



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Second Sunday of Easter

April 11, 2021

“It takes application and a kind of genius to believe anything.”

–T. S. Eliot

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

Prelude

Fanfare in D

Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens

Call to Worship (Unison)

Adapted from 1 John 1:1-7

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us. We declare to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true. But if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Hymn 246 (p. 5) *Christ Is Alive!*

Truro

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

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

Last week we celebrated Easter, and we continue to do so today, too. Now, Easter was not just last Sunday; it is such a big deal that it is also a season, one that runs right through Pentecost at the end of May. When you think about it, Jesus' resurrection is the biggest thing to happen—ever! And it happened because God loves us, you and me. Yes, Jesus died, but then he lived again. Not everybody believed this at the time, not even all of his disciples. Today we read the story of Thomas, who doubted. But he was open to persuasion and evidence, and I hope we'll be open to those things, too. I'll leave you with this one thought: God gave you the ability to ask questions. Do it.

Hymn 256 (p. 6) *These Things Did Thomas Count as Real*

Kedron

Scripture Lessons

Acts 4:32-35. ³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

John 20:19-31. ¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Sermon “Reasonable Doubt” Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 239 (p. 7) *Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!* Gelobt sei Gott

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.

Finally, we also offer the following prayer:

Loving, patient God, we come before you today with our questions and our doubts. Be with us as we look for answers and assurance, as we seek the truth, your truth. Save us from paralyzing skepticism; free us for faithful living. We often have our doubts, just as Thomas did. Help us to believe, to have faith, through the Church, the witness of Scripture, and the presence of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Let us see our questions as the manifestation of a gift, one that comes from you: our intellects.

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

A Flight of Angels

George Frideric Handel

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, we come to you this morning bearing not only our gifts, but also our doubts; not only our commitments, but also our fears; not only our faith, but also our anxieties. We know that no matter what, you welcome us and our offerings and our efforts on behalf of your good news. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Hymn 240 (p. 8)

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

Alleluia No. 1

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

Es ist das Heil uns kommen her, BWV 638

Johann Sebastian Bach

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist • Brian Clancy, Tenor • Barbara Jones, Liturgist

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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.

Introducing SHARe: Supporting and Helping Asylees and Refugees

Virtual Open Houses on April 11, 14, and 16—Contact FCC for Registration

SHARe is a new local nonprofit dedicated to bringing asylum seekers to the Upper Valley and providing them with host families and support services—taking over work begun by UVIP which our congregation has supported for several years now. If you'd like to learn more about SHARe's plans and ways you can volunteer, visit an Open House, email sharevtnh@gmail.com, or contact Kathy Beckett (beckettkathleen7@gmail.com/860-392-9306).

Please join the local effort to welcome immigrants and refugees into our community!

Christ Is Alive!

246

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No lon - ger bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

In 1968 Easter fell ten days after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and this text was written to express an Easter hope while mindful of that terrible event. Buoyed by a triple-arched tune, it affirms the presence of a wounded, risen Christ with all who suffer.

256 These Things Did Thomas Count as Real

1 These things did Thom - as count as real: the warmth of
 2 The vi - sion of his skept - ic mind was keen e -
 3 His rea - soned cer - tain - ties de - nied that one could
 4 May we, O God, by grace be - lieve and thus the

blood, the chill of steel, the grain of wood, the heft of
 nough to make him blind to an - y un - ex - pect - ed
 live when one had died, un - til his fin - gers read like
 ris - en Christ re - ceive, whose raw im - print - ed hands reached

