



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

Transfiguration Sunday • 2021 Annual Meeting

February 14, 2021

“To put it simply: the Holy Spirit bothers us. Because he moves us, he makes us walk, he pushes the Church to go forward. And we are like Peter at the Transfiguration: ‘Ah, how wonderful it is to be here like this, all together!’ ...But don’t bother us. We want the Holy Spirit to doze off... We want to domesticate the Holy Spirit. And that’s no good. Because he is God; he is that wind which comes and goes and you don’t know where. He is the power of God, he is the one who gives us consolation and strength to move forward. But: to move forward! And this bothers us. It’s so much nicer to be comfortable.”

—Pope Francis

All hymns are included after the order of worship, on pages 5-9.

Prelude

Prelude and Fugue in B Flat

attr. J. S. Bach

This short piece, from a collection of eight, was almost certainly composed by one of Bach’s students.

Call to Worship (*Unison*; Psalm 50:1-6)

The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth. Our God comes and does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around him. He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people: “Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!” The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge.

Hymn 195 (p. 5) *All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name*

Coronation

Prayer of Invocation

God, though we worship in places near and far today, we welcome your Spirit as it joins us together as one people. Lift up our worship, inspire our prayers, infuse them with your grace, your love, your power. We pray these things 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

Children's Moment

This coming Wednesday, we'll begin the period of Lent, the time leading up to Easter. We should be taking time to repent, to say we're sorry to God and to our family and friends for what we've done wrong to them. Doing this helps us get ready for Easter: the day when Jesus was resurrected. We need to empty our hearts of our sins, so we can make room for the love that God wants to share with each and with all of us.

Hymn 263 (p. 6) *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

Regent Square

Scripture Lessons

2 Kings 2:1-12. Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit."

¹⁰He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Mark 9:2-9. ²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then

Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Sermon “On Being Transfigured” Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 193 (p. 7) *Thine Is the Glory* Judas Maccabeus

Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

As we hold our community members in prayer, please exercise care and discretion when sharing, as what seems public for you may be private for others. Help us keep our weekly prayer list current by contacting Rev. Silver or the church office to confirm or remove names on the list.

On this day we offer our ongoing prayers for Pete, Lloyd, Arlene, Ruth, Evelyn, Jon, Barbara, Greg, Larry, Edith, Jan, and Eileen.

We remember Jim Oronte, who died last week, and we pray for Linda, Ashley, and Caitlin during this difficult time.

We pray for all those fighting the coronavirus or other illnesses, whether of mind, body, or spirit.

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

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

And finally, we offer the following prayer:

O maker of time, we stand on the cusp of the seasons, awaiting yet also fearing what might come this Lent. We know that you will be with us, whatever may happen. We confess that we will heed the lessons of today’s scripture lesson and that we will listen to Jesus. And we apologize, knowing that though we have the best intentions, there are times when we will fail. Make the Lenten season a time when we are able to repent, to return to you, to make room in our lives for you.

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

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. Please mail in your offering as you are able.

Offertory *Prelude on "Melcombe"* Charles H. H. Parry
Renowned English composer and musicologist Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918) was a professor of music at both Oxford and the Royal College of Music.

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 Light, God of Revelation: In Jesus you have come to us. Inspired by this act of love, grace and generosity, we present these gifts, a sign of our desire and commitment to share with others the blessing of new life you have bestowed upon us. Amen.

Hymn 199 (p. 9) *Crown Him with Many Crowns* Diademata

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.

Now go forth with the love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, this day and forevermore. Amen.

Postlude *Toccata in C Major* Johann Pachelbel

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor
Ernie Drown, Organist • Brian Clancy, Tenor • Amy Driscoll, Liturgist

The 2021 Annual Meeting will begin shortly after the conclusion of the worship service.

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@fccleeb.org, or contact the church office or the Rev. Steve Silver directly.

