



The First Sunday in Lent

“Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is... A man who gives in to temptation after five minutes simply does not know what it would have been like an hour later. That is why bad people, in one sense, know very little about badness. They have lived a sheltered life by always giving in.”

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

Call to Worship

Adapted from Psalm 32

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

One: 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.

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

One: You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

All: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD. Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

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

Heinlein

Prayer of Invocation

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

Grant Us Thy Peace

Felix Mendelssohn

Children's Moment

As you get older, you'll notice that, as the old saying goes, "time flies." Now, while you are young, I will encourage you to savor this moment, to enjoy what God has given you. Yes, you can and should make plans and dream about the future, but not at the expense of the present. The time you have now is a gift. And it's one we should thank God for every day, all the time.

Hymn 153 (p. 5)

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

St. Flavian

Scripture Lessons

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7. ¹⁵The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." [...]

^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Matthew 4:1-11. Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.

³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.” ⁷Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” ¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Sermon “Choices, Choices” Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 165 (p. 6) *The Glory of These Forty Days* Erhalt uns, Herr

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, Arlene, Evelyn, Barbara, Greg, Edith, Jan, Eileen, Juanita, Terry, Dan, Ethan, Travis, Garrett, Sue, Rick, and Terry.

Holy God, Forgiving God, we confess that we have all too often been tempted. We know we are not the first to grapple with temptation, for we remember that Jesus was tempted with power, riches, false glory. We remember Jesus, and we, too, want to turn our backs on the distractions, the silliness, that so consume us and all too often direct our actions and our very lives. Give us strength and courage, renew our faith during this season of repentance, that we might follow the path of Jesus, that we might enjoy new life.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name and spirit of your Son Jesus, 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 *God So Loved the World* (from *The Crucifixion*) John Stainer

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*)

Gathering together, we begin our Lenten journey.
We reflect on Jesus' ministry.
We pray that our faith will deepen.
We give thanks for the Gospel and its call to service, witness, love, and prayer.
We offer these gifts, that our church may use them to serve God's people.
In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

Hymn 391 (p. 7) *Be Thou My Vision*

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Benediction

Postlude *Songs Without Words*, op. 102, no. 6 ("Faith") F. Mendelssohn

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Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor
Ernie Drown, Piano • The FCC Choir • Linda Jacobs, Liturgist
Linda and Bob Gerlach, Ushers • Barbara Jones, Zoom Greeter

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

* * * HOLY WEEK IS APRIL 2-9, 2023 * * *

One Great Hour of Sharing: "Time to Share"—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 Time for the Lenten Lunch Bag Offering

The arrival of Lent this week brings the **Children's Community Corner** Lunch Bag Offering! We ask for your participation in this annual collection of savings from a regular sacrifice during Lent. The total collection on Palm Sunday (April 2) will be split between **Epilogos Charities** and **WISE of the Upper Valley**. (*Decorated paper bags will be available, but not required to participate.*)

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

Forty Days and Forty Nights

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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, Who Throughout These Forty Days

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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-fering 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.

165 The Glory of These Forty Days



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -
 4 Then grant that we like them be true, con -

cel - e - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, by whom all
 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
 liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride-groom's
 sumed in fast and prayer with you; our spir - its strength-en

things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
 with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Appropriate for singing at any time during Lent, this stately text connects Jesus' wilderness fast with the solitary testing of other prophetic souls: Moses, Elijah, Daniel, and John the Baptist. This sturdy 16th-century chorale melody formed the basis of Bach's *Cantata 126*.

TEXT: Gregory the Great, 6th cent.; trans. Maurice F. Bell, 1906, alt.
 MUSIC: Klug's *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1725

ERHALT UNS, HERR
 LM

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Be Thou My Vision

*Ancient Irish**Tr. by Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931**Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935*

SLANE 10.10.9.10.

*Traditional Irish Melody**Harm. by David Evans, 1874-1948**In unison*

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,
 4 High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

Nought be all else to me save that thou art.
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 Thou mine in - her - it - ance, now and al - ways;
 May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Thou my great Fa - ther, I thy true son;
 Thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
 High King of heav - en, my treas - ure thou art.
 Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all. A - men.



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

UPCOMING CONCERTS!

Masks and vaccination recommended.

The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, March 3, 17, 31, April 14 and 28, all 7:30 pm

Our popular community venue for live local music! Patrons come and go as they please; baked goods and beverages available. *Free admission. For performer info and more, visit anoncoffee.org.*

Upper Valley Music Center Faculty Showcase—Sunday, March 19, at 3:00 pm

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.*

Classicopia: Black Brilliance (Celebrating Black Composers)—Saturday, March 25, at 7:30 pm

Pianist Dan Weiser and Borowsky siblings Emmanuel (violin) and Frances (cello) offer a superb program in celebration of Black History Month, from ragtime and spirituals to blues-inspired compositions. Music of Scott Joplin, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Undine Smith Moore, Florence Price, and William Grant Still. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at classicopia.org.*

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@fcclb.org or speak with Rev. Silver directly.

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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