



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Third Sunday in Lent

March 7, 2021

“To sin is human, but to persist in sin is devilish.”

–St. Catherine of Siena

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

Prelude

Communion upon “*Ecce panis angelorum*”

Alexandre Guilmant

Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911) composed this piece, based on a Gregorian chant melody, for his daughter’s first communion in 1878.

Call to Worship (Unison)

Psalm 19:1-5,14

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Hymn 153 (p. 6)

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

St. Flavian

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

Hey kids, what do you think of when I mention the phrase “The Ten Commandments”? Rules? Regulations? God keeping a close eye on you, looking to see if you sin? How about love? That’s right: love. God’s love. For all humanity. For you and for me. The God who gave us the Ten Commandments is the God who came to us in Jesus, who lived for and with us. Who died with us. So, you may think different things when you think of the Ten Commandments. I hope you’ll remember that they are a sign of God’s everlasting love for his people.

Hymn 150 (p. 7) *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High* Deus Tuorum Militum

Scripture Lessons

Exodus 20:1-17. Then God spoke all these words: ²I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. ¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵You shall not steal. ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. **John 2:13-22.** ¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Sermon

"Rules for Living"

Stephen R. Silver

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, 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:

O Holy God, we believe we know where we are going, but in truth, we are lost. We seek meaning in the ephemeral, purpose in the prosaic, transcendence in passing flights of fancy. In truth, our destination is you, but all too often we get lost or choose to head in a different direction. We ignore the signs you have put along the road for us, and for that we are sorry. Help us to see and hear the arrival of your Son, your Spirit of love in our lives.

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

Te Lucis ante Terminum, op. 38, no. 5

Marcel Dupré

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*)

Almighty, sustaining God, Maker of Heaven and Earth, we join with your Creation in singing your praise and glorifying your name. In this spirit, we offer these gifts, in the hope that the work and service they enable will witness to your love for all the world. In our Savior's name we pray, Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

For communion, you are invited to have some bread and juice on hand. We will share in the bread and cup at the appointed time. If you would like to receive a blessing, please let the officiant know.

Invitation and Communion Prayer

Sanctus

Ho - ly, Ho - ly Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts:
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo - ry be to you, O Lord most
High. Bless-ed is the one that comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho -
san - na in the high - est.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (*Unison*)

Because the broken bread has meant our healing, because the outpoured cup has meant our life, because our common sharing has meant the communion of our souls, and because we have here been graced by your presence, God, we give you thanks and pray that our lives may be renewed in the life and the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn 529 (p. 8) *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

Union Seminary

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

Jesu, meine Freude, BWV 610

J. S. Bach

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist • Brian Clancy, Tenor • Linda Jacobs, 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@fccleb.org, or contact the church office or the Rev. Steve Silver directly.

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.)

It's Time for the Lenten Lunch Bag Offering

Once again this year Lent brings the **Children's Community Corner** Lunch Bag Offering! We ask for your participation in this annual collection of savings from a regular sacrifice during Lent. The total collection on Easter 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!

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

153

Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898

ST. FLAVIAN C.M.
"Day's Psalter," 1562

1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days For us didst fast and pray,
2 As thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend, And didst the vic - tory win,
3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, And through thy pas - sion - tide,
4 A - bide with us, that so, this life Of suf - fer - ing o - ver - past,

Teach us with thee to mourn our sins, And close by thee to stay.
O give us strength in thee to fight, In thee to con - quer sin.
Yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bide.
An East - er of un - end - ing joy We may at - tain at last! A - men.

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the final four lines.

Volunteers Needed for Bylaws Review Committee

Following from previous discussions at our Annual Meeting and elsewhere, Church Council seeks volunteers to serve on an ad-hoc committee to review FCC's Constitution and Bylaws.

The primary purposes of this review are:

To ensure that all responsibilities and functions necessary to the church's current operations are accounted for in our bylaws.

To update our governance and committee structure in order to better reflect the current size and character of our congregation.