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

First Tune

Edward Perronet, 1726-1792
 Alt. by John Rippon, 1751-1836

CORONATION C.M.
 Oliver Holden, 1765-1844

1 All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
 2 Crown him, ye mar - tyrs of our God, Who from his al - tar call;
 3 Ye seed of Is - ra - el's chosen race, Ye ran - somed of the fall,
 4 Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe, On this ter - res - trial ball,
 5 O that, with yon - der sa - cred throng, We at his feet may fall;

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, And crown him Lord of all.
 Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod, And crown him Lord of all.
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, And crown him Lord of all.
 To him all maj - es - ty as - crite, And crown him Lord of all.
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, And crown him Lord of all.

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, And crown him Lord of all.
 Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod, And crown him Lord of all.
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, And crown him Lord of all.
 To him all maj - es - ty as - crite; And crown him Lord of all.
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, And crown him Lord of all. A - men

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MANY THANKS FOR A SOUPER BOWL RECORD—338 CANS!

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

263

Latin: 7th century

Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.

Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879



1 Christ is made the sure foun-da - tion, Christ the head and cor - ner stone,
2 To this tem - ple, where we call thee, Come, O Lord of hosts, to - day!
3 Here vouch-safe to all thy serv-ants What they ask of thee to gain:
4 Laud and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Laud and hon - or to the Son,



Chos - en of the Lord and prec-ious, Bind-ing all the Church in one;
With thy wont-ed lov - ing-kind-ness Hear thy peo - ple as they pray;
What they gain from thee for-ev - er With the bless - ed to re - tain,
Laud and hon - or to the Spir - it, Ev - er Three and ev - er One;



Ho - ly Zi-on's help for-ev - er, And her con - fi-dence a - lone.
And thy full-est ben - e - dic-tion Shed with-in its walls al - way.
And here-af-ter in thy glo - ry Ev - er-more with thee to reign.
One in might, and One in glo - ry, While un-end - ing a - ges run. A-men.



One Great Hour of Sharing: "Let Love Flow"—Special UCC Mission Offering

This annual, nationwide UCC offering funds 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.

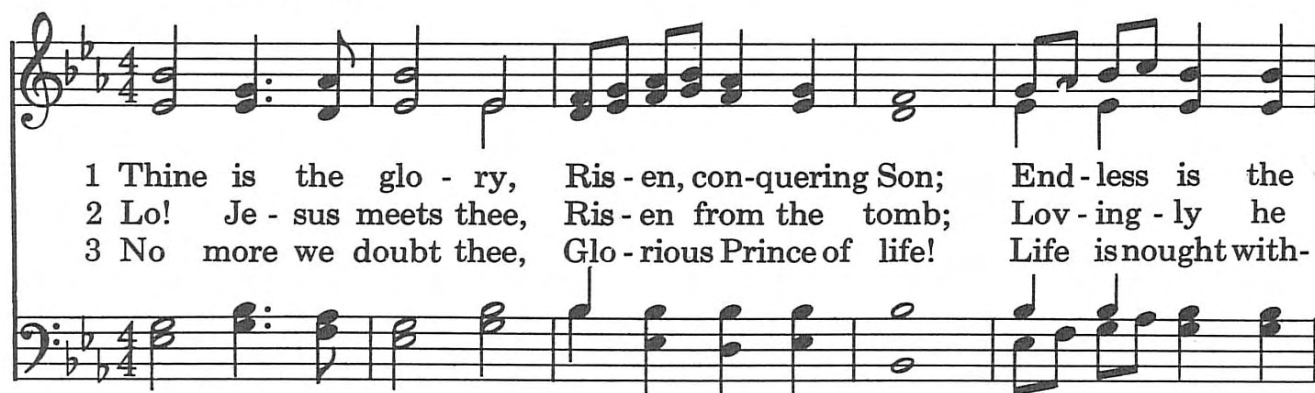
Please consider a contribution as you are able, and thank you for sharing!

(Payable to FCC, with "OGHS" in the memo line. Contributions gratefully accepted until Easter.)

