

First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ - Open and Affirming

PALM SUNDAY April 2, 2023

> "It is a tragedy, perhaps, that human beings can get so much energy and enthusiasm from hate."

> > -Kurt Vonnegut

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 5-7.

Prelude All Glory, Laud, and Honor, BWV 735

Johann Sebastian Bach

Call to Worship

Adapted from Psalm 118:1, 21-24

One: Give thanks to our God, whose love is without end!

All: We thank God that he is our salvation.

One: What the world deems worthless, God treasures.

All: We marvel at all that God does.

One: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

All: Let us give thanks to our God, whose love is without end!

Hymn 155 (p. 5) All Glory, Laud, and Honor

St. Theodulph

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 Let This Mind Be in You

Amy Beach

Children's Moment

Today is Palm Sunday, but if you read today's Gospel lesson carefully, you'll find that there is no mention of palms. Sure, one can extrapolate from "branches" to palm

fronds, but the text focuses on people waving branches and laying down their coats when Jesus entered Jerusalem. I'm sure you can find a branch, even a twig, or pull a coat out of the closet to show you are welcoming Jesus. After all, he isn't looking for a palm frond, but your heart.

Hymn 195 (p. 6) All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Coronation

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 21:1-11. When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ⁵"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." ⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" ¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Sermon "I Love a Parade"

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.

Today we offer ongoing prayers for Pete, Arlene, Evelyn, Barbara, Greg, Edith, Eileen, Jan, Juanita, Terry, Dan, Ethan, Travis, Garrett, Sue, Rick, Terry, Gloria, and Gordon.

O Holy God, we pray today for discernment, not only among our leaders, but amongst ourselves. We ask that all people be filled with your Spirit, that we may treat one another fairly, with justice and mercy; that we may be open with others and give of ourselves; that we may set aside blind adulation of leaders in faithful service to you and your people.

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

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)

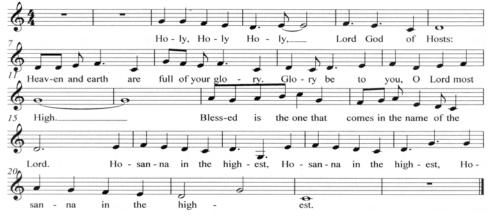
Dear God, we share our gifts today, not in the hope that someone else will do the work that you have called us to do, but in the expectation that we will enable others to join us in building your kingdom. Let this offering serve as a reminder of your love and as a means for serving you and your creation. 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



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 176 (p. 7) Ride on, Ride on in Majesty!

The King's Majesty

Responsive Prayer on Christ's Passion

One: Our Redeemer entered Jerusalem to the cheers of the crowd, only to be abandoned and betrayed. He suffered death, was buried, and rose again for our sake. With love let us adore him, aware of our needs. Christ our teacher, for us you were obedient, even to death.

All: Teach us to obey God's will in all things.

One: Christ our life, by dying on the cross you destroyed the power of evil and death:

All: Enable us to die with you, and to rise with you in glory.

One: Christ our strength, you were despised and humiliated as a condemned criminal:

All: Teach us the humility by which you saved the world.

One: Christ our salvation, you gave your life out of love for us:

All: Help us to love one another.

One: Christ our Savior, on the cross you embraced all time with your outstretched arms:

All: Gather all the scattered children of God into your realm.

One: Jesus, Lamb of God,

All: Have mercy on us.

One: Jesus, bearer of our sins,

All: Have mercy on us.

One: Jesus, redeemer of the world,

All: Grant us peace.

One: Eternal God, as we are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ, so give us the grace of repentance, that we may pass through the grave with him and be born again to eternal life. For he is the One who was crucified, dead, and buried, the One who rose again for us: Jesus our Savior. Amen.

