



The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

“All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.”

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 5-8.

Dieterich Buxtehude

Psalm 37:1-6

People: For they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb.

People: Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

All: He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday.

Alleluia No. 1

God incarnate, be present with us during this time of prayer and song. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, inspiring and empowering us so that all we do in worship, fellowship, and service gives glory to your name and reflects to the wider world what you have done, and are doing, in and through Jesus. Amen.

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.

Herbert Howells

Today we read the story of Joseph in Egypt. His brothers were jealous of him and sold him into slavery many years before. There, he was aided by God and rose to a position of great prominence and power in the kingdom. Now, as Pharaoh's right-hand man, he

meets his brothers. And his reaction is one of grace and compassion, not bitterness and hate. We can learn a lot from Joseph about the power of reconciliation and setting aside grudges. My hope is that when we face these situations, we may be like Joseph. If we turn to God and rely on God, the chances are high that we will act like Joseph did.

Hymn 576 (p. 6) *For the Healing of the Nations*

Westminster Abbey

Scripture Lessons

Genesis 45:3-11, 15. ³Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. ⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’[...]” ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Luke 6:27-38. ²⁷[Jesus continued,] “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

Sermon

“Can’t We All Just Get Along?”

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 399 (p. 7)

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

St. Margaret

Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

As we hold our community members in prayer, please exercise care and discretion when sharing. Help us keep our prayer list current by contacting the church office to add or remove names.

Today we offer our ongoing prayers for Pete, Lloyd, Arlene, Evelyn, Barbara, Greg, Edith, Jan, Eileen, Jean, Michelle, Stephanie, and Paulette.

O compassionate God of grace and restoration, we learn from Jesus the power of loving our enemies. His words carry such disturbing power, but we find ways to nurture our familiar resentments. Help us to love as he taught us to love, to turn our cheek, to share our cloak, to know that in loving others, we become more lovable. We know that by doing as Jesus did, we are reflecting your will to the world, which is not always easy but is always necessary. Be with us, empower us, this day and every day.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. 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.

Offertory

O How Amiable Are Thy Dwellings

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Doxology (Unison)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Lord of the Nations, Creator of All People, you have called us from many places to worship together, to set aside our differences to be one people. Take our gifts as a sign that we will work to strengthen and broaden your Blessed Community. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Hymn 93 (p. 8)

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Cwm Rhondda

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

Rejoice Greatly, O My Soul, op. 59, no. 1

Marcel Dupré

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Linda Gerlach, Liturgist

If you wish to have a joy, concern, or prayer request lifted up in the service, or if you know of someone who may need special prayers, a card or phone call, or some other form of pastoral care, please email prayer@fccleb.org or speak with Rev. Silver directly.

Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service—March 2 at 7:00 pm

All are invited to gather as a community to initiate the holy season of Lent, with our friends from the West Lebanon Congregational, Lebanon United Methodist, and Greater Hartford United Churches. *Location TBD, but the service will be available on Zoom in any case.*

* * * **HOLY WEEK IS APRIL 10-17, 2022** * * *

One Great Hour of Sharing: “Love Remains”—Special UCC Mission Offering

This annual, nationwide UCC offering funds mission initiatives around the world. It supports healthcare, education, agriculture, refugee assistance, and disaster 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 Almost 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 will be available, but not required to participate.)*

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 -

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

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.

TEXT: Donald Fishel, 1971

MUSIC: Donald Fishel, 1971; arr. Betty Pulkingham and Donald Fishel, 1979

Text and Music © 1973 International Liturgy Publications

ALLELUIA NO. 1

8.8 with refrain

For the Healing of the Nations

Fred Kaan, 1965

1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, God, we pray with
 2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
 3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
 4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
 earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of
 all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
 dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
 bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.
 care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.
 quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.
 sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

Fred Kaan's most widely published text was first sung at Pilgrim Church in Plymouth, England, at a service of worship marking Human Rights Day in 1965. It has been used for many subsequent occasions, including the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY 8.7.8.7.8.7.