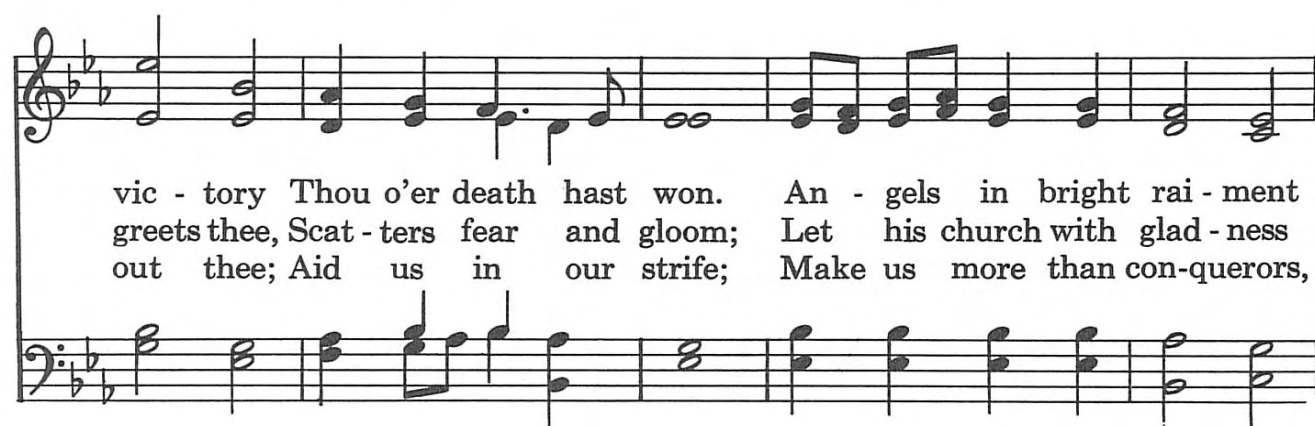
Thine Is the Glory

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

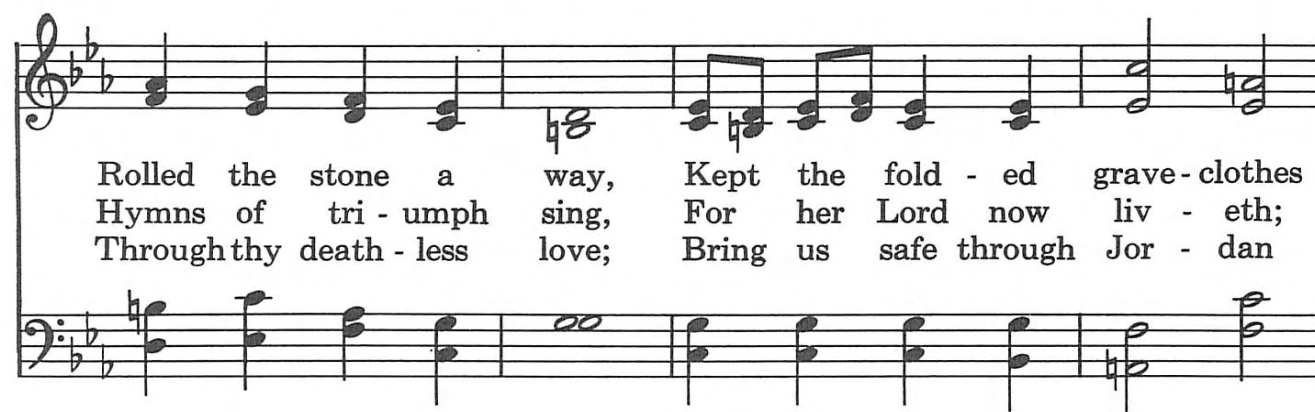
JUDAS MACCABEUS 5.5.6.5.6.5.6.5. with Refrain
Georg F. Handel, 1685-1759



