



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

Second Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2020

“For the thoughtful believer, then, there is nothing more certain than the reality of uncertainty, nothing more natural than doubt, which is perhaps thirty seconds younger than faith itself. (And even that approximation may be giving faith too much of a head start.)”

–Jon Meacham

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

Prelude

Call to Worship (Unison; Psalm 16:1-6)

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.” As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight. Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out, or take their names upon my lips. The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

Hymn (See below, p. 5) *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright* Puer Nobis Nascitur

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@fccleb.org), and he’ll get you set up and ready to go.

Children's Moment

Do you ever look closely at license plates? I've done this for years and years. I find the designs interesting and have always liked seeing the various mottoes of the different states. New York is the Empire State, Pennsylvania the Keystone, New Jersey the Garden State, and so on. Living here in New Hampshire, I've seen more plates from Canada than earlier in my life, like the one from Quebec, which encourages us: *Je me souviens*, French for *I remember*. And then there is Missouri, the Show Me State. That seems appropriate today. Think of Thomas. He wanted proof. The urge isn't unnatural or unusual. But sometimes, especially when we're with people we trust, we need to take things by faith. That's what Jesus was telling Thomas, that he needed to trust his Lord. I pray we will, too.

Hymn (See below, p. 6)

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

Dunlap's Creek

Scripture Lessons

1 Peter 1:3-9. ³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

John 20:19-31. ¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Sermon *“Peace Be With You” (see separate document)* Stephen R. Silver

Hymn (See below, p. 7) *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee* St. Agnes

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, Max, and Greg.

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:

O Holy One, in the wake of the Resurrection, we cry “Alleluia!” filled with joy and wonder at Jesus, who has triumphed over death. At the same time, we confess that we have moments when we are like Thomas, wanting proof of what you have done. Help us, we pray, to see the evidence you have already given us, in our lives, through your world, by the actions of family, friends, and community. Though at this moment it may seem especially easy to doubt, we want to believe. Help us to do so, through the presence of your Holy Spirit and in the name of your Son, the Risen Christ, Jesus. Amen.

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*)

Holy God: With gratitude for the Resurrection, we present these gifts, declaring ourselves to be Easter people. We rededicate ourselves to serving you and your people with our time, our skills, our money. In the name of the Risen Jesus we pray. Amen.

Hymn (*See below, p. 8*)

For All the Saints

Sine Nomine

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

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.

Please note that we have suspended on-site worship services and other events through at least Sunday, May 3, following state recommendations. Contact the church office for information about particular events or assistance using the Zoom teleconferencing application.

254 That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the sun shone
 2 He bade them see his hands, his side, where yet the
 3 From ev - ery weap - on death can wield, your own re -

out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing
 glo - rious wounds a - bide, the to - kens true which
 deemed for - ev - er shield; O Lord of all, with

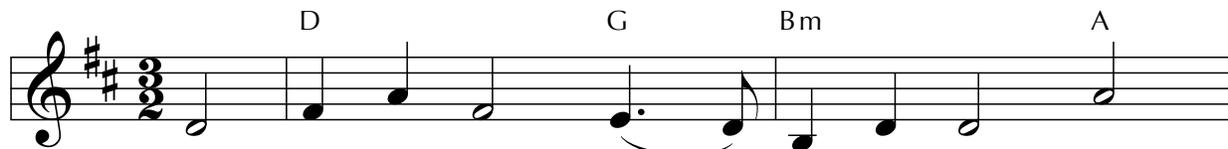
eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord.
 made it plain their Lord in - deed was risen a - gain.
 us a - bide in this our joy - ful Eas - ter - tide.

These Eastertide stanzas are derived from a longer Latin text that was one of the earliest hymns written especially for a season of the church year. They are set here to a tune with Christmas associations, a means of linking the two great festivals of the Christian year.

