



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

EASTER SUNDAY

April 9, 2023

“Jesus’ resurrection is the beginning of God’s new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord’s Prayer is about.”

–N. T. Wright

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

Prelude *Allegro, Oboe Sonata in B Flat, HWV 735* George Frideric Handel

Introit *The Lord Is Risen* Barry Rose

Easter Proclamation

Christ Conquers! Christ Reigns! Christ Commands!

Hymn 182 (p. 4) *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* Easter Hymn

Call to Worship (*Unison*) Adapted from Psalm 118

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, “His steadfast love endures forever.” The LORD is our strength and our might; he has become our salvation. There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: “The right hand of the LORD does valiantly; the right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.” We shall not die, but we shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD. The LORD has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death. Open to us the gates of righteousness, that we may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. We thank you that you have answered us and have become our salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the LORD’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Prayer of Invocation

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 *Darkness Is Gone* John Bell

Children's Moment

Today is "Funny Hat Day." As in years past, I will don some odd headgear. You can tell me what is appropriate to Easter.

So, a moose and a lobster. No bunnies, though.

I have happy memories of bunny ears being put on by an older, now deceased member of our congregation. It was a very special moment and is still a fond memory. Easter isn't about bunnies, or funny headgear, but it is about the love of God, which was—no, is!—so powerful that God can do anything.

Let's join together and give God thanks for coming to us in the person of Jesus, of resurrecting Jesus after he died, and of giving us all new life.

Hymn 188 (p. 5) *Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day*

Puer Nobis Nascitur

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 28:1-10. After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Sermon *"The Weirdest Story Ever Told"*

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 193 (p. 6) *Thine Is the Glory*

Judas Maccabeus

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

Almighty God, it is with gratitude and wonder that we thank you for this Easter. Help us, we pray, to make the most of the new life you have given us. Though we are uncertain of what the future holds, of when the challenges plaguing our society will finally be overcome, we can be sure of your presence, your power, your grace, and your love. We can be sure of the great thing that happened some 2,000 years ago: the resurrection of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. In him and through him, the light overcame the

darkness, despair yielded to hope, and life conquered death. We confess these things knowing that sometimes it is hard for us to live as Easter People; still, you love us, each of us and all of us. For this we give thanks and praise, saying Alleluia! Christ the Lord is risen today!

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 Grave, Oboe Sonata in B Flat, HWV 735 George Frideric Handel

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 resurrection hope, on this day of joyful celebration we present to you this offering, inspired by the wondrous gift of new life you have shared with us in our risen Lord. We are confident that our gifts will contribute to the building of your Kingdom of love and grace. In Jesus' name we pray, Alleluia, Alleluia, Amen!

Hymn 187 (p. 7) *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* Llanfair

Benediction

Postlude Allegro, Oboe Sonata in B Flat, HWV 735 George Frideric Handel

ALLELUIA! HE IS RISEN! HAPPY EASTER TO ALL!

* * *

Leading Worship This Morning

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Piano • The FCC Choir • Jason Smoller, Oboe

Stacey Steele, Liturgist • Linda and Ike Jacobs, Ushers • Bob Gerlach, Zoom Greeter

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

182

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788 alt.

EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with Alleluias

Arr. from "Lyra Davidica," 1708

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day,
2 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King,
3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - - le - lu - ia!
4 Soar we now where Christ has led,
5 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!

Sons of men and an - gels say:
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - - le - lu - ia!
Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head,
Praise to thee by both be given,

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,
Dy - ing once, he all doth save,
Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - - le - lu - ia!
Made like him, like him we rise,
Thee we greet tri - um - phant now,

Sing, ye heavens, and earth re - ply:
Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave?
Christ has o - pened Par - a - dise, Al - - le - lu - ia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies,
Hail, the Res - ur - rec - tion thou! A-men.

A descant may be found at No. 183.

Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day

188

Latin: 5th century?

Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR L.M.

Adapted by Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

Harm. by George R. Woodward, 1848-1934

1 Joy dawned a - gain on East - er Day, The sun shone
 2 O Je - sus, King of gen - tle - ness, Do thou thy -
 3 O Lord of all, with us a - bide In this our

out with fair ar - ray, When to their long - ing eyes re -
 self our hearts pos - sess That we may give thee all our
 joy - ful East - er - tide; From ev - ery wea - pon death can

stored, The A-pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord.
 days The will - ing trib - ute of our praise.
 wield Thine own re - deemed for ev - er shield. A - men.