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,

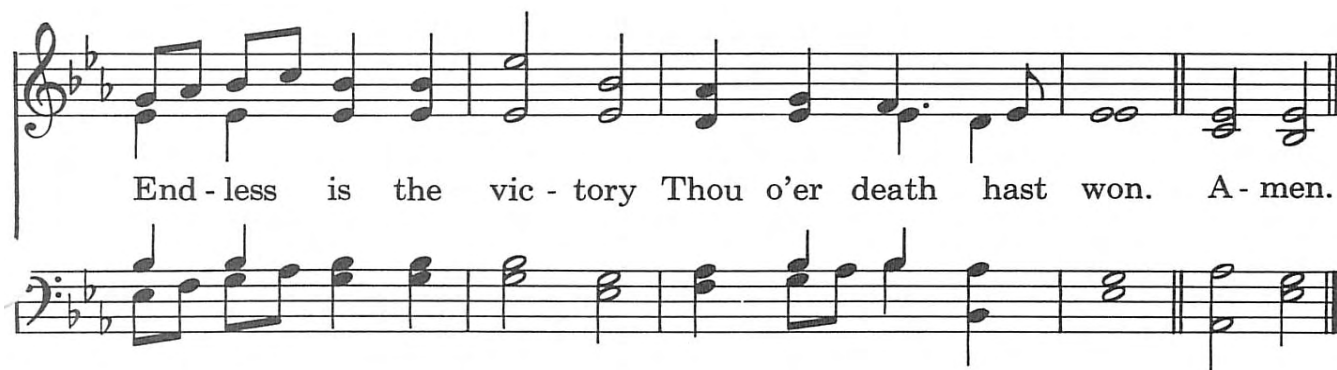


Rolled the stone a way, Kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
Hymns of tri - umph sing, For her Lord now liv - eth;
Through thy death - less love; Bring us safe through Jor - dan

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.



Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service—February 17 at 7:00 pm

All are invited to gather on Zoom this Wednesday evening to initiate the holy season of Lent, with our friends from the West Lebanon Congregational, Lebanon United Methodist, and Greater Hartford United Churches. Individual bags of ashes are available at church.

* HOLY WEEK IS MARCH 28-APRIL 4, 2021 *

It's Time for the Lenten Lunch Bag Offering

The arrival of Lent brings the **Children's Community Corner** Lunch Bag Offering! We once again ask for your participation in this annual collection of savings from a regular sacrifice during Lent. The total collection on Palm Sunday will be split between **Epilogos Charities** and **WISE of the Upper Valley**. (*Decorated paper bags are available at church, but not required to participate.*)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING – Today, February 14 (on Zoom)

The Annual Meeting of First Congregational Church of Lebanon, NH, will be held online in Zoom format on **Sunday, February 14, 2021**, after the worship service, for the following purposes:

1. To hear the reports of all officers, committees, and organizations, as required under the CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS of the church.
2. The election of all officers provided for under the CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS of the church.

