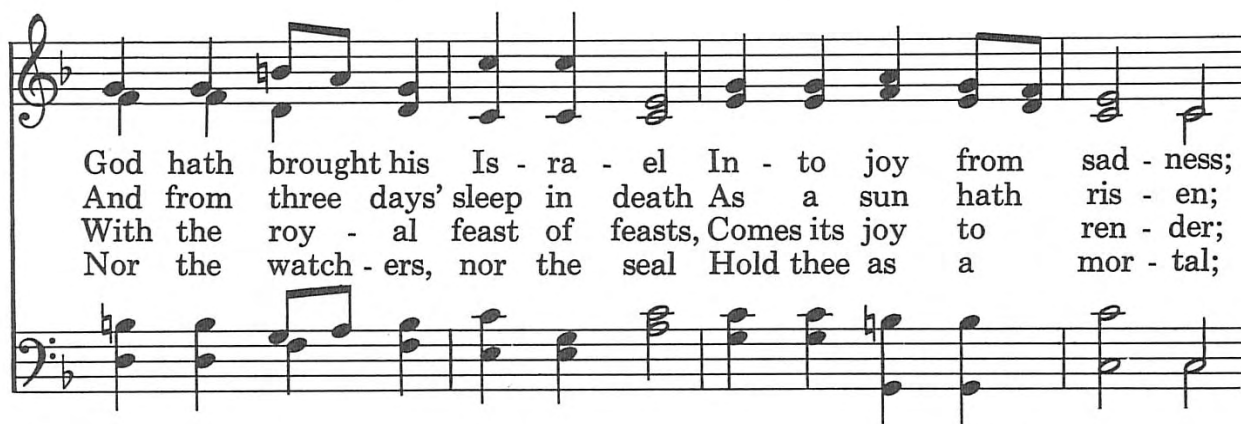
First Tune

Attr. to John of Damascus, c.696-c.754
Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866

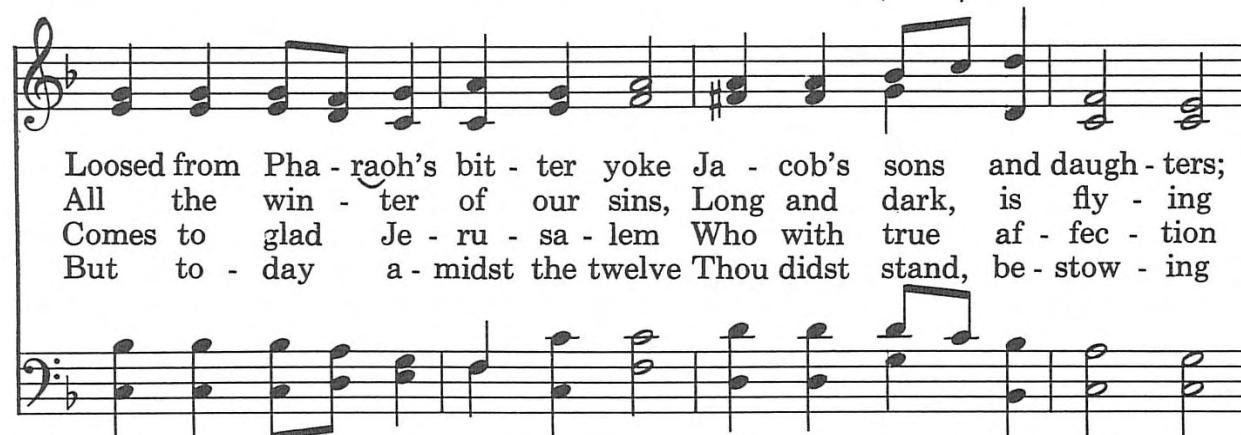
ST. KEVIN 7.6.7.6.D.
Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842-1900



