



# First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

---

**PALM SUNDAY**

March 28, 2021

“God was executed by people painfully like us, in a society very similar to our own..., by a corrupt church, a timid politician, and a fickle proletariat led by professional agitators.”

–Dorothy L. Sayers

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

**Prelude**

*Valet will ich dir geben, BWV 735*

Johann Sebastian Bach

**Call to Worship (Unison)**

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever. Let Israel say, “His steadfast love endures forever.” Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the LORD’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD. The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you. O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

**Hymn 155** (p. 6)      *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

St. Theodulph

**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

Today is Palm Sunday. Many of you will recall my making a palm cross with you in years past and offering to show you how this is done. But if you read this morning's lesson from Mark carefully, you'll see that people also waved branches and laid down coats when Jesus entered Jerusalem. I'm sure you can find a branch, even a twig, or pull a coat out of the closet to show you are welcoming Jesus. After all, he isn't looking for a palm frond, but your heart.

Hymn 411 (p. 7)      *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun*

Duke Street

### Scripture Lesson

**Mark 11:1-11.** When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup>and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" <sup>4</sup>They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, <sup>5</sup>some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" <sup>6</sup>They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. <sup>7</sup>Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup>Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! <sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

<sup>11</sup>Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Sermon      *"Dead Man Walking"*

Stephen R. Silver

### Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

*As we hold our community in prayer, please exercise care and discretion when sharing; what seems public for you may be private for others. Contact the church to help us keep our prayer list current.*

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, today we offer this prayer from the Rev. Dr. Charles Hambrick-Stowe, which speaks to this unusual Lent:

In this strange Lenten season, Lord,  
when worship is remote,  
help us devote our souls to love,  
not fear or feeling bored.

If patience now is running thin,  
as home is feeling small,  
give thanks we have a home at all,  
and for our kith and kin.

In this true Lenten season, Lord,  
we're giving up so much.  
Is it enough? God, you're the judge,  
but are you keeping score?

Lord Jesus, you would isolate  
yourself in solitude,  
to fast and to communicate,  
in tune with Abba God.

In this our Lenten season, Lord,  
the cross before our face,  
with Jesus in Gethsemane,  
sufficient is your grace.

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**                      *O Welt, ich muß dich lassen*, op. 122, no. 3                      Johannes Brahms

## 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, as we rejoice in the coming of Jesus, our King, we acknowledge that your way is not what is all too often the way of the world. Rather than hoard, you share; rather than oppress, you serve; rather than hurt, you heal. As a sign of our desire and commitment to be disciples, we present this morning's offering. In the name of your Son, Amen.

**Hymn 157** (p. 8)                      *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*                      Rathbun

## Responsive Prayer on Christ's Passion

**Leader:** Our Redeemer entered Jerusalem to the cheers of the crowd, only to be abandoned and betrayed. He suffered death, was buried, and rose again for our sake. With love let us adore him, aware of our needs. Christ our teacher, for us you were obedient, even to death.

**People:** **Teach us to obey God's will in all things.**

**Leader:** Christ our life, by dying on the cross you destroyed the power of evil and death:

**People:** **Enable us to die with you, and to rise with you in glory.**

**Leader:** Christ our strength, you were despised and humiliated as a condemned criminal:

**People:** **Teach us the humility by which you saved the world.**

**Leader:** Christ our salvation, you gave your life out of love for us:

**People:** **Help us to love one another.**

**Leader:** Christ our Savior, on the cross you embraced all time with your outstretched arms:

**People:** **Gather all the scattered children of God into your realm.**

**Leader:** Jesus, Lamb of God,

**People:** **Have mercy on us.**

Leader: Jesus, bearer of our sins,

**People: Have mercy on us.**

Leader: Jesus, redeemer of the world,

**People: Grant us peace.**

Leader: Eternal God, as we are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ, so give us the grace of repentance, that we may pass through the grave with him and be born again to eternal life. For he is the One who was crucified, dead, and buried, the One who rose again for us: Jesus our Savior. Amen.

## **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**

*Fugue in E Minor, BWV 533*

J. S. Bach

## ***Leading Worship This Week***

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist • Brian Clancy, Tenor • Nicole Mason, 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@fccleeb.org](mailto:prayer@fccleeb.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 through Easter.)