Henry Purcell, c. 1680

Arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1842

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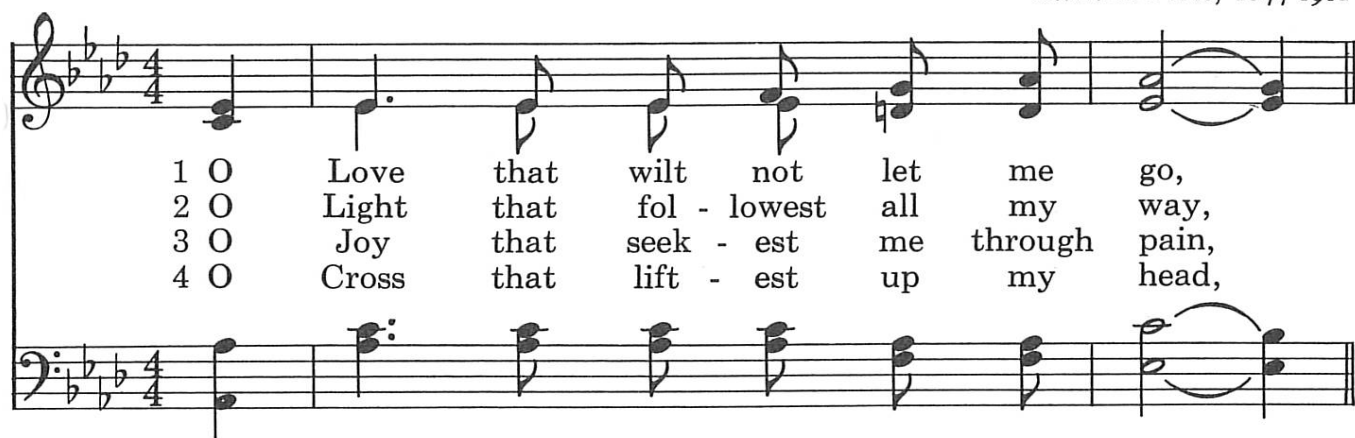
O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

399

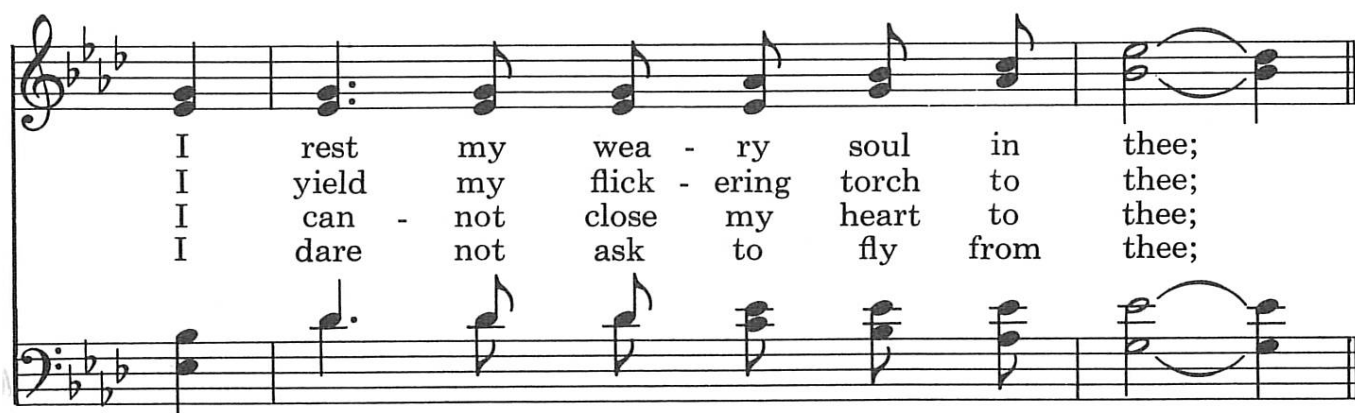
George Matheson, 1842-1906

ST. MARGARET 8.8.8.6.