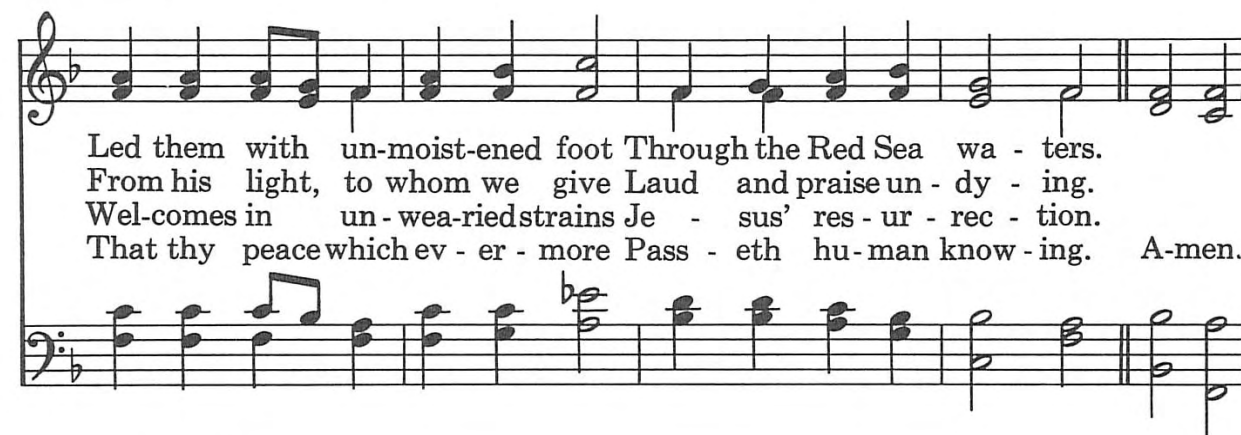
1 Come, ye faith - ful, raise the strain Of tri - umph - ant glad - ness;
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day; Christ hath burst his pris - on,
 3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright With the day of splen - dor,
 4 Neith - er might the gates of death, Nor the tomb's dark por - tal,



God hath brought his Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness;
 And from three days' sleep in death As a sun hath ris - en;
 With the roy - al feast of feasts, Comes its joy to ren - der;
 Nor the watch - ers, nor the seal Hold thee as a mor - tal;



Loosed from Pha - raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
 All the win - ter of our sins, Long and dark, is fly - ing
 Comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem Who with true af - fec - tion
 But to - day a - midst the twelve Thou didst stand, be - stow - ing



Led them with un-moist-ened foot Through the Red Sea wa - ters.
 From his light, to whom we give Laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 Wel-comes in un-wea-ried strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion.
 That thy peace which ev - er - more Pass - eth hu - man know - ing. A-men.

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

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Charles Wesley, 1707-1788 alt.

EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with Alleluias
Arr. from "Lyra Davidica," 1708

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day,
2 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King,
3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - - le - lu - ia!
4 Soar we now where Christ has led,
5 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!

Sons of men and an - gels say:
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - - le - lu - ia!
Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head,
Praise to thee by both be given,

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,
Dy - ing once, he all doth save,
Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - - le - lu - ia!
Made like him, like him we rise,
Thee we greet tri - um - phant now,

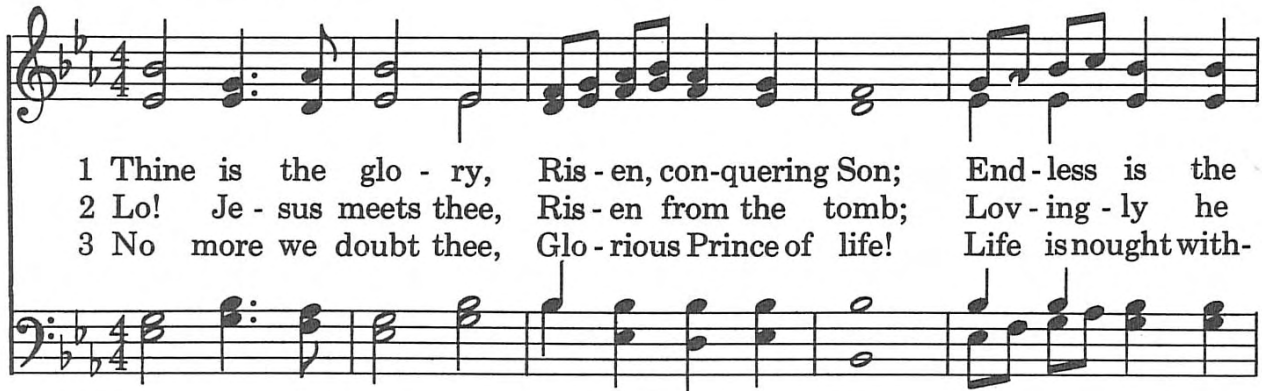
Sing, ye heavens, and earth re - ply:
Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave?
Christ has o - pened Par - a - dise, Al - - le - lu - ia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies,
Hail, the Res - ur - rec - tion thou! A-men.

