



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

Kedron

### Scripture Lessons

*Acts 4:32-35.* <sup>32</sup>Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

*John 20:19-31.* <sup>19</sup>When 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." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So 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."

<sup>26</sup>A 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." <sup>27</sup>Then 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." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But 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      *"Unexpected"*

Stephen R. Silver

### 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.

Holy, patient, ever-faithful God, we come to you, we hate to say, like Thomas, filled with questions and doubts, wondering, “Why?” We so want to believe, but we allow ourselves to be consumed by questions. Infuse us, we pray, with faith, with strength to walk your way. Spare us, we ask, the fate of Thomas, who demanded—of you!—proof of your existence, who would only believe if he could touch you. We acknowledge we will not receive concrete evidence, but we know that if we look with open eyes, we will see proof of your work everywhere, and in everything.

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**

*Awake, Thou Wintry Earth*

J. S. 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 Christ 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**

Ho - ly, Ho - ly Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts:  
 Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo - ry be to you, O Lord most  
 High. Bless-ed is the one that comes in the name of the  
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est.

**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 240** (p. 7)      *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*      Alleluia No. 1

**Benediction**

**Postlude**      *Toccata in F, BUXWV 157*      Dieterich Buxtehude

\* \* \*

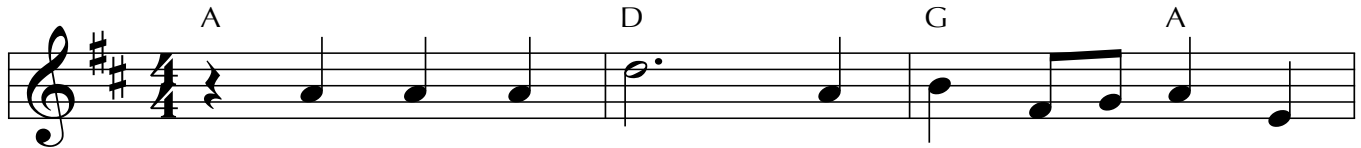
*Leading Worship This Week*

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor  
 Ernie Drown, Organist • The FCC Choir • Laurel Stavis, Liturgist  
 Linda Gerlach and Deb Scott, Ushers • Bob Gerlach, 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.*

# The Risen Christ

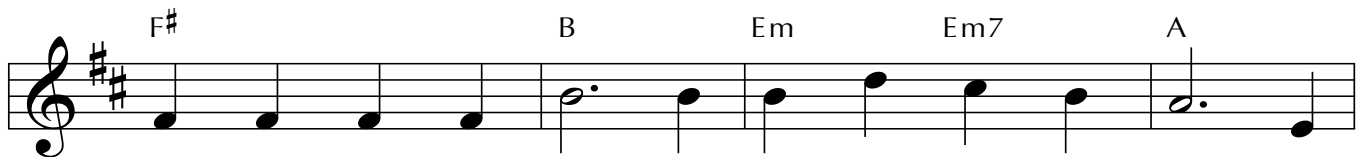
257



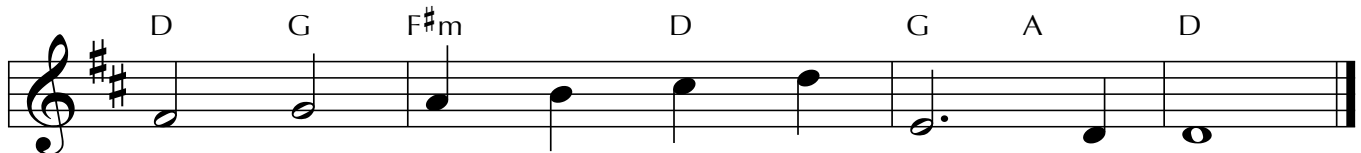
1 The ris - en Christ, who walks on wound - ed  
 2 The ris - en Christ, who stands with wound - ed  
 3 The ris - en Christ, who breaks with wound - ed  
 4 May we, Christ's bod - y, walk and serve and



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 skep - tic 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

# 240 Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

*Refrain* E C#m F#m B  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris - en Lord. Al - le -

*Fine*  
al - le - lu - ia! Praise to his name.

E C#m F#m B E  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to his name.

E C#m F#m B  
1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.  
2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.  
4 Come let us praise the liv - ing God,

E C#m F#m B *to Refrain*  
He is the King of cre - a - tion.  
Je - sus has died and has ris - en.  
Now we shall live for - ev - er.  
joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.

This text and tune were created together in the context of an ecumenical, charismatic, missionary Christian community in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Their energy and emphasis center in the opening and closing refrain's "Alleluia"—the essential Easter word of proclamation.

TEXT: Donald Fishel, 1971  
MUSIC: Donald Fishel, 1971; arr. Betty Pulkingham and Donald Fishel, 1979  
Text and Music © 1973 International Liturgy Publications

ALLELUIA NO. 1  
8.8 with refrain



### *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/).*

## Do Your Part to Fill the Cart!

Join the fight against poverty and food insecurity in the Upper Valley by leaving contributions in our shopping cart in the Parish Hall, benefiting a variety of local service organizations.

**This month, we're collecting non-perishable food and personal-care items on behalf of:**

**THE UPPER VALLEY HAVEN**

For a list of current and ongoing needs, please visit [uppervalleyhaven.org/current-wish-lists/](http://uppervalleyhaven.org/current-wish-lists/).

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





**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@fcclleb.org](mailto:church@fcclleb.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@fcclleb.org](mailto:church@fcclleb.org) • [prayer@fcclleb.org](mailto:prayer@fcclleb.org) • [music@fcclleb.org](mailto:music@fcclleb.org) • [www.fcclleb.org](http://www.fcclleb.org)**