

First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ - Open and Affirming

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2023

"We are silent at the beginning of the day because God should have the first word, and we are silent before going to sleep because the last word also belongs to God."

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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

Prelude Vivace, from Concerto in D, BWV 1043

Johann Sebastian Bach

Call to Worship

Psalm 35:1-5, 15-16

One: In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

All: Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

One: You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me, take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

All: Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

One: My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

All: Let your face shine upon your servants; save us in your steadfast love.

Hymn 70 (p. 5)

O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns

Charterhouse

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 Largo, from Concerto in *D*, BWV 1043

Johann Sebastian Bach

Children's Moment

Today we welcome a guest, the Rev. Gordon Rankin. What does it mean to welcome someone? Do we say something? Do we do something?

I'd like to think that at FCC we do something, that in addition to saying "Welcome!" to a newcomer or visitor, we will back that up with actions. Maybe inviting them to stay for coffee or, if we're down in the 3Cs, inviting them into our circle and including them in our games or activities. Sometimes, this will be easy to do; sometimes, it will be difficult. But we should never stop trying to include people. Jesus, after all, welcomes us, you and me. And Jesus is a pretty good teacher!

Hymn 796 (p. 6) We Come to You for Healing, Lord

Land of Rest

Scripture Lesson

Luke 7:11-17. ¹¹Soon afterwards [Jesus] went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. ¹²As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. ¹³When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, "Do not weep." ¹⁴Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, rise!" ¹⁵The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. ¹⁶Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen among us!" and "God has looked favorably on his people!" ¹⁷This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.

Sermon

"Resurrection—It Ain't Just for Easter Anymore"

Gordon M. Rankin

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, Edith, Jan, Eileen, Waneta, Terry, Juanita, Dan, Ethan, Travis, Garrett, Sue, Rick, and Duane.

Holy, living God: we come before you this day with gratitude for all you have done and are doing. We give thanks for the gift of the resurrection, for the new life that is on offer for us and for our community. Help us to live into this promise, to be renewed and inspired by you. We thank you also for the connections that bind us together, as families, as a church, as members of our denomination, and as part of the worldwide Christian community. Help us remember, always, that we are never alone, that you walk with us through our lives, that you are by our sides as we face the joys and challenges of life.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, 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

Ave Verum Corpus

Camille Saint-Saëns

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)

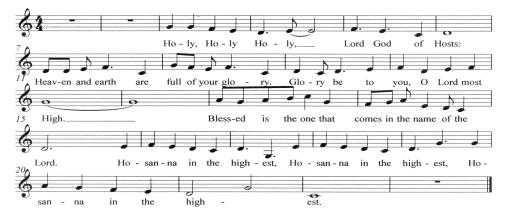
In Scripture we are told that we are a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people. We are called to this role so that Jesus might proclaim the wondrous acts of the One who called him out of darkness to lead us into his marvelous light. In gratitude, we ask that our worship, our actions, and this offering serve to make known the power and Good News of God. In the name of our Risen Lord we pray, 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 576 (p. 7)

For the Healing of the Nations

Westminster Abbey

Benediction

Postlude

Trumpet Tune in D

David Johnson

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Gordon M. Rankin, Guest Preacher • The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Alicia Casey and Ben Van Vliet, Violins Deb and Jon Scott, 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.

Spring Clean-Up This Saturday, May 13, at 1:00 pm

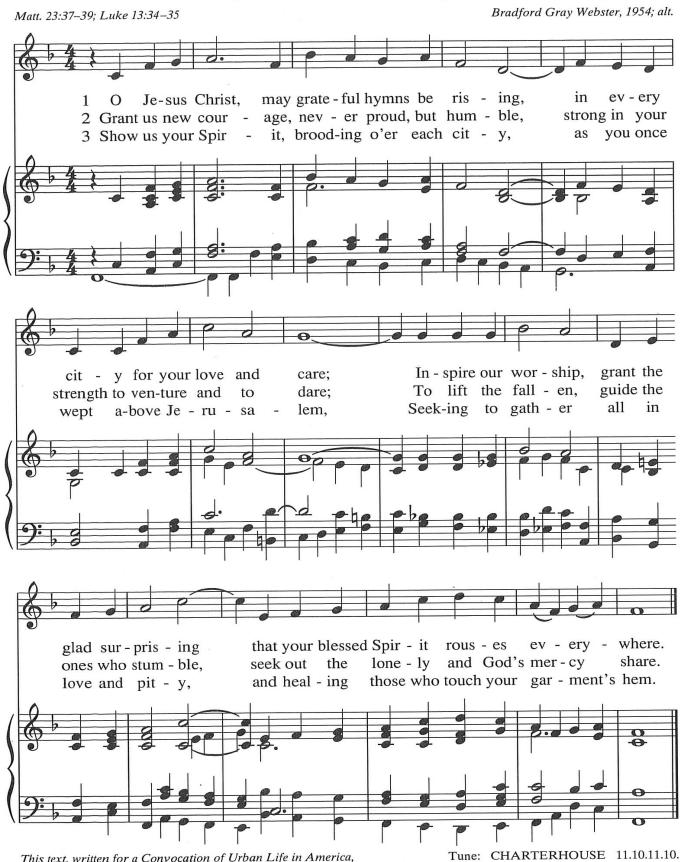
Please join in our seasonal effort to tidy up the church yard! We'll rake, trim hedges, and generally pick up around the grounds. Bring gloves, rakes, gardening tools, and anything else that might be useful (such as a truck!). Thanks for helping with this important work!