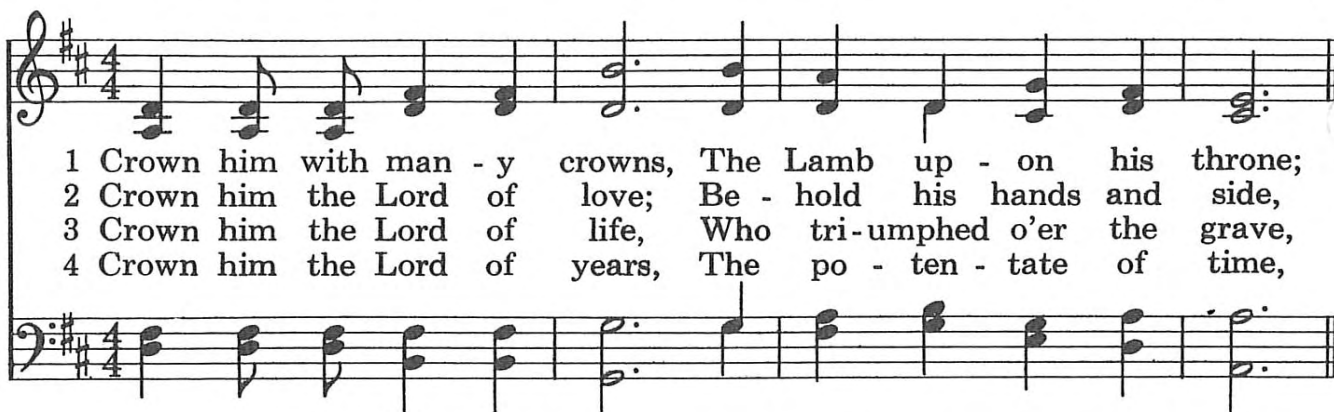
Proposal: Due to the unusual circumstances of the past year caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, circumstances which will persist into this year, Church Council proposes that all current officers and committee memberships continue unchanged for 2021, except in specific individual circumstances as needed. The proposal will be offered for a congregational vote, in lieu of the election of a full slate of new nominations, at the Annual Meeting.

3. To consider and act upon any other matters relating to the general church welfare that may properly come before this meeting.

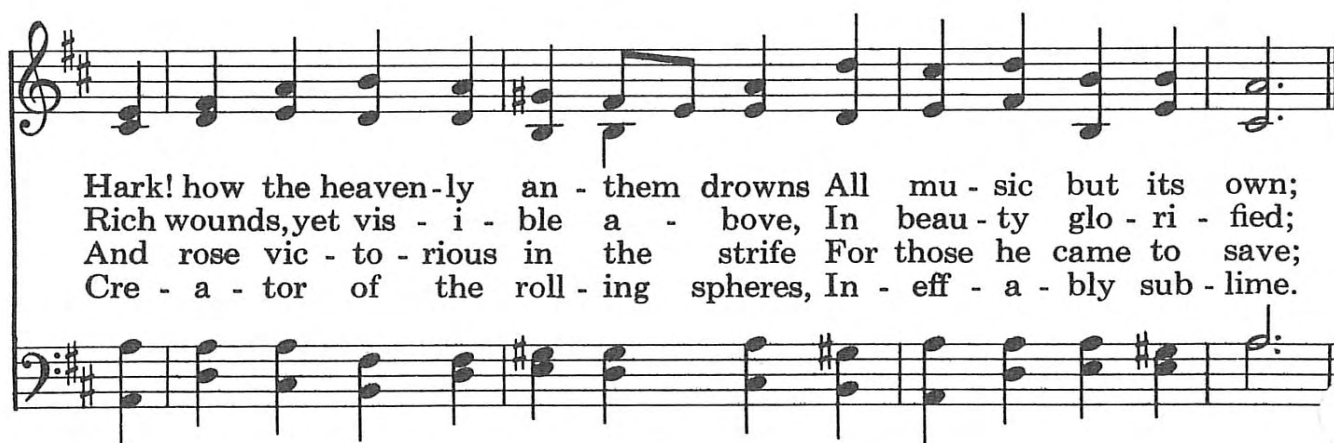
Crown Him With Many Crowns

Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894
 Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, St. 3