## **It’s Time for the Lenten Lunch Bag Offering**

Lent again brings the **Children’s Community Corner** Lunch Bag Offering! Please consider participating 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**.

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

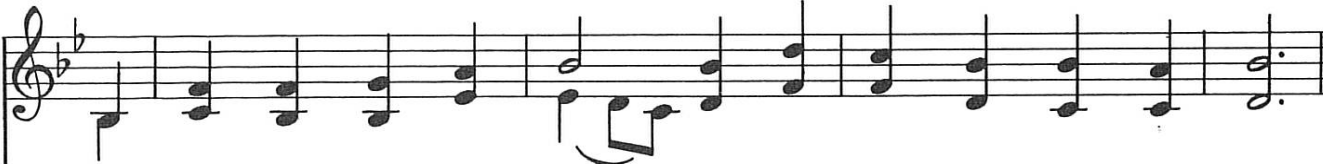
## All Glory, Laud, and Honor

*Theodulph of Orleans, c.760-c.821*  
*Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.*


ST. THEODULPH 7.6.7.6.D.  
*Melody by Melchior Teschner, 1584-1635*




1 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To thee, Re - deem - er, King,  
 2 Thou art the King of Is - rael, Thou Da - vid's roy - al son,  
 3 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; Ac - cept the prayers we bring,



To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring!  
 Who in the Lord's name com - est, The King and bless - ed One;  
 Who in all good de - light - est, Thou good and gra - cious King.



The peo - ple of the He - brews With palms be - fore thee went;  
 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, They sang their hymns of praise;  
 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To thee, Re - deem - er, King,



Our praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore thee we pre - sent.  
 To thee, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.  
 To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring! A - men.

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

DUKE STREET L.M.

John Halton, d.1793



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun Doth his suc -  
 2 For him shall end - less prayer be made, And prais - es  
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue Dwell on his

ces - sive jour - neys run; His king - dom stretch from  
 throng to crown his head; His name like sweet per -  
 love with sweet - est song, And in - fant voic - es

shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
 fume shall rise With ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
 shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on his name. A-men.

\* \* \* HOLY WEEK AT FCC \* \* \*

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 7:00 pm—Communion, Tenebrae, Stripping of the Altar (on Zoom)

Good Friday, April 2, 12:00-3:00 pm—Quiet Meditation on the Seven Last Words (Sanctuary\*)  
 7:00 pm—Service of the Word and Prayer (on Zoom)