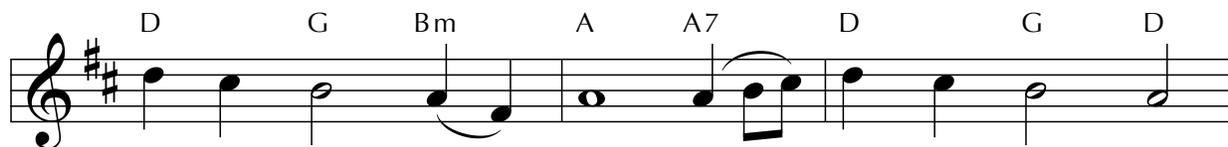
TEXT: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; trans. John Mason Neale, 1852, alt.
 MUSIC: Trier ms., 15th cent.; adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR
 LM
 (alternate harmonization, 67)

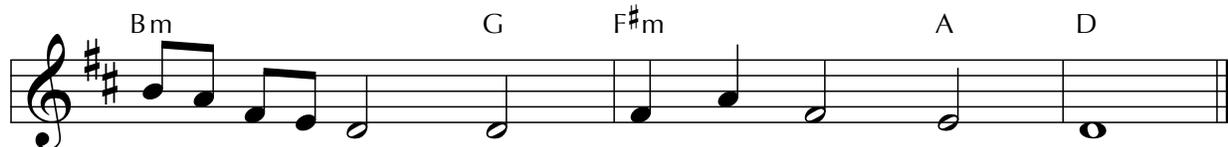
817 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
 4 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
 we re - joice and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near and seek where you are found.
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

The opening line here is essentially a quotation of 2 Corinthians 5:7, but that affirmation is fleshed out by references to the appearance of the risen Christ to Thomas (John 20:19–29). The shape note tune, named for a stream in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, adds resolution to the words.

TEXT: Henry Alford, 1844, alt.

MUSIC: Samuel McFarland, c. 1814; harm. Richard Proulx, 1986
 Music Harm. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

DUNLAP'S CREEK
 CM

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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.)

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

First Tune

Latin: 12th century

Tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878, alt.

ST. AGNES C.M.

John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of thee, With sweet-ness fills my breast;
 2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, Nor can the mem-ory find
 3 O hope of ev - ery con - trite heart, O joy of all the meek,
 4 But what to those who find? Ah, this Nor tongue nor pen can show;
 5 Je - sus, our on - ly joy be thou, As thou our prize wilt be;

But sweet-er far thy face to see, And in thy pres-ence rest.
 A sweet-er sound than thy blest name, O Sav-ior of man-kind.
 To those who fall, how kind thou art! How good to those who seek!
 The love of Je - sus, what it is None but his loved ones know.
 Je - sus, be thou our glo - ry now, And through e-ter - ni - ty. A - men

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!

LISTEN: listencs.org • THE HAVEN: uppervalleyhaven.org • UV HUMANE SOCIETY: uvhs.org

For All the Saints

First Tune

William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.

SINE NOMINE 10.10.10.4.
R. Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

In unison

1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, Who thee by faith be -
 2 Thou wast their rock, their for-tress, and their might: Thou, Lord, their cap-tain
 3 O may thy sol - diers, faith-ful, true, and bold, Fight as the saints who
 4 O blest com-mun - ion, fel - low-ship di - vine! We fee-bly strug-ple,
 5 And when the strife is fierce, the war-fare long, Steals on the ear the

fore the world con-fessed, Thy name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
 in the well-fought fight; Thou, in the dark-ness drear, their one true light.
 no - bly fought of old, And win with them the vic-tor's crown of gold.
 they in glo - ry shine; Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
 dis-tant tri-umph song, And hearts are brave a - gain, and arms are strong.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! A-men.

Children's Community Corner—Lenten Lunch Bag Offering

Despite our circumstances, the CCC is still collecting its 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 made during Lent, please return or mail all of your donations to church this week. The CCC thanks you!

Mother's Day Is Blanket Sunday

We are pleased once again to participate in Church World Service's CWS BLANKETS, a special mission project that provides blankets and essential supplies to people in crisis worldwide. (For more information on this program, please visit www.cwsblankets.org.)

If you'd like to honor or remember the mother(s) in your life with a contribution to CWS Blankets, please contact the church (603-448-4281 or church@fccleb.org) with your dedication information. The suggested minimum is \$10, but any amount is welcome! (*Payable to FCC, memo "Blanket Sunday"*)

All dedications must be received by noon on WEDNESDAY, MAY 6 in order to be included in the worship bulletin on MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 10.

Thanks to your generous contributions, CWS is able to "blanket the world with love."



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