



# First Congregational Church of Lebanon

*United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming*

---

---

**EASTER SUNDAY**

March 31, 2024

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 4-7.*

**Prelude**

*Toccata in G*

Théodore Dubois

**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**

*Jubilate Deo (Psalm 100)*

Henry Purcell

## **Children's Moment**

**Hymn 188** (p. 5)

*Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day*

Puer Nobis Nascitur

## **Scripture Lesson**

*Mark 16:1-8.* When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. <sup>2</sup>And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" <sup>4</sup>When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." <sup>8</sup>So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

**Sermon**

*"Start Spreading the News"*

Stephen R. Silver

**Hymn 193** (p. 6)

*Thine Is the Glory*

Judas Maccabeus

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

*As we hold community members in prayer, please exercise care and discretion when sharing. Help keep our prayer list current by contacting Rev. Silver or the church office to add or remove names.*

Today we offer ongoing prayers for Pete, Arlene, Evelyn, Greg, Jan, Edith, Eileen, Waneta, Terry, Juanita, Dan, Travis, Garrett, Sue, Rick, Edward, Duane, Priscilla, Ron, Lauren, Brian, Micah, Al, and Steve.

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 Christ. 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                      *Most Glorious Lord of Life*                      William Harris

## 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                      *Rondeau Fanfare*                      Jean-Joseph Mouret

***ALLELUIA! HE IS RISEN! HAPPY EASTER TO ALL!***

\* \* \*

*Leading Worship This Week*

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor • Ernie Drown, Organist  
The FCC Choir • Laurel Stavis, Betsy Alexander, and Brian Clancy, Soloists  
Jon Scott, Liturgist • Stacey Steele/Dominic Watson, Ushers • Amy Driscoll, 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.*

# 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. 100

# 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 dawns 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-que-ri-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-que-ri-son,

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-que-ri-son.  
To thy home a - bove.

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

## 187

## 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.

### *The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, April 5, 19, 26, and May 10, all at 7:30 pm*

Our comfy community venue for live folk music is thriving in its fourth season! Come and go as you please; food and drink available. *Free admission. For performers and more, visit [anoncoffee.org](http://anoncoffee.org).*

### *Revels North Spring Sing: Music of the Green and White Mt States—Sat., April 13, 7:00 pm*

Celebrate the return of Revels North's Spring Sing, with music of VT and NH and some sing-along favorites. Following a day of workshops, the concert will feature Artistic Director Alex Cumming and some special guests. *Tickets (concert only) \$15-35; more details at [revelsnorth.org](http://revelsnorth.org).*

### *Classicopia: The Folk Cello—Sunday, April 21, at 2:00 pm*

South African cellist Jacques-Pierre Malan joins Dan Weiser to explore folk influences in music for cello and piano by Edvard Grieg, Astor Piazzolla, and a suite based on Georgian tunes by Sulkhan Tsintsadze. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at [classicopia.org/concert/the-folk-cello/](http://classicopia.org/concert/the-folk-cello/).*

### **Register Now for Classicopia's Music Camp at FCC/UVMC!—August 5-10, 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/](http://classicopia.org/summer-camp/).*

## **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 (or contact the office).

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

## **Do Your Part to Fill the Cart!**

Greater Lebanon continues to struggle with poverty and food insecurity, and we have resumed collection of items in our shopping cart in the Parish Hall, to support a variety of beneficiaries.

### **CURRENT BENEFICIARY—UPPER VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY**

Many who struggle with financial insecurity manage can't afford to care for their beloved pets, whose companionship is vital in difficult times. We can help with donations to UVHS—most needed are wet/dry pet food, cat litter, and soft dog treats; full wish list at [uvhs.org/give/](http://uvhs.org/give/).

*Direct financial contributions to any Upper Valley service organization are always needed and much appreciated. Thanks for fighting local poverty and hunger!*





# 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...

Those who work for peace—*Ron Bailey*

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

Our wonderful families—*Marcia Corkins and Pete Mason*

The work of the Open Door Ministry—*Linda and Bob Gerlach*

Terri Reese, Ike's aunt; Betty Adams, Ike's mom; Carey and Craig Jacobs, our children; and Terry Grigsby, dear friend—*Linda and Ike Jacobs*

Louise Parsons and Marcia Corkins—*Nan Parsons and Kailyn Rappaport*

Our moms Phyllis and Kathy, and stepdad Ron—*Deb and Jon Scott*

Juliet Marion, our dearest mother and grandmother, our family's rock—*Dominic and Stacey*

## IN MEMORY OF...

My mother, who loved me unconditionally—*A resident of Quail Hollow*

My son Dan—*Ron Bailey*

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

Gloria P. Hammond—*Philip Hammond*

Barbara and Maurice Sumner, Linda's parents; Raymond Adams, Ike's dad; Ruby Sumner, Linda's Gram; and Betty Sumner King, Linda's aunt—*Linda and Ike Jacobs*

The lives of my parents, Dorothy and David Huestis; Willmott "Bin" Lewis; and all the members of our church who have died recently—*Barbara Jones*

Marilyn Breselor (d. October 27, 2023)—*Dan Logan*

Larry Kirkpatrick, Robert Parsons, Donald Parsons, Estelle Janos, Beatrice Parsons, and Natalie Perriello—*Nan Parsons and Kailyn Rappaport*

Our dads Jim and Ken, and stepdad Roger—*Deb and Jon Scott*

Ruth and S. F. Silver, Jo Ann Smith, and Moms—*Rachel, Steve, and Chip Silver*

(Great)Grandpa Hezekiah, (Great)Grandma Gladys, Grandpa Keith, Uncle Noel, and Aunts Doris, Sonia, Heather, and Dulcey—*Dominic and Stacey*

Penny Perkins—*Dawn Troutman*

Grandad Kevin Casey—*Elizabeth and Jack*

Dorothy E. Weeks and Sonja Weeks Billotte—*Susan Weeks*



**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@fcclieb.org](mailto:church@fcclieb.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 • Brian Clancy, Church Administrator**

**Jon Scott, Chair of Church Council • Linda Gerlach, Chair of Deacons • Barbara Jones, Moderator**

*Church Office Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9:00-12:00 (or by appointment as needed)*

**603-448-4281 • [church@fcclieb.org](mailto:church@fcclieb.org) • [prayer@fcclieb.org](mailto:prayer@fcclieb.org) • [music@fcclieb.org](mailto:music@fcclieb.org) • [www.fcclieb.org](http://www.fcclieb.org)**