



The Fourth Sunday in Lent

“Resentment is an inner complaint. I discover within me that murmuring, whining, grumbling, lamenting, and griping that go on and on even against my will. The more I dwell on the matters in question, the worse my state becomes. The more I analyze it, the more reason I see for complaint.

I become more and more lost until, in the end, I feel myself to be the most misunderstood, rejected, neglected, and despised person in the world. Of one thing I am sure. Complaining is self-perpetuating and counterproductive. Whenever I express my complaints in the hope of evoking pity and receiving the satisfaction I so much desire, the result is always the opposite of what I tried to get. A complainer is hard to live with, and very few people know how to respond to the complaints made by a self-rejecting person. The tragedy is that, often, the complaint, once expressed, leads to that which is most feared: further rejection."

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

Prelude *Prelude in E Minor ("Cathedral")*, BWV 533 Johann Sebastian Bach

Call to Worship

Adapted from Psalm 32

Leader: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

People: Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Leader: Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

People: Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

Leader: Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

People: Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.

All: Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Hymn 101 (p. 5) *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* In Babilone

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 *Thou Wilt Keep Him in Perfect Peace* Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Children's Moment

Jesus believed in prayer. In Luke's Gospel, we often see Jesus pray, to center himself, to draw on God's strength, to figure out what to do next. What about you? What about me? Do you pray? I pray, not just on Sunday morning, but each day with my family. I pray alone when something is on my mind. My prayers are scheduled—and sometimes they just happen.

One thing I've learned is that while God doesn't always give me what I want, God gives me what I need, which, to be honest, means a whole lot more.

Here's praying that you will find inspiration, strength, and comfort in your prayers.

Hymn 366 (pp. 6-7) *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* Hyfrydol

Scripture Lessons

Joshua 5:9-12. ⁹The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain.

¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32. Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³So he told them this parable: [...]

^{11b}"There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he

had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

Sermon

“Coming Home”

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 348 (p. 7)

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Olivet

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.

O God, who is like a parent welcoming us home with open arms even though we have sinned, forgive us. Forgive us, we pray—for losing our way, for choosing hate over relationships, for indulging our petty grudges, for succumbing to destructive temptation, for turning our backs on you and your ways, forgive us. We ask your forgiveness and recognize your grace, your love, your power, doing so with joy and gladness that you, our God, have chosen us to be your people.

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

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 *Give Alms of Thy Goods* Christopher Tye

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, we offer these gifts to you this day with the open heart and hopeful spirit of the father who rejoiced at the return of his wayward son. Let us, like him, look to the future, and enable us to envision all that can be done when we trust in you. Amen.

Hymn 649 (p. 8) *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* New Britain

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* Johann Sebastian Bach

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Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Amy Driscoll, Liturgist
Corrine Erskine and Linda Gerlach, 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 or speak with Rev. Silver directly.

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

First Tune

Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863

IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.
Traditional Dutch Melody

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, Like the wide - ness of the sea;
2 For the love of God is broad-er Than the meas - ure of man's mind;

There's a kind-ness in his jus - tice, Which is more than lib - er - ty.
And the heart of the E - ter - nal Is most won - der - ful - ly kind.

There is no place where earth's sor-rows Are more felt than up in heaven;
If our love were but more sim - ple, We should take him at his word;

There is no place where earth's fail-ings Have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
And our lives would be all sun-shine In the sweet-ness of our Lord. A-men.

366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are arranged in four systems, each corresponding to a line of the hymn. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn, the second system contains the next four lines, the third system contains the next four lines, and the fourth system contains the final four lines. The lyrics are: 1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion; find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning; more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

This text and this tune occur in almost all English-language hymnals (though not always together). The transforming power of love motivates the unending praise of the life to come, and this fine Welsh tune (whose name means "delightful") gives us a foretaste of endless song.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1747, alt.
MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831, alt.

HYFRYDOL
8.7.8.7.D

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

348

Ray Palmer, 1808-1887, alt.

OLIVET 6.6.4.6.6.6.4.
Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

1 My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread, And griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold; sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray; Take all my
My zeal in - spire; As thou hast died for me, Oh, may my
Be thou my guide; Bid dark-ness turn to day; Wipe sor-row's
Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -

guilt a - way; Oh, let me from this day Be whol - ly thine.
love to thee Pure, warm, and changeless be, A liv - ing fire.
tears a - way; Nor let me ev - er stray From thee a - side.
trust re-move; Oh, bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul. A-men.

649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

As was his custom, the author wrote this hymn to accompany his sermon on 1 Chronicles 17:16-17, preached on January 1, 1773; he called it "Faith's Review and Expectation." Much of its current popularity comes from this now-familiar tune, an association that began in 1835.

TEXT: Stanzas 1-4, John Newton, 1772; stanza 5, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790; Navaho, Albert Tsosie

MUSIC: *Columbian Harmony*, 1829; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1910, alt.

Text Phonetic Transcr. Cherokee, Kiowa, Creek, and Choctaw © Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference;

Phonetic Transcr. Navaho © Albert Tsosie

AMAZING GRACE

CM

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



Upcoming Concerts

Masks, distanced seating, and proof of vaccination required.

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.*

The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fri., April 8; Sat., April 23; Fridays, May 8 and 20, 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.*

Classicopia: Fabulous Females (Celebrating Women Composers)—Friday, April 22, at 7:30

Hanover's own virtuoso violinist Roseminna Watson joins pianist Dan Weiser for a program of great music by women composers, including Clara Schumann, Florence Price, Pauline Viardot, and NH's own Amy Beach. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at www.classicopia.org.*

Cameo Arts Presents Stroud, Zay, and Odell—Sunday, April 24, at 2:00

Flautist Leslie Stroud joins cellist Peter Zay and pianist Matthew Odell for a benefit program featuring J. S. Bach, Felix Mendelssohn, and Michel Merlet. *Free-will donation; beneficiary TBD.*

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

We're delighted to have Bel Canto return to our Sanctuary under the direction of Jane Woods! The program features music for choir, strings, timpani, and piano, including a premiere by NH composer Travis Ramsey. *Adults \$15, students \$10, under 13 free; more at www.belcantosingers.org.*

It's Time for the Lenten Lunch Bag Offering

Lent once again brings the **Children's Community Corner** Lunch Bag Offering! We ask for your participation in this collection of savings from a regular sacrifice during Lent. The total on Palm Sunday (April 10) will be split between **Epilogos Charities** and **WISE of the Upper Valley**.

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.)

UCC Emergency Appeal for Ukrainian Refugee Assistance

The UCC is working both as a member of the ACT Alliance and through the relief agency of the Reformed Church in Hungary. Visit www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal/.



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@fcclieb.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
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)
603-448-4281 • church@fcclieb.org • prayer@fcclieb.org • music@fcclieb.org • www.fcclieb.org