



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Second Sunday in Lent

February 28, 2021

“Crosses are ladders that lead to heaven.”

–English Proverb

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

Prelude

Ciacona in E Minor, BUXWV 160

Dieterich Buxtehude

Dieterich Buxtehude (ca. 1637-1707) was the greatest of the German church composers in the generation before J. S. Bach. A ciacona is a piece composed over a recurrent bass line.

Call to Worship (Unison)

Adapted from Psalm 22

You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

Hymn 481 (p. 5) *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*

Grand Isle

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.

Lenten Prayer of Confession (Unison)

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

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

While we are not meeting in person, all are encouraged to stay in touch with one another by phone, email, or written cards. If you wish to organize a Zoom meeting, please contact the church office.

Children's Moment

I bet that we all have favorite teachers. The reasons we're so fond of them may differ, but we will remember them throughout our lives. We may like them because of the way they taught, or their sense of humor, or just how smart they were. I bet that Jesus would have been a favorite teacher for the disciples. Yes, he'd be firm. And he could be impatient. But he always had time for his followers, always listened to them, always believed in them. I hope you have at least one teacher like this—that way, you'll not only learn things, but meet a living reminder of Jesus.

Hymn 397 (p. 6) *Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak*

Canonbury

Scripture Lessons

Genesis 17:1-7,15-16. When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. [...]"

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Mark 8:31-38. ³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those

who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Sermon

“Do-It-Yourself Theology”

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 322 (p. 8)

Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult

Galilee

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, Eileen, and James.

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:

Patient, loving Lord, we know that we are all too often like Peter, seeking to shape theology to our preferences. We try to put you in a box, to hem you in, to preserve you in amber. And we will always fail. You are the sovereign of the universe, the one who fashioned all creation. You are the one who came to us in Jesus, who brought us new life. You are the one who knows all, even that which discomforts us. Help us to set aside the sins of pride and presumptuousness, that we may know you as you are, not as we would foolishly wish you to be.

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

Offertory

Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist, BUXWV 208

D. Buxtehude

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)

Lord of Creation, inspired by the power of your Spirit, humbled by this season of renewal, and grateful for all you have done, do, and will do through Jesus, we respond with this morning's offering. In our Savior's name we pray, Amen.

Hymn 377 (p. 7)

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Houston

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

Voluntary, op. 6, no. 9

John Stanley

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist • Brian Clancy, Tenor • Jon Scott, Liturgist

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

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.*)

Many thanks for helping FCC's children help other children near and far!

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

481

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

Lesbia Scott, 1898- , alt.

GRAND ISLE Irregular
John H. Hopkins, 1861-1945

In unison

1 I sing a song of the saints of God Pa-tient and brave and true,
2 They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, And his love made them strong;
3 They lived not on - ly in a - ges past, There are hun-dreds of thou-sands still;

Who toiled and fought and lived and died For the Lord they loved and
And they fol-lowed the right, for Je - sus' sake, The whole of their good lives
The world is bright with the joy-ous saints Who love to do Je - sus'

knew. And one was a doc - tor, and one was a queen, And
long. And one was a sol - dier, and one was a priest, And
will. You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, In

one was a shep-herd-ess on the green: They were all of them
one was slain by a fierce wild beast: And there's not an - y
church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea; For the saints of

saints of God, and I mean, God help - ing, to be one too.
 rea - son, no, not the least, Why I shouldn't be one too.
 God are just folk like me, And I mean to be one too.

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

397

Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879

CANONBURY L.M.

Arr. from Robert A. Schumann, 1810-1856

1 Lord, speak to me, that I may speak In
 2 O strength - en me, that while I stand Firm
 3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach The
 4 O fill me with thy full - ness, Lord, Un -

liv - ing ech - oes of thy tone; As thou hast sought, so
 on the rock, and strong in thee, I may stretch out a
 pre - cious things thou dost im - part; And wing my words, that
 til my ver - y heart o'er - flow In kin - dling thought and

let me seek Thy err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.
 lov - ing hand To wres - tlers with the trou - bled sea!
 they may reach The hid' - den depths of man - y a heart!
 glow - ing word, Thy love to tell, thy praise to show! A - men.

377 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to fol - low
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to look at
 3 I'm look-ing for the com - ing of Christ. I want to be with

Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The
 Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness, shine on my path, and
 Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

Refrain

star of my life is Je - sus.
 show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.

all. The night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

The author-composer of this unrhymed hymn regards it as a meditation and prayer deeply rooted in many scriptures, most connected with the theme of light: Genesis 1:17; Psalm 139:12; Isaiah 60:19; Malachi 4:2; John 14:8; Ephesians 5:8; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 John 1:5; Revelation 21:23.

light of the cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

322

Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult

First Tune

Cecil F. Alexander 1818-1895

GALILEE 8.7.8.7.
William H. Jude, 1851-1922

1 Je - sus calls us, o'er the tu - mult Of our life's wild, rest-less sea;
 2 As of old, Saint An-drew heard it By the Gal - i - le - an lake,
 3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship Of the vain world's gold-en store,
 4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, Days of toil and hours of ease,
 5 Je - sus calls us; by thy mer - cies, Sav-ior, may we hear thy call,

Day by day his sweet voice sound-eth, Say-ing, "Christian, fol - low me."
 Turned from home and toil and kin-dred, Leav-ing all for his dear sake.
 From each i - dol that would keep us, Say-ing, "Christian, love me more."
 Still he calls, in cares and pleas-ures, "Christian, love me more than these."
 Give our hearts to thine o - be-dience, Serve and love thee best of all. 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.)



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

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10 South Park St
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Weekly Worship Resources Enclosed!

DATED MATERIAL—Please Deliver Promptly

Do you use email? Contact church@fcclb.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@fcclb.org • prayer@fcclb.org • music@fcclb.org • www.fcclb.org