Thine Is the Glory

Edmond L. Budry, 1854-1932
Tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939

JUDAS MACCABEUS 5.5.6.5.6.5.6.5. with Refrain
Georg F. Handel, 1685-1759

1 Thine is the glo - ry, Ris - en, con-quer-ing Son; End - less is the
2 Lo! Je - sus meets thee, Ris - en from the tomb; Lov - ing - ly he
3 No more we doubt thee, Glo - rious Prince of life! Life is nought with-

vic - tory Thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment
greet thee, Scat - ters fear and gloom; Let his church with glad - ness
out thee; Aid us in our strife; Make us more than con-querors,

Rolled the stone a way, Kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
Hymns of tri - umph sing, For her Lord now liv - eth;
Through thy death - less love; Bring us safe through Jor - dan

REFRAIN

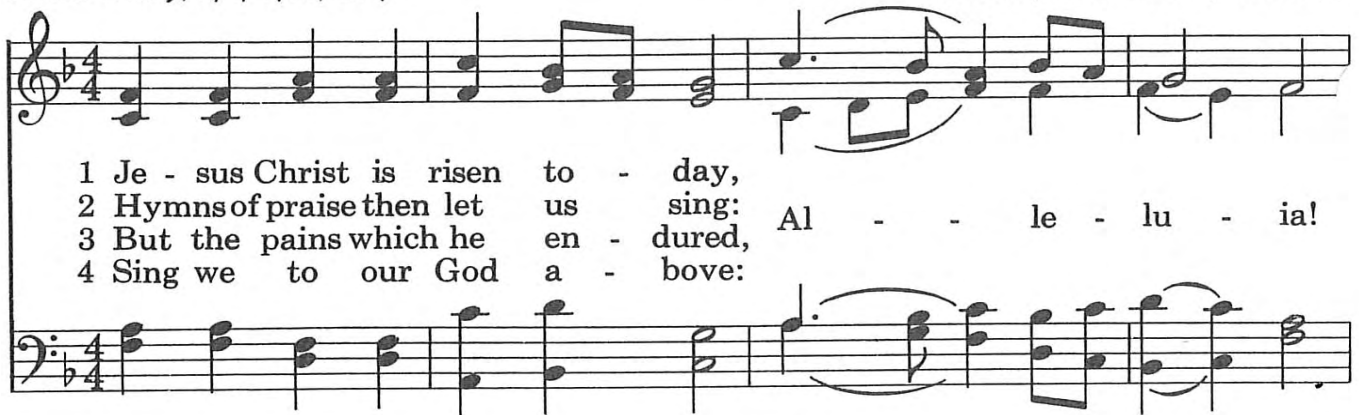
Where thy bod - y lay.
Death hath lost its sting. Thine is the glo - ry, Ris - en, con-quer-ing Son.
To thy home a - bove.

End - less is the vic - tory Thou o'er death hast won. A - men.


Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

*Latin: 14th century**English translation, "New Version," 1698**Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, St. 4*

