



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Second Sunday of Easter

April 16, 2023

“We demand rigidly defined areas of doubt and uncertainty!”

–Douglas Adams

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 4-8.

Prelude

Fanfare

Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens

Call to Worship (*Unison*)

Psalm 16:1-6

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.” As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight. Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out, or take their names upon my lips. The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

Hymn 246 (p. 4)

Christ Is Alive!

Truro

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

Sound the Trumpet

Henry Purcell

Children’s Moment

Would you believe me if I told you I could make myself fly by flapping my arms? That I could lift my car all by myself?

You might doubt me, and I would not fault you for doing so. I can’t fly, nor can I perform feats of superhuman strength.

But I can draw.

Doubt that? Well, I’ll show you after worship if you want proof. I won’t be offended, however. Doubt is part of being human. We need to prove ourselves. Which brings us to today’s Gospel lesson, in which Thomas needs proof of the Risen Jesus.

God will abide our doubts, our questions, our hesitation. But God invites us to take a risk, to have faith in him, to trust in him. If you think about it, it's not unreasonable. After all, God has taken a risk on each of us, and God trusts us. Let's return the favor and have faith in God.

Hymn 257 (p. 5) *The Risen Christ*

Woodlands

Scripture Lesson

John 20:19-31. ¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Sermon *"Believe Me"*

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 256 (p. 6) *These Things Did Thomas Count as Real*

Kedron

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, Waneta, Terry, Dan, Ethan, Travis, Garrett, Sue, Rick, and Duane.

Holy God, we confess that we are like Thomas, that we, too, have our doubts, that we are skeptical, that we are slow to faith, that we want you to show us some proof of Jesus. We pray that you will help us with our hesitancy, our failure to trust in you, our choice

to ignore the evidence that you have given us of your existence, your love, your grace. We ask for strength, confidence, and the will to believe in the Resurrection and all that we have been promised.

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 *Awake, Thou Wintry Earth* Johann Sebastian Bach

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*)

Holy God: With gratitude for the Resurrection, we present these gifts, declaring ourselves to be Easter people. We rededicate ourselves to serving you and your people with our time, our skills, our money. In the name of the Risen Jesus we pray. Amen.

Hymn 244 (*pp. 7-8*) *This Joyful Eastertide* Vruechten

Benediction

Postlude *Offertoire sur les Grands Jeux* François Couperin

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor • Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano
The FCC Choir • Betsy Alexander, Mezzo-Soprano • Laurel Stavis, Alto
Bob Ross, Liturgist • Barbara Teeter and Ike Jacobs, Ushers • Linda Jacobs, 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.

Christ Is Alive!

246

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No lon - ger bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

In 1968 Easter fell ten days after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and this text was written to express an Easter hope while mindful of that terrible event. Buoyed by a triple-arched tune, it affirms the presence of a wounded, risen Christ with all who suffer.

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1968, rev. 1995

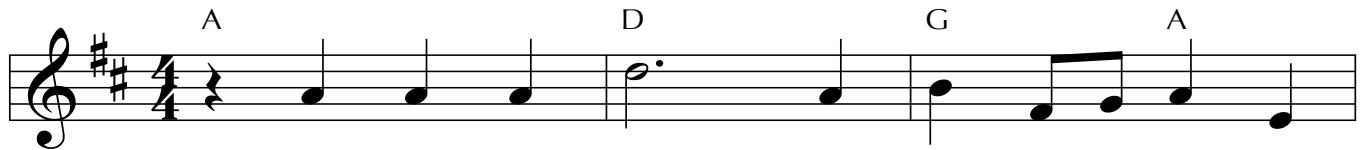
MUSIC: *Musica Sacra*, c. 1778

Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company

TRURO
LM

The Risen Christ

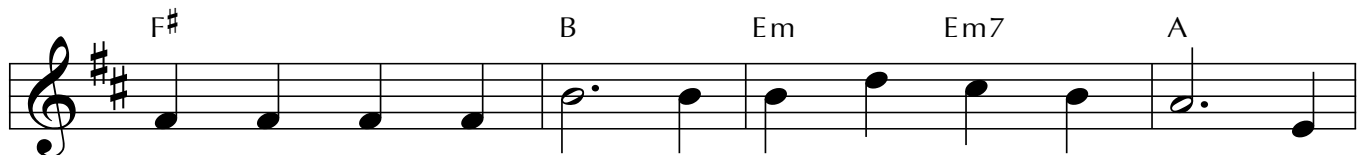
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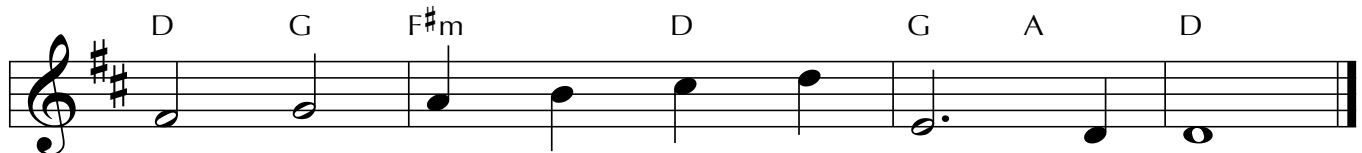
1 The ris - en Christ, who walks on wound - ed
 2 The ris - en Christ, who stands with wound - ed
 3 The ris - en Christ, who breaks with wound - ed
 4 May we, Christ's bod - y, walk and serve and



feet from gar - den tomb through dark - ened cit - y
 side, breathes out his Spir - it on them to a -
 hand the bread for those who fail to un - der -
 stand with the op - pressed in this and ev - ery



street, un - locks the door of grief, de - spair, and fear, and
 bide whose faith still wa - vers, who dare not be - lieve; new
 stand, re - veals him - self, de - spite their lin - gering tears, en -
 land, till all are blessed and can a bless - ing be, re -



speaks a word of peace to all who hear.
 grace, new strength, new pur - pose they re - ceive.
 flames their hearts, then quick - ly dis - ap - pears.
 stored in Christ to true hu - man - i - ty.