A descant may be found at No. 582

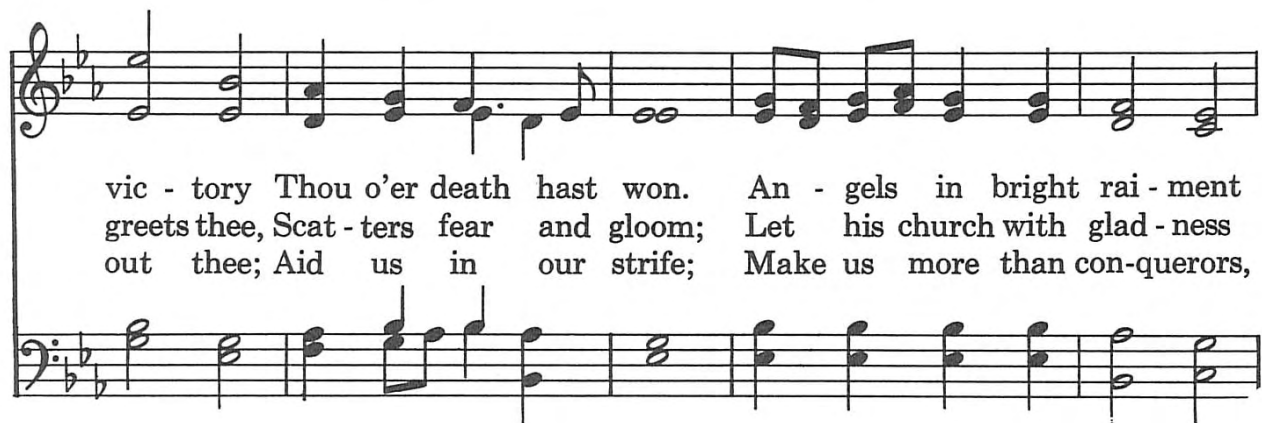
Thine Is the Glory

Edmond L. Budry, 1854-1932
Tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939

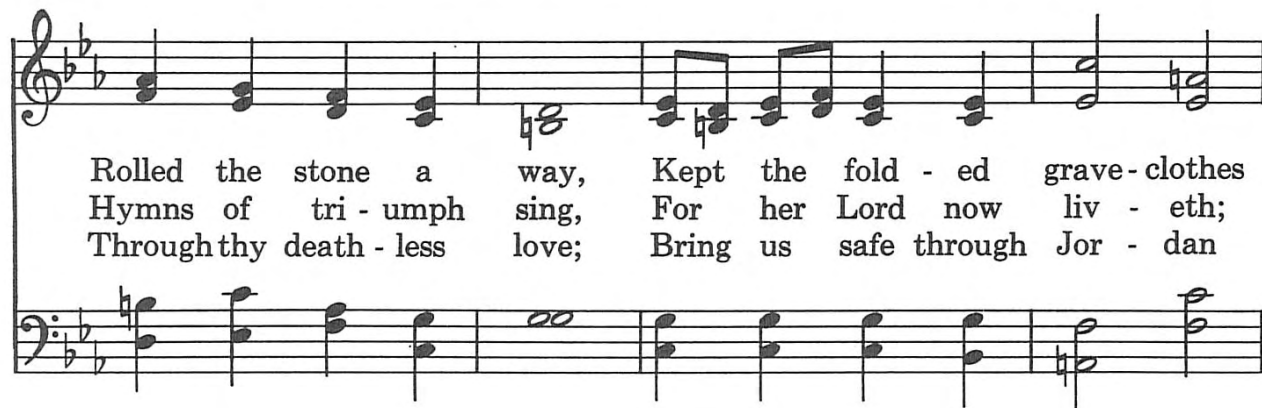
JUDAS MACCABEUS 5.5.6.5.6.5.6.5. with Refrain
Georg F. Handel, 1685-1759