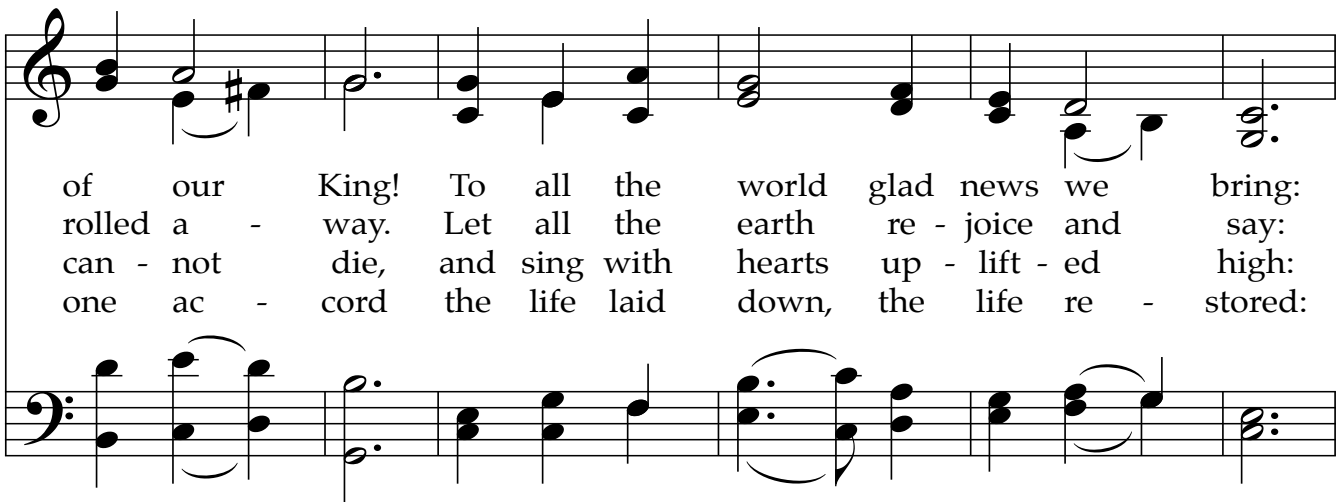
stone, the last frail twitch of blood and bone.
 act too large for his small world of fact.
 Braille the mark - ings of the spear and nail.
 out and beck - oned Thom - as from his doubt.

This 20th-century text provides a helpful corrective to a long history of negative attitudes toward Thomas for failing to believe the other disciples' report that Christ had risen. His fact-seeking "skeptical mind" sounds remarkably modern and makes him a more sympathetic figure.

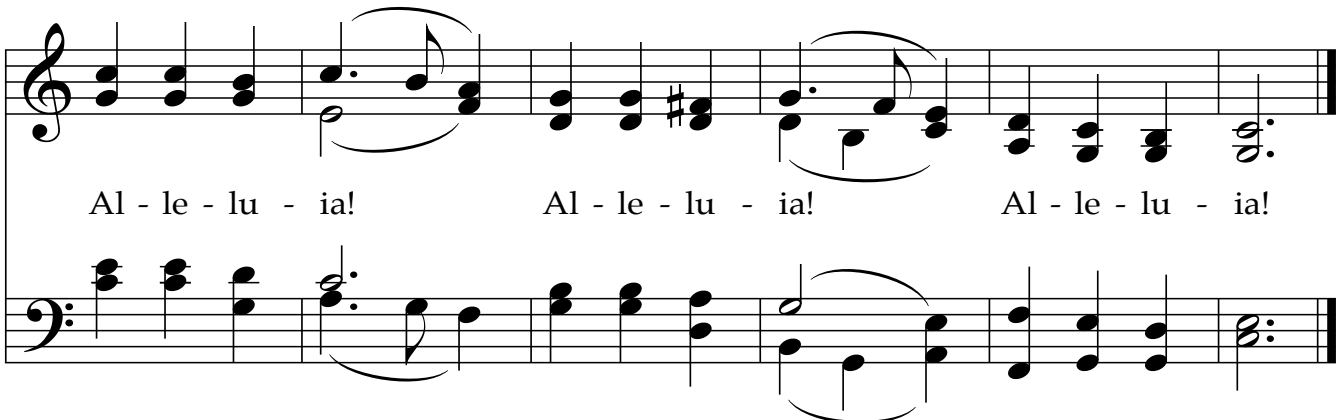
Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing! 239



1 Good Chris-tians all, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
2 The Lord of life is risen to - day! Death's might - y stone is
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
rolled a - way. Let all the earth re - joice and say:
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
one ac - cord the life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

This 20th-century Easter text is both a song of encouragement (stanzas 1–3 directed to the congregation) and a song of praise (stanza 4 addressed to the risen Christ), all ending with joyous alleluias. It was written specifically for the dancelike 17th-century tune found here.

