



Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Service

February 17, 2021 (Online via Zoom)

First Congregational Church of Lebanon
Greater Hartford United Church of Christ
Lebanon United Methodist Church
West Lebanon Congregational Church
White River Junction United Methodist Church

“There is no faith without repentance.”
– Martin Niemoller

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

Prelude *Benedictus* François Couperin

Call to Worship Adapted from Psalm 51

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

People: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Leader: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

People: Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

People: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

Hymn 314 (p. 5) *Lord Jesus, Think on Me* (v. 1-4) Southwell

Prayer of Invocation

First Reading Joel 2:1-2,12-17

2 Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—² a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness!

Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. [...]

¹² Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain-offering and a drink-offering for the Lord, your God?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people.

Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged;
gather the children, even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.
Let them say, “Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples, “Where is their God?”

Reflection

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

...[W]e entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made
him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of
God.

6 As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in
vain. ²For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of
salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of
salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found
with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way:
through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments,
riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness
of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of
righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute
and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet
are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as
sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and
yet possessing everything.

Reflection

Third Reading

Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

6 “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then
you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. [...]

¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Reflection

Musical Offering

None Other Lamb

Craig Courtney

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

Offertory

O Salutaris Hostia

Alexandre Guilmant

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.

Invitation to the Observation of the Lenten Discipline

Unison Prayer of Penitence

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by 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.

In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

After the invitation, ashes will be self-imposed.

Hymn 209 (p. 6)

Abide With Me (v. 1-5)

Eventide

Benediction

Postlude

Herzliebster Jesu, op. 122, no. 2

Johannes Brahms

Welcome!

We are glad that you have joined us for this evening's community Ash Wednesday service. In our ecumenical collaboration we celebrate both the diversity of our congregations and the unity we share in Christ. While we are of varied minds, with varying measures of belief and unbelief, we are one body, bound together by the love of God. 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 included.

If this is your first time worshiping with our congregations, please introduce yourself to one of the pastors. If you would like more information about our programs and ministries, you are invited to share your contact information with us tonight or during the week.

First Congregational Church of Lebanon

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Greater Hartford United Church of Christ

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Lebanon United Methodist Church

18 School St, Lebanon, NH • 603-448-5478 • office@lebanonumc.net • lebanonumc.net

West Lebanon Congregational Church

18 Maple St, West Lebanon, NH • 603-298-8096 • office@westlebcongo.comcastbiz.net • westlebcc.org

White River Junction United Methodist Church

106 Gates Street, White River Junction, VT • 802-295-7091 • wrjmethodists.org

Leading Worship This Evening

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, First Congregational Church of Lebanon
The Rev. SangChurl Bae, Lebanon and White River United Methodist Churches
The Rev. Kirsty DePree, West Lebanon Congregational Church
Ms. Sally Ann Silfies, Greater Hartford United Church of Christ
Ernie Drown, Organist (FCC) • Brian Clancy, Tenor (FCC)

Tonight's offering will support the Upper Valley Haven.

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Lord Jesus, Think on Me

314

Synesius of Cyrene, c.375-430
Tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808-1896, alt.

SOUTHWELL S.M.
Adapted from Damon's "Psalmes," 1579

1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, And purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, A - mid the bat - tle's strife;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, Nor let me go a - stray;

From earth-born pas-sions set me free, And make me pure with - in.
In all my pain and mis - er - y Be thou my health and life.
Through dark-ness and per - plex - i - ty Point thou the heaven-ly way. A - men.

4 Lord Jesus, think on me,
That, when this life is past,
I may the eternal brightness see,
And share thy joy at last.

Abide With Me

209

Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847, alt.

EVENTIDE 10.10.10.10.
William H. Monk, 1823-1889



1 A - bid with me; fast falls the e - ven - tide; The dark-ness deep - ens,
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day; Earth's joys grow dim, its
3 I need thy pres-ence ev-ery pass-ing hour; What but thy grace can
4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless; Ills have no weight, and



Lord, with me a - bid; When oth - er help - ers fail, and com-forts flee,
glo - ries pass a - way; Change and de - cay in all a-round I see;
foil the temp-ter's power? Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
tears no bit - ter - ness; Where is death's sting? where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?



Help of the help - less, O a - bid with me.
O thou who chang - est not, a - bid with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bid with me.
I tri - umph still if thou a - bid with me. A - men.



5 Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.