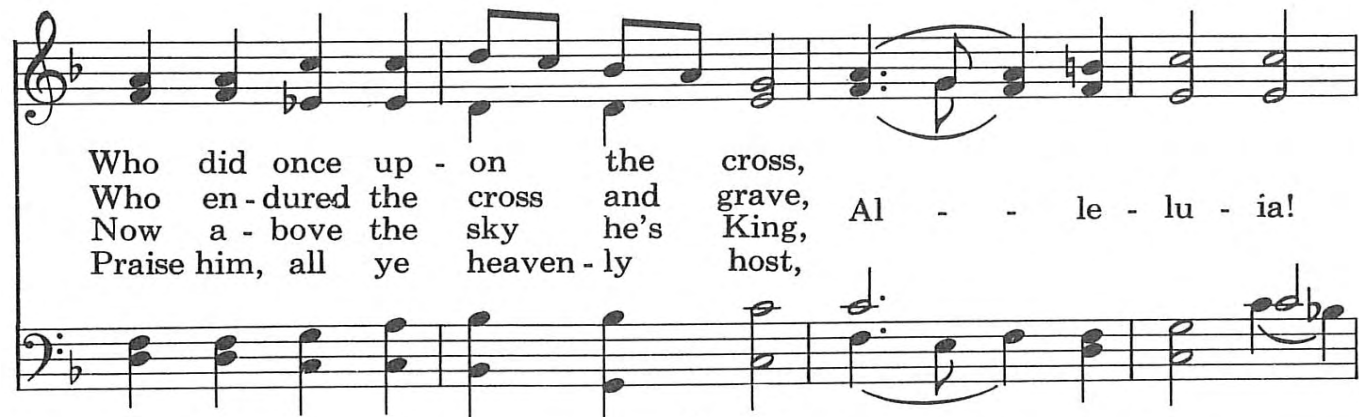
LLANFAIR 7.7.7.7. with Alleluias

*Melody by Robert Williams, c.1781-1821**Harm. by John Roberts, 1822-1877*


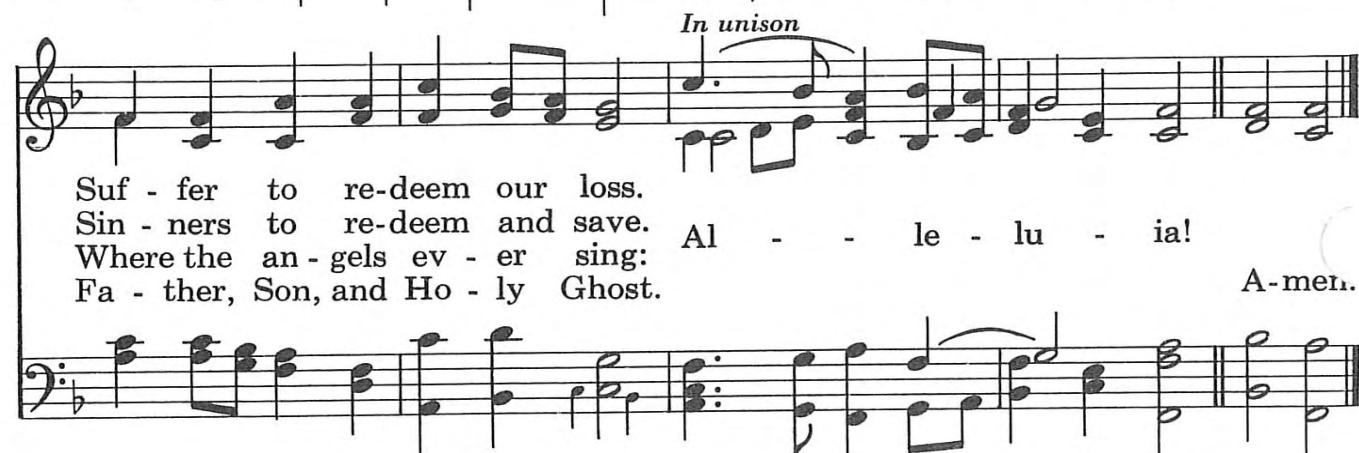
1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day,
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing: Al - - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured,
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove:



Our tri - umph - ant ho - ly day,
 Un - to Christ, our heav - en - ly King, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured,
 Praise e - ter - nal as his love,



Who did once up - on the cross,
 Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Now a - bove the sky he's King,
 Praise him, all ye heav - en - ly host,



In unison
 Suf - fer to re - deem our loss.
 Sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Where the an - gels ev - er sing:
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A-men.

Last Call! — Lenten Lunch Bag Offering / One Great Hour of Sharing

If you've collected donations throughout Lent for the Children's Community Corner Lunch Bag Offering, or you wish to make a one-time gift either to that or to the One Great Hour of Sharing special mission offering, please drop them in the plate on Easter Sunday.

Many thanks to all those who have contributed to these vital stewardship efforts!

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!



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Spring Concert Schedule

Masks and vaccination recommended.

The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, April 14, April 28, and 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.*

Acacia Chamber Music: Promenades—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. *Free-will 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/vibrant-violin-2.*

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/.*



ALLELUIA! HE IS RISEN! HAPPY EASTER!

We are grateful to all who offered contributions to our **OPEN DOOR MINISTRY** for community assistance, in loving honor or memory of those listed below.

IN HONOR OF...

My new grandson, River S. Bailey—*Ron Bailey*

My son Brian—*DeAnn Clancy*

DeAnn Clancy—*Amy, Brian, Katie, and Grace*

Betty Adams, Ike's mom; Terri Reese, Ike's aunt; Carey and Craig Jacobs, our children; Heidi Preston, our "daughter"; and Ginny Bennett, dear friend—*Linda and Ike Jacobs*

Grandma Kathy, Grandma Phyllis, Grandpa Ron, Walter and Des, James and Hannah—*Deb and Jon Scott*

JoAnn and Alan Smith—*Rachel, Stephen, and Chip Silver*

Lola Baldwin—*Wendell Smith*

Juliet Marion, God's gift of mother and grandmother—*Dominic and Stacey*

IN MEMORY OF...

Lloyd; and our parents, Dorothy and Roy Ford and Lula and Royal Bennett—*Virginia Bennett*

Our parents—*Marcia Corkins and Pete Mason*

Bill Driscoll III, Sandy Zickler Driscoll, Edith Slack, and Maury Clancy—*Amy, Brian, Katie, and Grace*

Laura and Gordon "Doc" Place—*Sue and Ken Gould and Family*

Emily and Earle Pike, and E. Ruth and Ralph Hammond—*Gloria and Phil Hammond*

Raymond Adams, Ike's dad; Ruby Sumner, Linda's Gram; Barbara and Maurice Sumner, Linda's parents; Betty Sumner King, Linda's aunt; and many other loved ones no longer with us—*Linda and Ike Jacobs*

Bin Lewis; and Dorothy and David Huestis—*Barbara Jones*

Both of my parents' service to the church over many years; and remembering the Church by the Sea in Bal Harbour, Florida, where my dad served as minister—*Liz Nestler*

Our fathers Ken and Jim, and Aunt Jean—*Deb and Jon Scott*

Ruth Silver—*Rachel, Stephen, and Chip Silver*

Aunts Dulcey, Heather, and Sonia; Uncles Noel and Danny; Grandma Gladys and Grandpa Hezekiah—*Dominic and Stacey*

Penny Perkins—*Dawn Troutman*



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@fcclb.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@fcclb.org • prayer@fcclb.org • music@fcclb.org • www.fcclb.org