1 Thine is the glo - ry, Ris - en, con-quer-ing Son; End - less is the
2 Lo! Je - sus meets thee, Ris - en from the tomb; Lov - ing - ly he
3 No more we doubt thee, Glo - rious Prince of life! Life is nought with-



vic - tory Thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment
greet thee, Scat - ters fear and gloom; Let his church with glad - ness
out thee; Aid us in our strife; Make us more than con-querors,

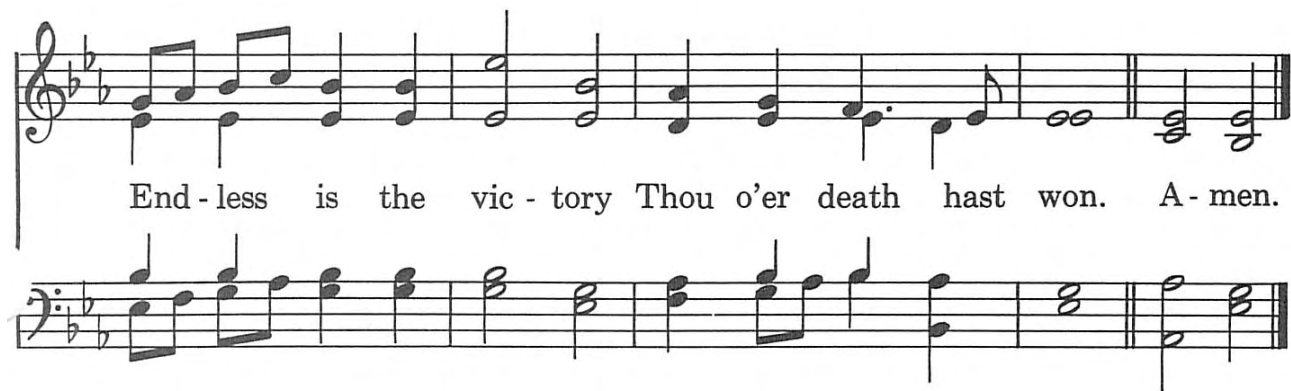


Rolled the stone a way, Kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
Hymns of tri - umph sing, For her Lord now liv - eth;
Through thy death - less love; Bring us safe through Jor - dan

REFRAIN



Where thy bod - y lay.
Death hath lost its sting. Thine is the glo - ry, Ris - en, con-quer-ing Son.
To thy home a - bove.



Children's Community Corner—Lenten Lunch Bag Offering

Despite our circumstances, the CCC will still collect its Lenten offering for two important organizations:

WISE (wiseuv.org) and Epilogos Charities (epilogos.org)

WISE seeks to end gender-based violence through survivor-centered advocacy and education. Our Lenten collection will fund welcome bags for children and women at WISE's Safe Home. Epilogos seeks to improve the lives of people in San Jose Villanueva, El Salvador, a model for focused global outreach and a town dear to many at FCC. Our offering will fund scholarships for SJV's school.

In both cases, the Lenten offering allows FCC's children to help other children in challenging circumstances, encouraging them to consider stewardship as a way to share God's love.

Whatever daily sacrifices you've made during Lent, please return or mail all of your donations to church within the next week. The CCC thanks you!

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