



The Fifth Sunday in Lent

“The fact is, until we stop doubting God’s goodness, we can’t experience God’s love.”

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 5-9.

Communion on “Ecce Panis Angelorum”

Guilmant (1837-1911) composed this piece in 1878 for the first communion of his daughter Cécile.

Psalm 126

People: Then our mouth was filled with laughter, our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”

Leader: The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

People: Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

Leader: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

People: Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Mit Freuden zart

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

The Secret Sins

Orlando Gibbons

*The secret sins that hidden lie within my pensive heart
Procures great heaps of bitter thoughts and fills my soul with smart;
And yet the more my soul doth seek some sweet relief to find,
The more doth sin with vain delights, alas, still keep me blind.
Thou see'st, O God, the strifes there are between my soul and sin:
Thy grace doth work, but sin prevails and blinds my soul therein.
Wherefore, sweet Christ, thy grace increase, my faith augment withal,
And for thy tender mercy's sake, Lord, hear me when I call.*

Children's Moment

Today's Gospel lesson is a reminder of the important role women play in Scripture. Like you, like me, they can be kind, they can be cranky—but to God, they are really important! Martha and Mary each have their own ways of seeing and doing things, but Jesus values both, telling them to be comfortable with their own unique gifts and contributions. Jesus would say the same to you, too. And he'd like it if you remember the vital work women do in advancing his ministry and in building the kingdom of heaven here on earth.

Hymn 206 (pp. 6-7) *A Woman Came Who Did Not Count the Cost*

Wexford Carol

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 43:16-21. ¹⁶Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

John 12:1-8. Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Sermon

"An Open House"

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, Michelle, Stephanie, Paulette, Carolin, and Sue Pratt, who will be having surgery next week and then returning to NH in early May!

We remember the life of Jean H. Scott of Georgetown, the beloved aunt of Jon Scott whose passing last week is mourned by the entire family. Our prayers are with Jon's mother Kathryn, his sister Carolyn, and his two other siblings during this time of loss.

O God, O Jesus, O Holy Spirit, ever with us. The days grow longer, and that should give us hope. We should be excited, knowing that Easter is almost here. But we know that first we go through the Passiontide, the dark time when the story of Jesus here on earth comes to an end. This weighs on our hearts. Give us the strength, the courage, the faith to finish this Lenten season; empower us to face, not avoid, the darkness before us; equip us so that we might fully live into the Easter season, to witness the glory of your resurrection love.

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

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Harold Friedell

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)

God of all that is good and holy, source of all our blessings, we thank you, and not just with words. We offer our service and our money, to help those in need, whether they live here or on the far side of the world. In faith, we present this offering, a sign of our gratitude for all we have received from you. 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 201 (pp. 8-9) *A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar*

How Can I Keep from Singing

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 Grave

Alexandre Guilmant

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor • Linda Jacobs, Liturgist

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

Stacey Steele, Dominic Watson, and Linda Gerlach, Ushers • Bob Gerlach, 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.

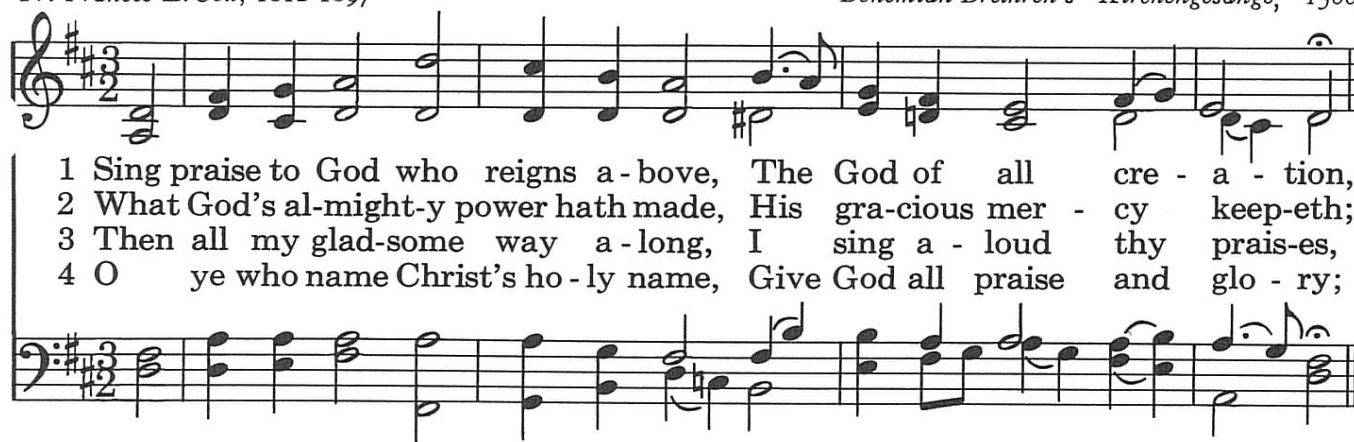
* * * **HOLY WEEK BEGINS ON PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 10** * * *