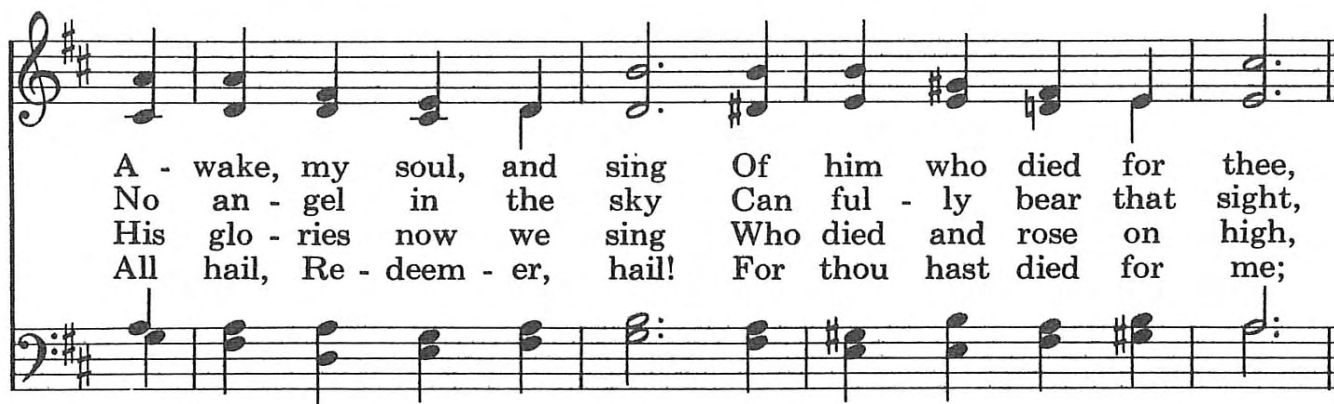
DIADEMATA S.M.D.
 George J. Elvey, 1816-1893



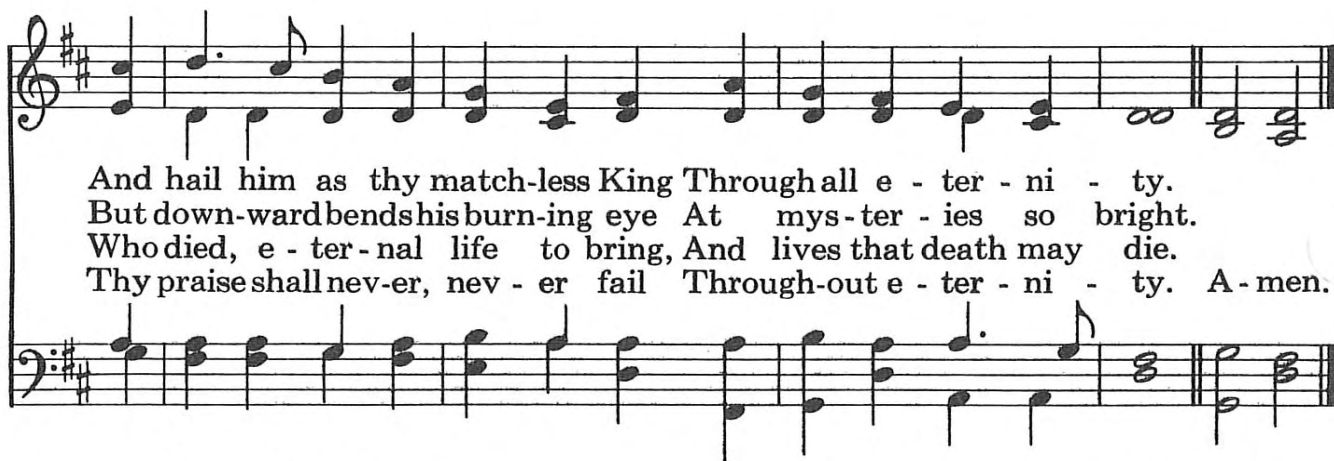
1 Crown him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the Lord of love; Be - hold his hands and side,
 3 Crown him the Lord of life, Who tri-umphed o'er the grave,
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, The po - ten - tate of time,



Hark! how the heaven-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own;
 Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied;
 And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those he came to save;
 Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, In - eff - a - bly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing Of him who died for thee,
 No an - gel in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His glo - ries now we sing Who died and rose on high,
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



And hail him as thy match-less King Through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 But down-ward bend his burn-ing eye At mys - ter - ies so bright.
 Who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, And lives that death may die.
 Thy praises shall nev - er, nev - er fail Through-out e - ter - ni - ty. A - men.



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

Ernie Drown, 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