



# First Congregational Church of Lebanon

*United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming*

---

## The Third Sunday in Lent

March 12, 2023

“Collective fear stimulates herd instinct, and tends to produce ferocity toward those who are not regarded as members of the herd.”

—Bertrand Russell

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

**Prelude** *Intermezzo*, op. 118, no. 2 Johannes Brahms

**Call to Worship** Psalm 95:1-6

One: O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**All: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

One: For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

**All: In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.**

One: The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

**All: O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**

**Hymn 1** (p. 5) *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* St. Anne

## 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** *Tune Thy Music to Thy Heart* Alec Rowley

## Children's Moment

I awoke to birdsong last week. As the years go by, I am more and more grateful for the music of our feathered friends. Sure, they can be loud sometimes, and occasionally they wake me up with their twitting and tweeting and chirps, but imagine life without birds. No robins, no eagles, no hawks.

Birds are familiar yet mysterious, supposedly descended from dinosaurs. And yes, most important, they are reminders of God and God's creative powers. We say it, we sing it in church, but the world and all in it has been made by God. Let us give God thanks for the birds and all living things.

Hymn 80 (p. 6)      *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

St. Columba

## Scripture Lessons

*Exodus 17:1-7.* From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

*John 4:5-42.* [...] <sup>5</sup>So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup>Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup>A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup>(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" <sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" <sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup>but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

<sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." <sup>17</sup>The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; <sup>18</sup>for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" <sup>19</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup>Our ancestors

worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” <sup>25</sup>The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” <sup>26</sup>Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

<sup>27</sup>Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” <sup>28</sup>Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup>“Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” <sup>30</sup>They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>31</sup>Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” <sup>32</sup>But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” <sup>33</sup>So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” <sup>34</sup>Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup>Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. <sup>36</sup>The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup>For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ <sup>38</sup>I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

<sup>39</sup>Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” <sup>40</sup>So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup>And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup>They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

**Sermon** “Not Another Gated Community” Stephen R. Silver

**Hymn 267** (p. 7) *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* Beecher

### **Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer**

*As we hold our community members in prayer, please exercise care and discretion when sharing.*

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, we come before you on this Third Sunday in Lent, focused on this Lenten season. We have spent these weeks in prayer and reflecting, and while we may want Easter to come NOW, we know that we are not ready. We still need to ready ourselves, to make things right with you and your people, so that we are ready for the miracle of Easter. Help us to be present, help us to be focused, help us as we prepare for the Resurrection of Jesus.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name 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**                      "O Rest in the Lord," from *Elijah*                      Felix Mendelssohn

## 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*)

You have called us to comfort our neighbors.  
You have called us to help those in faraway places.  
You have called us to nurture those we know.  
You have called us to embrace the stranger.  
Lord of all creation, you have called us to serve all your people. Take these gifts as a sign that we hear you and respond, with joy and gratitude. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Hymn 93** (p. 8)                      *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*                      Cwm Rhondda

## Benediction

**Postlude**                      Andante cantabile, *Sonata in C, K. 330*                      Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

\* \* \*

## *Leading Worship This Week*

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Piano • Laurel Stavis, Alto • The FCC Choir • Barb Jones, Liturgist  
Chris Chase 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](mailto:prayer@fccleb.org) or speak with Rev. Silver directly.*

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

# Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Based on Psalm 90  
Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

ST. ANNE C.M.  
Attr. to William Croft, 1678-1727

1 Our God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,  
2 Un - der the shad - ow of thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, Or earth re - ceived her frame,  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone,

Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home,  
Suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.  
From ev - er - last - ing thou art God, To end - less years the same.  
Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun. A - men.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Bears all its sons away;  
They fly, forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the opening day.

6 Our God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be thou our guard while troubles last,  
And our eternal home.

## 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 season of Lent 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 are available, but not required to participate.)

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

# The King of Love My Shepherd Is

80

Second Tune

Based on Psalm 23  
Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877

ST. COLUMBA 8.7.8.7  
Ancient Irish Melody

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose  
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My  
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But  
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, With

good - ness fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
ran - somed soul he lead - eth, And where the ver - dant  
yet in love he sought me, And on his shoul - der  
thee, dear Lord, be - side me: Thy rod and staff my

I am his, And he is mine for - ev - er.  
pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
gen - tly laid, And home re - joic - ing brought me.  
com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me. A - men.

o Thou spread'st a table in my sight,  
Thy unction grace bestoweth,  
And O what transport of delight  
From thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days  
Thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
Within thy house forever.

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;  
 He whose word cannot be broken formed thee for his own abode.  
 On the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?  
 With salvation's walls surrounded, Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,  
 Well supply thy sons and daughters, and all fear of want remove.  
 Who can faint, while such a river ever flows their thirst to assuage?  
 Grace, which like the Lord, the Giver, never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear  
 For a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near!  
 Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,  
 Safe they feed upon the manna which he gives them when they pray.