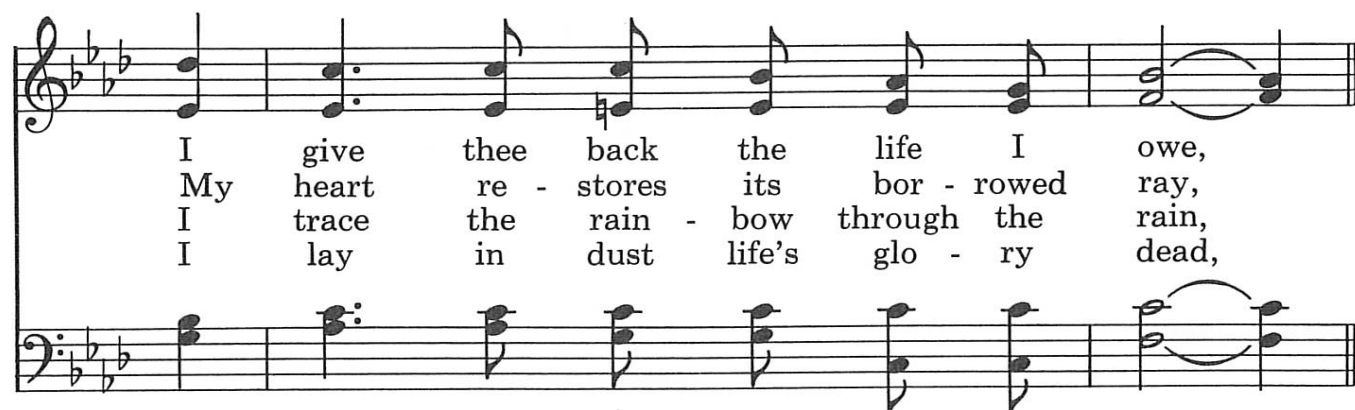
Albert L. Peace, 1844-1912



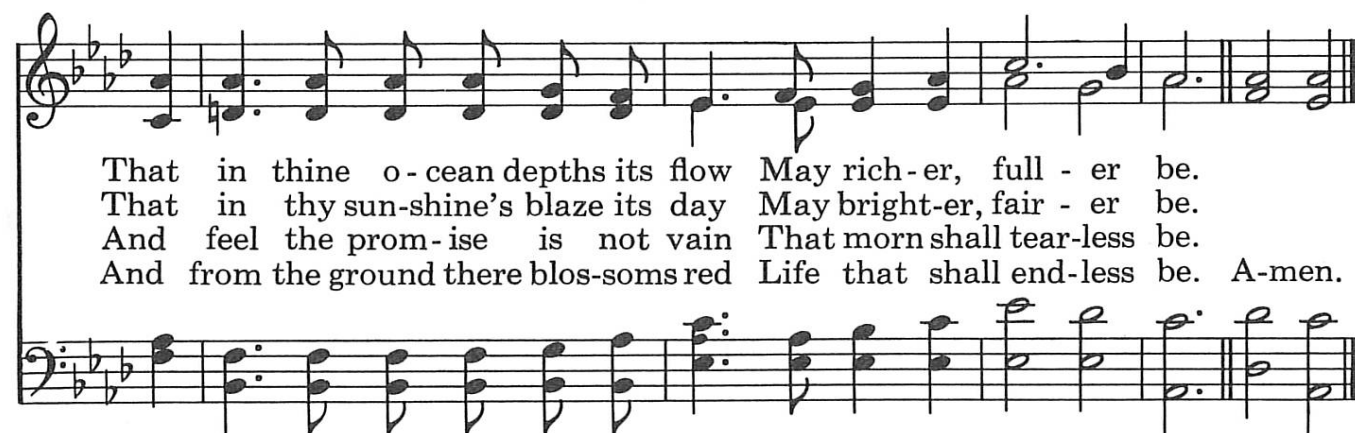
1 O Love that wilt not let me go,
 2 O Light that fol - lowest all my way,
 3 O Joy that seek - est me through pain,
 4 O Cross that lift - est up my head,



I rest my wea - ry soul in thee;
 I yield my flick - ering torch to thee;
 I can - not close my heart to thee;
 I dare not ask to fly from thee;



I give thee back the life I owe,
 My heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray,
 I trace the rain - bow through the rain,
 I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead,



That in thine o - cean depths its flow May rich - er, full - er be.
 That in thy sun - shine's blaze its day May bright - er, fair - er be.
 And feel the prom - ise is not vain That morn shall tear - less be.
 And from the ground there blos - soms red Life that shall end - less be. A - men.

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

William Williams, 1717-1791

Tr. Peter Williams, 1727-1796, and others

CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

John Hughes, 1873-1932

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, Pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, Whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might-y; Hold me with thy
 stream doth flow; Let the fire and cloud-y pil - lar Lead me all my
 fears sub - side; Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, Land me safe on

power - ful hand; Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 jour - ney through; Strong De - liv - erer, strong De - liv - erer,
 Ca - naan's side; Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es,

Feed me till I want no more, Feed me till I want no more.
 Be thou still my strength and shield, Be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee, I will ev - er give to thee. A - men.



The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, February 25, March 11 and 25, all 7:30

This highly popular venue for established and emerging musicians features several acoustic acts, and patrons may come and go as they please; baked goods and non-alcoholic drinks are available.

And it's all free of charge, so please come and enjoy! *For more details, visit anoncoffee.org.*

Muskeg Music Presents Atlantic Crossing—Saturday, March 12, at 7:00

Enchanting contra-dance halls throughout New England for over two decades, Vermont-based Atlantic Crossing draws from both Celtic traditions of the British Isles and the music of Maritime and French Canada. Join us for this special concert rooted in a rich heritage of music and dance.

Adults \$15, children free; for more details, visit atlanticcrossingvt.com.

Classicopia: The Dancing Cello—Sunday, March 20, at 2:00

Our friend Elizabeth Borowsky brings back her mother, famed cellist Cecylia Barczyk, to usher in spring with bright, brilliant music for piano and cello. The program includes rhapsodies and dances by Ludwig van Beethoven, Frédéric Chopin, Claude Debussy, and more. *Adults \$20,*

FCC members \$15, children free; advance tickets and more at www.classicopia.org/concert/1091/.

Upper Valley Music Center Faculty Showcase—Saturday, April 2, at 4:00

Come enjoy a diverse program featuring the vocal and instrumental excellence of the faculty next door at UVMC. *Adults \$15, under 18 free; proceeds benefit tuition assistance fund. More at www.uvmusic.org.*

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
Jon Scott, Chair of Church Council • Linda Gerlach, Chair of Deacons • Barbara Jones, Moderator
Brian Clancy, Church Administrator

Church Office Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9:00-12:00 (or by appointment as needed)
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