Celebrate the Children's Community Corner—Children's Sunday, June 11

The **Children's Community Corner** is excited to lead worship and mark the end of the school year. Please join us for one of the annual highlights of our communal church life!

If you and/or your children are interested in participating or have questions, please contact Nan Parsons (nlp3721@yahoo.com/603-863-8354) or the church office.

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	In memory of
Please send a card (include address on back)	
	In honor of
	Given by
Dedications must be received by noon on THURSDAY, MAY 11 to be included in the bulletin for MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 14.	Dedications m to be include
with a contribution to CWS BLANKETS , please complete this form and either put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church (PO Box 230, Lebanon, NH 03766). The suggested minimum donation is \$10, but any amount is welcome!	with a contrib form and eitl church (PO I minimum c
We are pleased to participate once again in Church World Service's CWS BLANKETS program, a special mission project that provides blankets and essential supplies to people in crisis worldwide. (For more, please visit www.cwsblankets.org .)	We are please Service's CW8 that provides be worldwide.
Blanket Sunday	CWSGLOBAL.ORG/BLANKETS
Mother's Day is	It's more than just a blanket.



This text, written for a Convocation of Urban Life in America, was chosen by The Hymn Society for publication in Five New Hymns on the City. Bradford Webster, a Methodist minister, served churches in his native New York state for forty years.

une: CHARTERHOUSE 11.10.11.10.

David Evans, 1927

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We Come to You for Healing, Lord 796



Unlike many hymns on the theme of healing, this text appropriately includes the ministry of medical personnel as instruments of God's healing activity. It also acknowledges that illness is not limited to physical symptoms, but involves mental, emotional, and spiritual dimensions.

TEXT: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 2002

LAND OF REST

Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.

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Fred Kaan's most widely published text was first sung at Pilgrim Church in Plymouth, England, at a service of worship marking Human Rights Day in 1965. It has been used for many subsequent occasions, including the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY 8.7.8.7.8.7.

Henry Purcell, c. 1680

Arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1842

Music at the Meetinghouse

Spring Concert Schedule

Masks and vaccination recommended.

Take Pause, Take Courage: A Viola Recital—Saturday, May 6, at 1:30 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.

The Anonymous Coffeehouse: Season Finale!—Friday, May 12, at 7:30 pm Last chance to enjoy our popular community venue for live folk music before it takes the summer off! Baked goods and beverages available. Free admission. For performer info and more, visit anoncoffee.org.

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

A celebration of music making by each other, for each other! Various studio recitals and class performances will happen in our Sanctuary and Parish Hall. Free to all; more at uvmusic.org/events.

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

Dan Weiser and Borowsky siblings Emmanuel (violin) and Frances (cello) belatedly celebrate Mother's Day with a program of women composers, from Americans Amy Beach and Undine Smith Moore to Dutch composer Heleen Verleur and early-20th-century Croatian Dora Pejačević. Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at classicopia.org/concert/musical-mothers-3.

Liz Simmons and Casey Murray: Folk, Roots, and Cello—Saturday, June 3, at 7:30 pm Celebrating the release of her solo recording Poets, Brattleboro singer-songwriter and guitarist Liz Simmons (of the band Low Lily) offers a program with the versatile, classically-trained cellist Casey Murray (of Corner House). They'll play both traditional and original songs, reflecting on the sea, adventure, love, loss, and more. Suggested donation \$10-20; for more, visit lizsimmons.net.

Cantabile Women's Chorus: We Sing Her Song—Sunday, June 4, at 4:00 pm This superb ensemble honors the lives and experiences of historical, biblical, and ordinary women in music of Johannes Brahms, Gwyneth Walker, Randall Thompson, Alice Parker, Rosephanye Powell, and more. Adults \$15, seniors \$10, students \$5, under 13 free; more at www.cantabilewomen.org.

Cameo Baroque: Music of the French Baroque—Friday, June 9, at 7:00 pm Ernie Drown and friends share a delightful taste of French composers François Couperin, Jacques-Christophe Naudot, and others. Free-will donation to benefit Willing Hands; more at cameoarts.org.

Mosaic Union String Ensemble (MUSE): Spring Concert—Sunday, June 11, at 4:30 pm Based in Hanover and led by the inimitable Glee Charlestream, MUSE features student musicians of diverse ages and backgrounds Freewill donation. More at www.mosaicunionstringensemble.org.

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