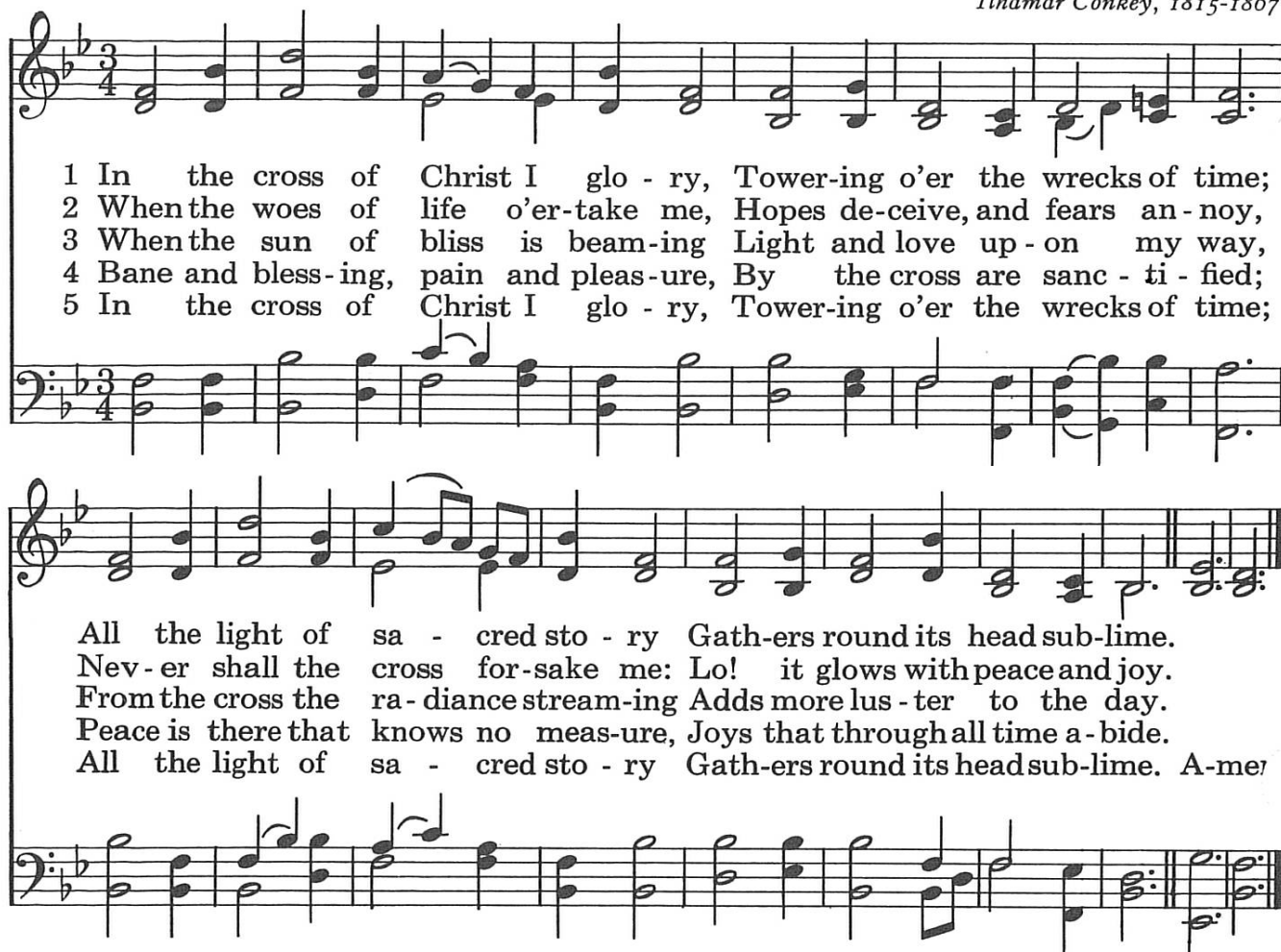
Easter Sunday, April 4, 6:00 am—Ecumenical Sunrise Service (Outside on Colburn Park\*)

10:00 am—Festival Worship Service (Outside on FCC Front Lawn\* or on Zoom)

\*These events will take place in person, conditions permitting; physical distancing, mask use, and other precautions required. RSVP for 10:00 Easter service. We will confirm these details mid-week.



John Bowring, 1792-1872

RATHBUN 8.7.8.7.  
Ithamar Conkey, 1815-1867


1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tower-ing o'er the wrecks of time;  
 2 When the woes of life o'er-take me, Hopes de-ceive, and fears an-noy,  
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam-ing Light and love up-on my way,  
 4 Bane and bless-ing, pain and pleas-ure, By the cross are sanc - ti - fied;  
 5 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tower-ing o'er the wrecks of time;

All the light of sa - cred sto - ry Gath-ers round its head sub-lime.  
 Nev-er shall the cross for-sake me: Lo! it glows with peace and joy.  
 From the cross the ra-diance stream-ing Adds more lus-ter to the day.  
 Peace is there that knows no meas-ure, Joys that through all time a-bide.  
 All the light of sa - cred sto - ry Gath-ers round its head sub-lime. A-me!



## *The Easter Lily Fund* to Benefit the Open Door Ministry

As we are still unable to worship in the FCC Sanctuary, we will sadly not be offering our usual array of flowers on Easter morning. However, as we did at Christmas, we still invite you to make a small contribution in honor or memory of family and friends. This one-time "Easter Lily Fund" will support our Open Door Ministry for community assistance.

If you'd like to offer a dedication in honor or memory of loved ones, please return this form to the church office with a contribution (\$5 minimum, payable to FCC, memo "Open Door Lily Fund"). All dedications received by THURSDAY, APRIL 1, will be listed in the worship bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 4. (Contributions payable after that date.)

Given by \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_





**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](mailto: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, Children's Community Corner  
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](mailto:church@fccleb.org) • [prayer@fccleb.org](mailto:prayer@fccleb.org) • [music@fccleb.org](mailto:music@fccleb.org) • [www.fccleb.org](http://www.fccleb.org)**