This perceptive hymn centers on Christ's post-Resurrection appearances described in John 20:19–29 and Luke 24:13–48. The first three stanzas are shaped by the wounded body parts: feet, side, hand; the fourth prays for such woundedness in the witness of Christ's body, the Church.

TEXT: Nigel Weaver, 1993
 MUSIC: Walter Greatorex, 1916
 Text © 1993 Nigel Weaver

WOODLANDS
 10.10.10.10

256 These Things Did Thomas Count as Real

1 These things did Thom - as count as real: the warmth of
 2 The vi - sion of his skept - ic mind was keen e -
 3 His rea - soned cer - tain - ties de - nied that one could
 4 May we, O God, by grace be - lieve and thus the

blood, the chill of steel, the grain of wood, the heft of
 nough to make him blind to an - y un - ex - pect - ed
 live when one had died, un - til his fin - gers read like
 ris - en Christ re - ceive, whose raw im - print - ed hands reached

stone, the last frail twitch of blood and bone.
 act too large for his small world of fact.
 Braille the mark - ings of the spear and nail.
 out and beck - oned Thom - as from his doubt.

This 20th-century text provides a helpful corrective to a long history of negative attitudes toward Thomas for failing to believe the other disciples' report that Christ had risen. His fact-seeking "skeptical mind" sounds remarkably modern and makes him a more sympathetic figure.

TEXT: Thomas H. Troeger, 1984

MUSIC: Attr. Elkanah Kelsay Dare; harm. Pillsbury's *United States Harmony*, 1799, alt.

Text © 1986 Oxford University Press

KEDRON
LM

This Joyful Eastertide

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and
 2 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a sea - son
 3 Death's flood has lost its chill since Je - sus crossed the

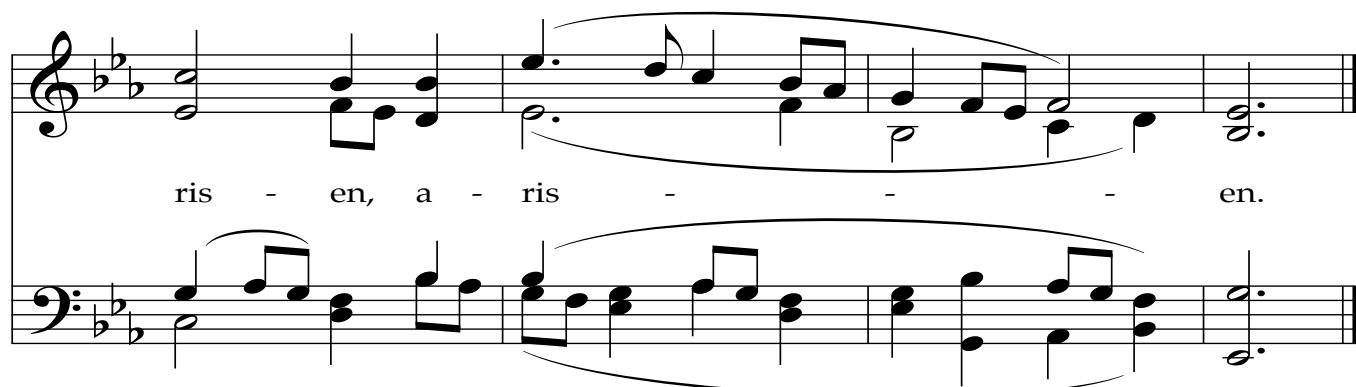
sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has
 slum - ber till trump from east to west shall
 riv - er. Lov - er of souls, from ill my

Refrain

sprung to life this mor - row.
 wake the dead in num - ber. Had Christ, who once was
 pass - ing soul de - liv - er.

slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our faith had been in

vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a - ris - en, a -



The verbal and musical elements of this hymn mesh so well because the words were written to fit this Dutch tune (whose name means “fruits”). The news of Christ’s resurrection is joyfully conveyed by the ever-higher phrases and final cascade of notes at the end of the refrain.

TEXT: George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1894, alt.
MUSIC: *David’s Psalmen*, 1685; harm. Charles Wood, 1902

VRUECHTEN
6.7.6.7 with refrain



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

Spring Concert Schedule

Masks and vaccination recommended.

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 three years, dedicated as always to “promoting music in uncommonly heard combinations.” They share a wonderful spring program of Camille Saint-Saëns, Claude Debussy, and Modest Mussorgsky. *Free-will donation; more at facebook.com/AcaciaChamberMusic.*

The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, April 28 and May 12, 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.*

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.*

Take Pause, Take Courage: A Viola Recital—Saturday, May 6, at 1:00 pm

UVMC’s Jennifer Turbes and pianist Will Ögmundson share a thoughtful selection of music by Reena Esmail, Jessie Montgomery, Harry Burleigh, and more. *More at uvmusic.org/events.*

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

Liz Simmons and Casey Murray—Saturday, June 3, at 7:30 pm

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

Cameo Baroque: Music of the French Baroque—Friday, June 9, at 7:00 pm



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