Benediction

Postlude

Christ Lay in the Bonds of Death, BWV 625

Johann Sebastian Bach

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor Ernie Drown, Piano • The FCC Choir • Betsy Bowse, Liturgist Linda and Bob Gerlach, Ushers • Stacey Steele, 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 AT FCC * † *

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 7:00—Communion, Tenebrae, Stripping of the Altar (Sanctuary/Zoom)
Good Friday, April 7, 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 9, 6:00 am—Ecumenical Sunrise Service (Outside in Colburn Park) 10:00 am—Festival Worship Service (Sanctuary/Zoom)



All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Edward Perronet, 1726-1792 CORONATION C.M. Alt. by John Rippon, 1751-1836 Oliver Holden, 1765-1844 hail the power of 1 All Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros-trate fall: 2 Crown him, ye mar-tyrs of our God. Who from his al - tar call: Ye seed of Is - ra - el's chosen race. Ye ran-somed of the fall. 4 Let ev - erv kin-dred, ev - ery tribe, On this ter - res - trial ball, sa - cred throng. We that, with yon-der at his feet fall: Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, And crown him Lord all. the stem of Jes - se's rod, And crown him Lord of all. Hail him who saves you by his grace, And crown him Lord of all. To him all maj - es - tv as-cribe, And crown him Lord of all. We'll join ev - er - last - ing song, And crown him Lord the all. di - a-dem, And crown him Lord all. Bring forth the roy - al of Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod, And crown him Lord of all. Hail him who saves you by his grace, And crown him Lord all. of him all maj-es - ty as-cribe; And crown him Lord all. of We'll join the ev - er - last-ing song, And crown him Lord all. of A-men



4 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;
Bow thy meek head to mortal pain,
Then take, O Christ, thy power, and reign.

Lenten Lunch Bag Offering—Collection This Week!

Palm Sunday is traditionally our collection date for the **Children's Community Corner's** Lunch Bag Offering. You may drop your bags in the plate, or bring/mail them to the church office this week. The total 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: "Time to Share"—Special UCC Mission Offering

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.)

BIBLE STUDY: THE BOOK OF DANIEL-WEDNESDAYS AT 7:00 ON ZOOM

The Book of Daniel offers political lessons for a people in exile and apocalyptic insights into the future for the Jewish people. The early Church understood this book as pointing to Jesus.

Led by the Rev. Steve Silver, we'll explore this fascinating book to see what Daniel said to people in the past and what he has to say to us today. All are welcome to participate in any week!

The Easter Lily Fund to Benefit the Open Door Ministry

We will be back 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 noon on THURSDAY, APRIL 6, will be listed in the worship bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 9. (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	



Spring Concert Schedule

Masks and vaccination recommended.

The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, March 31, April 14 and 28, May 12, 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.

UVMC Cello Festival—Saturday, April 1, at 6:00 pm (rehearsals starting at 3:00)

Acacia Chamber Music-Friday, April 21, at 7:30 pm

Leslie Stroud (flute), Meghan Donahue (clarinet), and Matthew Odell (piano) return as an ensemble for the first time in more than three years, with a wonderful program of Camille Saint-Saëns, Claude Debussy, and Modest Mussorgsky. *Freewill donation*.

Classicopia: Vibrant Violin-Sunday, April 30, at 2:00 pm

Pianist Dan Weiser welcomes back Hanover-born violinist Roseminna Watson for a selection of thrilling music by W. A. Mozart, Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Béla Bartók, and César Franck. Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at classicopia.org/concert/vibrantviolin-2.

UVMC Faculty Recital: Jennifer Turbes, Viola—Saturday, May 6, at 1:00 pm

Bel Canto Chamber Singers: Journeys—Sat., May 6, at 7:30 pm / Sun., May 7, at 4:00 pm Jane Woods directs Bel Canto in a musical survey of journeys in their many forms, from physical travel to imaginative and spiritual exploration, from past memories to future hopes. The program features a variety of genres in music for choir, piano, and the handbells of the Church of Christ at Dartmouth. Adults \$15, students \$10, under 13 free; for more, visit www.belcantosingers.org.

UVMC Sing & Play Festival—Saturday, May 20 (various times and locations)

Classicopia: Musical Mothers-Sunday, May 28, at 2:00 pm

Cantabile Women's Chorus: We Sing Her Song-Sunday, June 4, at 4:00 pm

Register Now for Classicopia's Music Camp at FCC/UVMC!—August 14-19, 9a-3p Daily

This immersive program offers instrumental and vocal instruction to students aged 8-18, with outstanding faculty and guest artists. *More details and registration at classicopia.org/summer-camp/*.



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