If you are interested in serving on this committee—and in helping to shape FCC's policies and congregational governance in the future—please contact Council Chair Linda Jacobs (mrandmrs.j@comcast.net / 802-296-8251). We ask that you respond by **Tuesday, March 16**, so that Council can move this process forward in a timely manner. Thanks!

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

150

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

First Tune

Latin: 15th century

Tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819-1885, alt.

DEUS TUORUM MILITUM L.M.

Grenoble Church Melody

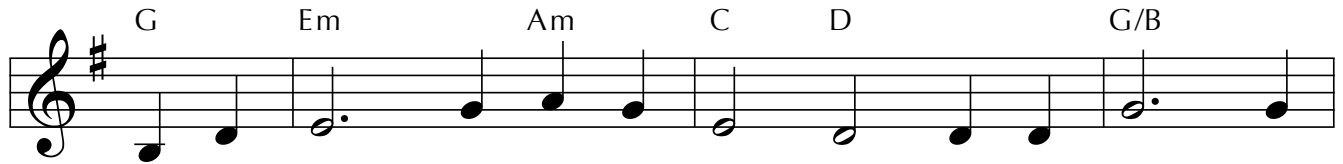
In unison

1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high, How pass - ing
 2 For us bap - tized, for us he bore His ho - ly
 3 For us he prayed, for us he taught, For us his
 4 For us to wick - ed men be - trayed, Scourged, mocked, in

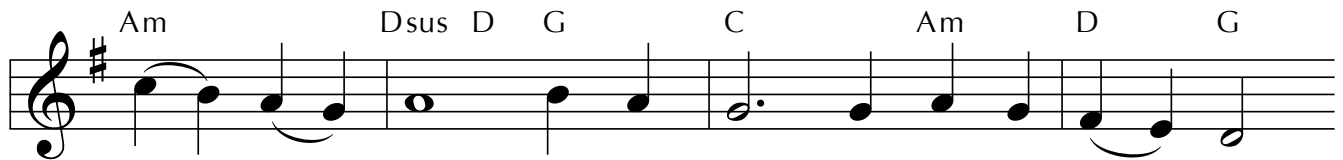
thought and fan - ta : sy, That God, the Son of God, should
 fast, and hun - gered sore; For us temp - ta - tions sharp he
 dai - ly works he wrought, By words and signs and ac - tions,
 pur - ple robe ar - rayed, He bore the shame - ful cross and

take Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake.
 knew; For us the temp - ter o - ver - threw.
 thus Still seek - ing not him - self, but us.
 death; For us gave up his dy - ing breath. A - men.

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether 529



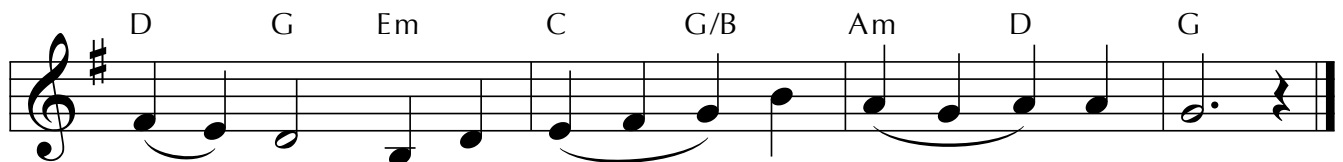
1 Draw us in the Spir - it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
 2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
 3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -



in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,
 Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er
 ments of you, that by car - ing, help - ing, giv - ing,



you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia! Here we touch your gar - ment's hem.
 lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.
 lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This communion text calls attention to the inherent sacramental nature of all meals and the communal dimensions of all human interaction. The tune, originally composed for an anthem setting of this text, honors the institution where the composer was trained and later taught.

TEXT: Percy Dearmer, 1931, alt.

MUSIC: Harold Friedell, 1957

Text © 1931 Oxford University Press

Music © 1957, ren. H. W. Gray Company (admin. Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.)

UNION SEMINARY

8.7.8.7.4.4.7

Used and reproduced under license 734395-A from OneLicense, valid 4/13/2020–4/12/2021.



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@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