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

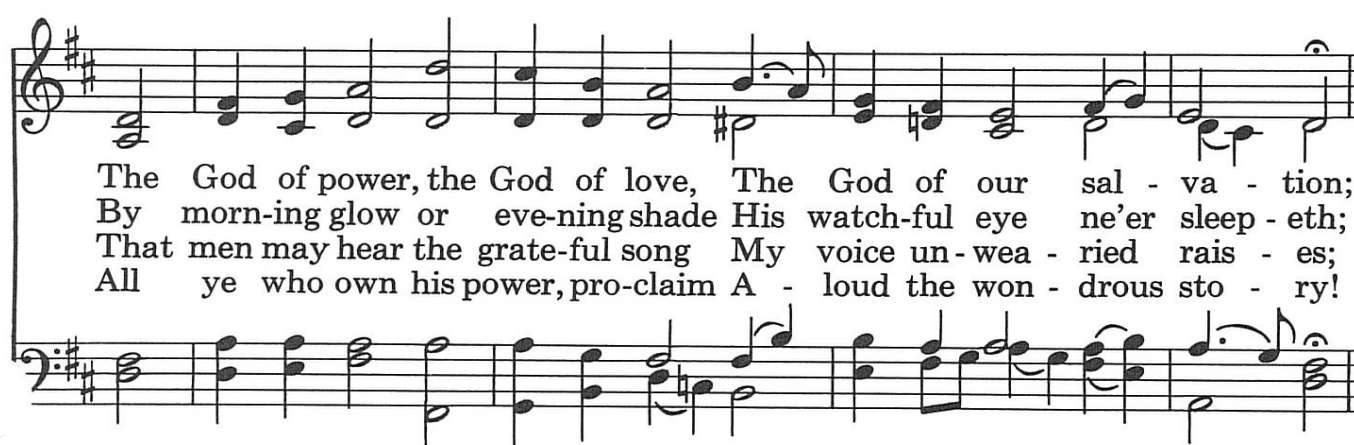
20

Johann J Schütz, 1640-1690
Tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812-1897

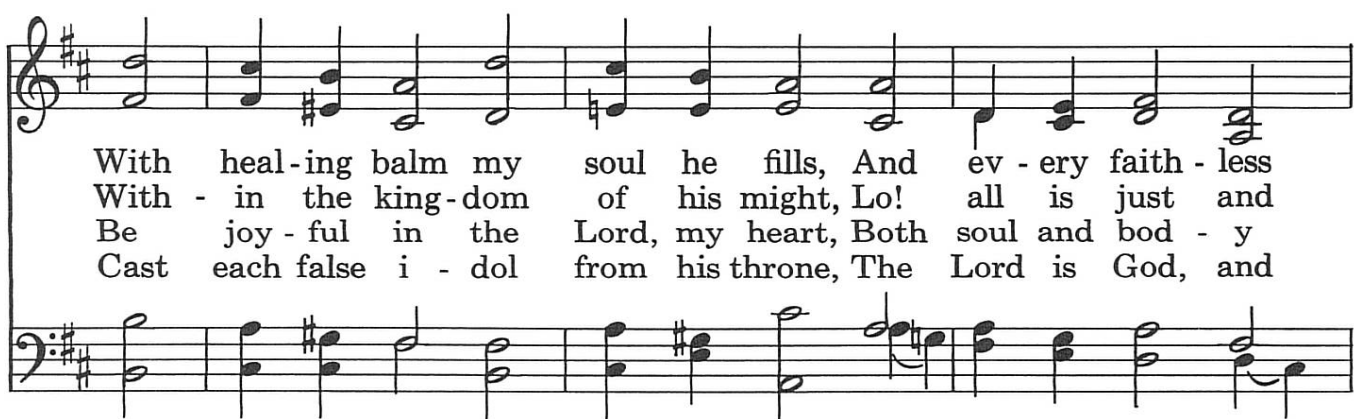
MIT FREUDEN ZART 8.7.8.7.8.8.7.
Bohemian Brethren's "Kirchengesänge," 1566



1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, The God of all cre - a - tion,
2 What God's al-might-y power hath made, His gra-cious mer - cy keep-eth;
3 Then all my glad-some way a - long, I sing a - loud thy prais-es,
4 O ye who name Christ's ho - ly name, Give God all praise and glo - ry;



The God of power, the God of love, The God of our sal - va - tion;
By morn-ing glow or eve-ningshade His watch-ful eye ne'er sleep - eth;
That men may hear the grate-ful song My voice un-wea - ried rais - es;
All ye who own his power, pro-claim A - loud the won - drous sto - ry!



With heal-ing balm my soul he fills, And ev - ery faith - less
With - in the king - dom of his might, Lo! all is just and
Be joy - ful in the Lord, my heart, Both soul and bod - y
Cast each false i - dol from his throne, The Lord is God, and



mur-mur stills: To God all praise and glo - ry.
all is right: To God all praise and glo - ry.
bear your part: To God all praise and glo - ry.
he a - lone: To God all praise and glo - ry. A - men.

