



# First Congregational Church of Lebanon

*United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming*

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## The First Sunday in Lent

March 6, 2022

“Lent is a time for discipline, for confession, for honesty, not because God is mean or fault-finding or finger-pointing but because he wants us to know the joy of being cleaned out, ready for all the good things he now has in store.”

–N. T. Wright

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

**Prelude**

*Andante in E-Flat*

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

**Call to Worship**

Psalm 91:9-16

Leader: Because you have made the LORD your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.

**People: For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.**

Leader: On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

**People: You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.**

Leader: Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.

**People: When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them.**

**All: With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.**

**Hymn 153** (p. 5) *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

### Anthem

*O Lord, My God*

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

### Children's Moment

I'd like to talk about Lent for a moment. This is a season of the church we observe every year in the weeks leading up to Easter. It's a time for us to repent, to confess our sins, to get things right with God. Now, every one of us has sinned. Every one of us can claim to be a sinner. Does that mean we're evil? Without any value or merit? No! God still loves us. God just wants us to do better. Each and every one of us should try to do better, to be better, each and every day. God doesn't want us to beat ourselves up, to cry and wail about our shortcomings. God knows we've got those, and rather than focus on what we've done wrong, God would prefer we focus on what we can do right.

**Hymn 148** (p. 5)      *Forty Days and Forty Nights*

Heinlein

### Scripture Lessons

**Deuteronomy 26:1-11.** When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, <sup>2</sup>you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. <sup>3</sup>You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." <sup>4</sup>When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, <sup>5</sup>you shall make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. <sup>6</sup>When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, <sup>7</sup>we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup>The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; <sup>9</sup>and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup>So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me." You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. <sup>11</sup>Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

**Luke 4:1-13.** Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup>where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.

<sup>6</sup>And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup>If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” <sup>8</sup>Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

<sup>9</sup>Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup>for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ <sup>11</sup>and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” <sup>12</sup>Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” <sup>13</sup>When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

**Sermon**

*“Arguing with Satan”*

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. 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, Paulette, and Carolin.

We remember Edwin Leavitt, Laurie Braley’s father, who died last week. Our prayers are with the Leavitt and Braley families.

O God of forgiveness, we gather on this first Sunday in Lent wishing to repent, to be free of our sins, to work towards a clean heart. We know that while we may succeed, we will fail again if we succumb to the delusion, the fantasy, that we alone are able to make things right. Our hope for the future, for a realized vision of peace and true freedom of spirit, comes only by yielding to your will, by following in faith the way of your Son, Jesus.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ, 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**

**Offertory**

*O Taste and See How Gracious the Lord Is*

John Goss

## 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)

Loving God, as we journey together into Lent, we know we are not alone. We give you thanks that your Spirit, your grace, and your church are ever present, always with us. In gratitude, we present this offering, a sign of our intent to share with others what you have shared with us. 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 503** (p. 6)      *Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation*      O Quanta Qualia

### 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

Choral Song

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

# 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 - bid 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 - bid.  
 An East - er of un - end - ing joy We may at - tain at last! A-men.

# Forty Days and Forty Nights

148

George H. Smytlan, 1822-1870

Alt. by Francis Pott, 1832-1909, and others

HEINLEIN 7.7.7.7.

Attr. to Martin Herbst, 1654-1681

1 For - ty days and for - ty nights Thou wast fast - ing in the wild;  
 2 Shall not we thy sor - row share, And from earth - ly joys ab - stain,  
 3 And if Sa - tan, vex - ing sore, Flesh or spir - it should as - sail,  
 4 Keep, O keep us, Sav - ior dear, Ev - er con - stant by thy side;

For - ty days and for - ty nights Temp - ted, and yet un - de - filed.  
 Fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, Glad with thee to suf - fer pain?  
 Thou, his van - quish - er be - fore, Grant we may not faint nor fail.  
 That with thee we may ap - pear At the e - ter - nal East - er - tide. A-men.

# Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation

503

1 Lord, we have come at your own in - vi - ta - tion,  
 2 Here, at your ta - ble, con - firm our in - ten - tion;  
 3 When, at your ta - ble, each time of re - turn - ing,

cho - sen by you, to be count - ed your friends;  
 give it your seal of for - give - ness and grace;  
 vows are re - newed and our cour - age re - stored,

yours is the strength that sus - tains ded - i - ca - tion;  
 teach us to serve with - out pride or pre - ten - sion,  
 may we in - creas - ing - ly glo - ry in learn - ing

ours, a com - mit - ment we know nev - er ends.  
 Lord, in your king - dom, what - ev - er our place.  
 all that it means to ac - cept you as Lord.

St. Augustine spoke of eucharist as “the repeatable part of baptism,” and this hymn reminds us that each time we share in the Lord’s Supper we are renewing our baptismal vows. The text is set to a tune that dates to the transition between plainchant and modern tonalities.

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1977, alt.

MUSIC: Paris Antiphoner, 1681; harm. La Feillée’s *Méthode du plain-chant*, 1808

Text © 1979 Hope Publishing Company

O QUANTA QUALIA

11.10.11.10

(this tune in a higher key, 369)

\* \* \*

### *Leading Worship This Week*

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Laurel Stavis, Liturgist

Barbara Jones and Phil Hammond, Ushers • Dawn Troutman, Zoom Greeter

*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](mailto:prayer@fccleb.org) or speak with Rev. Silver directly.*

*If you would like to receive daily devotional reflections during Lent from Rev. Steve Silver, please contact the church office or email him directly at [silver@fccleb.org](mailto:silver@fccleb.org).*

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



**Music  
at the  
Meetinghouse**

### **Upcoming Concerts**

*Masks, distanced seating, and proof of vaccination required.*

#### ***The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, March 11, 25, April 8, and Sat., April 23, 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](http://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, under 18 free; for more details, visit [atlanticcrossingvt.com](http://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/](http://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. *Free-will donation; all proceeds benefit tuition assistance fund. More at [www.uvmusic.org](http://www.uvmusic.org).*

#### ***Bel Canto Chamber Singers—Saturday, April 30, at 7:30 / Sunday, May 1, at 4:00***

We're delighted by the prospect of Bel Canto returning to our Sanctuary under the direction of Jane Woods! *Program details TBA. Adults \$15, students \$10, under 13 free; more at [www.belcantosingers.org](http://www.belcantosingers.org).*

## **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 (April 10) will be split between **Epilogos Charities** and **WISE of the Upper Valley**. (*Decorated paper bags are available, but not required to participate.*)

*The Children's Community Corner thanks you for supporting this stewardship project!*

## **One Great Hour of Sharing: "Love Remains"—Special UCC Mission Offering**

*And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love. —1 Cor 13:13*

This annual, nationwide offering funds a range of 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.)

## ***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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