TEXT: Cyril A. Alington, 1931, alt.
MUSIC: Melchior Vulpius, 1609; harm. *Pilgrim Hymnal*, 1958
Text © 1958, ren. 1986 *Hymns Ancient & Modern* (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

GELOBT SEI GOTT
8.8.8 with alleluias

Please note that on-site, indoor worship and other events at FCC remain suspended until Pentecost Sunday, May 23, at which point Church Council will reassess COVID-19 concerns.

240 Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

Refrain E C#m F#m B
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris - en Lord. Al - le -

Fine
al - le - lu - ia! Praise to his name.

E C#m F#m B E
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to his name.

E C#m F#m B
1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.
4 Come let us praise the liv - ing God,

E C#m F#m B *to Refrain*
He is the King of cre - a - tion.
Je - sus has died and has ris - en.
Now we shall live for - ev - er.
joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.

This text and tune were created together in the context of an ecumenical, charismatic, missionary Christian community in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Their energy and emphasis center in the opening and closing refrain's "Alleluia"—the essential Easter word of proclamation.



ALLELUIA! HE IS RISEN! HAPPY EASTER!

We are grateful to all those who offered contributions to our **OPEN DOOR
MINISTRY** in loving honor or memory of all those listed below.

IN HONOR OF...

Our four grandchildren, whom we are looking forward to seeing more of this year—*Kathy and Warren Belding*

DeAnn Clancy and Sandy Driscoll—*Brian, Amy, Katie, and Grace*

Our wonderful families—*Marcia Corkins and Pete Mason*

Betty Adams, Ike's mom; Terri Reese, Ike's aunt; and Carey Anne Jacobs and Craig Allen Jacobs,
our children—*Linda and Ike Jacobs*

Linda and Ike Jacobs—*Travis and Rachel Jones*

Louise Parsons (G. G.), Larry Kirkpatrick (Grandpap), and David Rappaport (Daddy)—
Nan Parsons, Shawna Osmer (Mommy), and Kailyn Rappaport

All the mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers in our family—*Deb and Jon Scott*

Beloved family and friends—*The Silver Family*

Juliet Marion, dearest mother and grandmother, God's richest blessing to us—*Stacey and Dominic*

IN MEMORY OF...

My son Dan—*Ron Bailey*

Charles E. Baldwin III; Margaret McGregor "Ginger" Smith; Leta Gallup Fortmiller, Lola's mother;
and Mary Fortmiller Cornwell, Lola's sister—*Lola Baldwin and Wendell Smith*

Florence and William Beckett—*Kathy Beckett*

Marilyn Mason, Laura Place, and Betty Howard—*Marcia Corkins and Pete Mason*

Parents, grandparents, and brothers who died too young—*Alyson and Terry Ellison*

Mom and Dad, Laura and Gordon "Doc" Place—*Sue and Ken Gould and Family*

Linda's Grammy; Laura and Doc Place; Betty and Ellis Howard; Grace and Roger Morse; Claude Young;
Jim Oronte; and so many more dear friends—*Linda and Ike Jacobs*

All the lives lost to COVID-19 in the last year—*Barb Jones*

Mary Margaret Miller and A. Bertram Miller—*Elizabeth Nestler*

Donald Parsons (Bop), Robert Parsons (Gramps), Uncle Leo, Beatrice Parsons (Naunta), and
Estelle Shaw (Nana)—*Nan Parsons, Shawna Osmer (Mommy), and Kailyn Rappaport*

My parents, Helen and Alfred Walling—*Susan Pratt*

Carol S. Mistretta, our daughter; and Charles L. Sargent, our son—*Barbara and Gordon Sargent*

Those who have gone before us, especially the first responders and frontline workers who have given
their lives in service to the public during the pandemic—*Deserai, Walter, and Xavian*

Helen and William Smith—*Rachel Smith-Jones*

Grandpa Hezekiah; Grandma Gladys; Uncle Noel; Aunts Doris, Sonia, Heather, and Dulcey—*Stacey and Dominic*

Harriet Oman—*Nancy Ulf*



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

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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, 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 • prayer@fccleb.org • music@fccleb.org • www.fccleb.org