A Woman Came Who Did Not Count the Cost

Mark 14:3-9

Richard D. Leach, 1990

Unison

B7sus4 B7 E G#m C#m F#m D

1 A wom-an came who did not count the cost of do - ing what she
 2 Some on - ly saw what she had spent—"Why such a wastewith poor to
 3 You give as she, sur - pris - ing - ly, you give with beau - ty as she

Bm B7 E G#m C#m7

could, She broke an al - a - bas - ter flask, and sweet-ness
 feed?" They served the poor well with their tongues! But she had
 gave, You give as she, not hold - ing back, you make us

F#m7 B7sus4 E Refrain Bm

spilled on Je - sus' head.
 done a love - ly deed. O God, you are the A - noint - ing
 Christ - like with your love.

Em G D B7

One who does not count your pas - sion's cost, And when we



United Church of Christ minister Richard D. Leach has stated that much of his inspiration as a hymnwriter comes during his sermon preparations. The theme of this text—God anointing us, as the woman anointed Jesus with perfume—was first developed in a sermon, and then given poetic form.

Tune: WEXFORD CAROL L.M.D.
Irish folk melody
Arr. Arthur G. Clyde, 1994

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* * * HOLY WEEK AT FCC * * *

Palm Sunday, April 10, 10:00 am—Liturgy of the Palms Worship Service (Sanctuary/Zoom)

Maundy Thursday, April 14, 7:00—Communion, Tenebrae, Stripping of the Altar (Sanctuary/Zoom)

Good Friday, April 15, 12:00-3:00 pm—Quiet Meditation on the Seven Last Words (Sanctuary)

7:00 pm—Service of the Word and Prayer (Sanctuary/Zoom)

Easter Sunday, April 17, 6:00 am—Ecumenical Sunrise Service (Outside in Colburn Park)

10:00 am—Festival Worship Service (Sanctuary/Zoom)

Lenten Lunch Bag Offering—Collection Next Week on Palm Sunday

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 next Sunday 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.

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/.

201 A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar

1 A proph-et - wom - an broke a jar, by Love's di - vine ap -
 2 A faith - ful wom - an left a tomb by Love's di - vine com -
 3 Though wom - an - wis - dom, wom - an - truth, for cen - tu - ries were
 4 The Spir - it knows; the Spir - it calls, by Love's di - vine or -

point - ing. With rare per - fume she filled the room, pre -
 mis - sion. She saw; she heard; she preached the Word, a -
 hid - den, un - sung, un - writ - ten, and un - heard, de -
 dain - ing, the friends we need, to serve and lead, their

sid - ing and a - noint - ing. A proph - et - wom - an broke a jar,
 ris - ing from sub - mis - sion. A faith - ful wom - an left a tomb,
 rid - ed and for - bid - den, the Spir - it's breath, the Spir - it's fire,
 powers and gifts un - chain - ing. The Spir - it knows; the Spir - it calls,

the sneers of scorn de - fy - ing. With rare per - fume she
 with res - ur - rec - tion gos - pel. She saw; she heard; she
 on free and slave de - scend - ing, can tum - ble our di -
 from wom - en, men, and chil - dren, the friends we need, to



This text seeks to reverse the neglected witness of biblical women by celebrating the woman who washed Jesus' feet (unnamed in Matthew 26:6–13/Mark 14:3–9/Luke 7:36–50; Mary of Bethany in John 12:1–8) and Mary Magdalene (John 20:1–18; Matthew 28:1–10/Mark 16:1–7/Luke 24:10).

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1991

MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1869, alt.

Text © 1993 Hope Publishing Company

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

8.7.8.7.D



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Upcoming Concerts

Masks, distanced seating, and proof of vaccination required.

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.*

Intersections: Bach, Merlet, and Mendelssohn—Sunday, April 24, at 2:00

Flautist Leslie Stroud joins cellist Peter Zay and pianist Matthew Odell for a benefit program featuring music of J. S. Bach, Michel Merlet, and Felix Mendelssohn. *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.*

Classicopia: Broadway Violin Encore!—Sunday, May 15, at 1:00

Violinist Tim Schwartz returns for a reprise of last summer's popular "Broadway Violin" concert with pianist Dan Weiser. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at www.classicopia.org.*

Cameo Baroque: Music of Johann Sebastian Bach—Saturday, May 21, at 7:00

Roseminna Watson, Violin, and Melody Fader, Piano—Sunday, May 22, at 3:00

Cantabile Women's Chorus: Gloria!—Sunday, June 5, at 4:00



The Easter Lily Fund to Benefit the Open Door Ministry

We will once again be in our Sanctuary on Easter morning, with an array of fresh flowers on the altar. As in past years, we invite you to honor or remember beloved family and friends with a modest contribution to 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 in the offering plate or by mail, with a contribution (\$5 minimum, payable to FCC, memo "Open Door Lily Fund"). All dedications received by **THURSDAY, APRIL 14**, will be listed in the worship bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 17. (Contributions payable after that date. Please note that we will **not** be purchasing flowers for each individual dedication.)

Given by _____ Contribution _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

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