Music  
at the  
Meetinghouse

## Upcoming Concerts!

*Masks and vaccination recommended.*

### ***The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, March 17 and 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](http://anoncoffee.org).*

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

This popular annual program features the vocal and instrumental excellence of the faculty next door at UVMC, ranging from classical repertoire to traditional and folk genres and original compositions. *Free-will donation; all proceeds benefit the tuition assistance fund. More at [www.uvmusic.org](http://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](http://classicopia.org).*

## **BIBLE STUDY: THE BOOK OF DANIEL—STARTS MARCH 22 ON ZOOM**

You may remember “the writing on the wall.” Or the men who survive a fiery furnace. Perhaps Belshazzar’s Feast rings a bell. One of the later books of the Hebrew Bible, Daniel offers political lessons for a people in exile and apocalyptic insights into the future for the Jewish people in a world of turmoil. The early Church understood this book as pointing to Jesus.

**Please join us to explore this fascinating book over the course of five weeks, led by the Rev. Steve Silver. We’ll see what Daniel said to people in the past and what he has to say to us today.**

*All you need is a bible, your faith, and some curiosity! RSVP to the church or [silver@fcclcb.org](mailto:silver@fcclcb.org).*

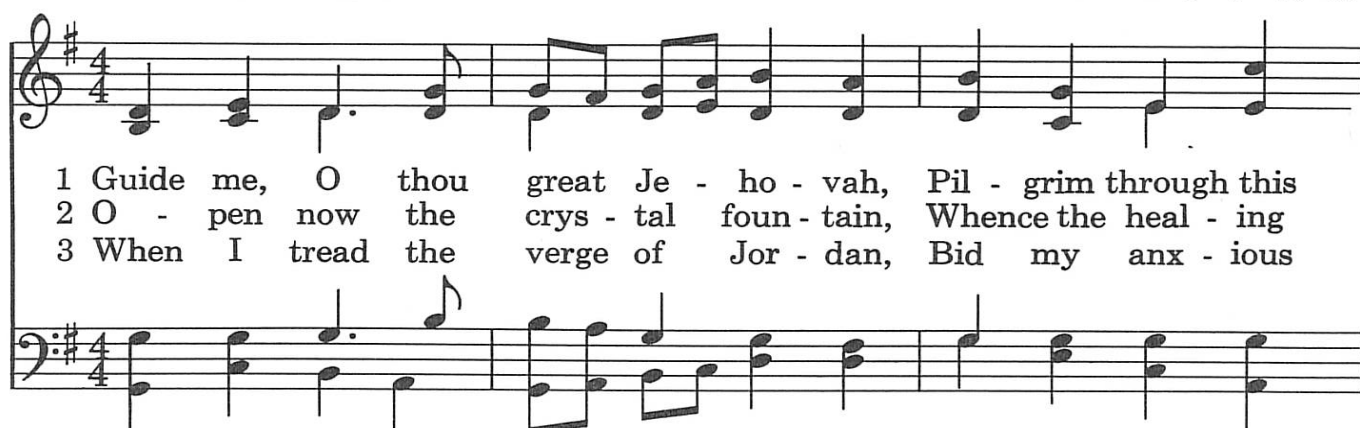
## Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

William Williams, 1717-1791

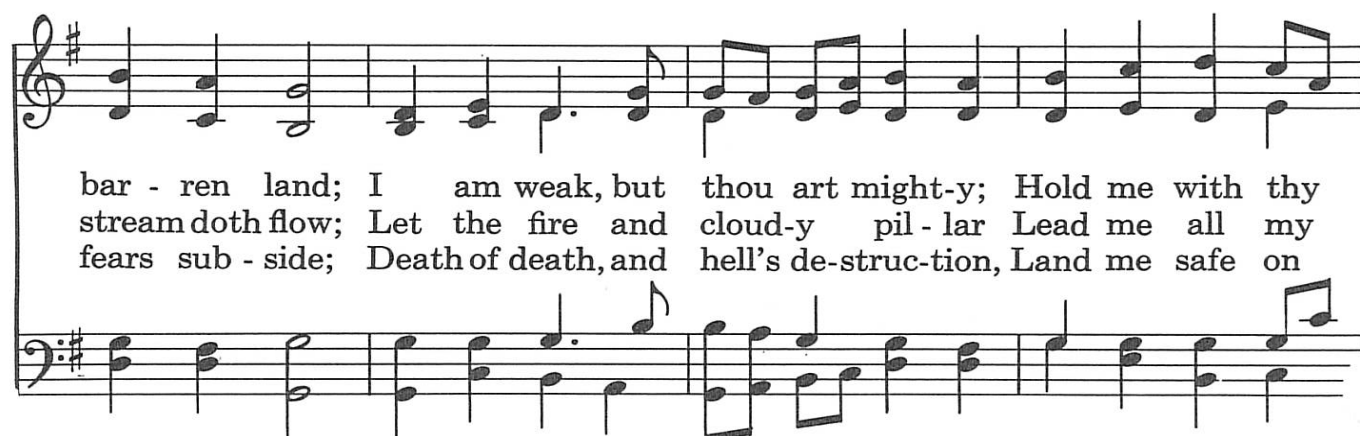
Tr. Peter Williams, 1727-1796, and others

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.



**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@fccleb.org](mailto:church@fccleb.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@fccleb.org](mailto:church@fccleb.org) • [prayer@fccleb.org](mailto:prayer@fccleb.org) • [music@fccleb.org](mailto:music@fccleb.org) • [www.fccleb.org](http://www.fccleb.org)**