



# First Congregational Church of Lebanon

*United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming*

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## The Sunday of the Transfiguration

March 2, 2025

God places us in the world as his fellow workers—agents of transfiguration. We work with God so that injustice is transfigured into justice, that there will be more compassion and caring, that there will be more laughter and joy, that there will be more togetherness in God’s world.

*–Desmond Tutu*

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

**Prelude**

*Fugue in G Minor, BWV 578*

Johann Sebastian Bach

**Call to Worship**

Psalm 99

**One:** The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

**All: The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.**

**One:** Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!

**All: Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.**

**One:** Extol the LORD our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he!

**All: Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name.**

**One:** They cried to the LORD, and he answered them. He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them.

**All: O LORD our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings. Extol the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy.**

**Hymn 189** (p. 5) *O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair*

Wareham

**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**

## Children’s Moment

We will begin the season of Lent this Wednesday, with our Ash Wednesday service. You might wonder—Why a Wednesday? Why a mid-week holiday? Well, it’s because Lent is forty days, excluding Sundays. We remember the time that Jesus spent in the desert at the beginning of his ministry. We remember his time of preparation and prayer, how he resisted temptation and sin. If Jesus set aside time to pray and reflect, it must be a good idea, and it is one Christians have followed for millennia. We’ll do it together this year, too.

**Hymn 193** (pp. 6-7) *Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain*

Unser Herrscher

## Scripture Lessons

*Exodus 34:29-35.* <sup>29</sup>Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. <sup>30</sup>When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. <sup>31</sup>But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. <sup>32</sup>Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. <sup>33</sup>When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; <sup>34</sup>but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, <sup>35</sup>the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

*Luke 9:28-43a.* <sup>28</sup>Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup>And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup>Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. <sup>31</sup>They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup>Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. <sup>33</sup>Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. <sup>34</sup>While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup>Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” <sup>36</sup>When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

<sup>37</sup>On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. <sup>38</sup>Just then a man from the crowd shouted, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. <sup>39</sup>Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. <sup>40</sup>I begged

your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.”<sup>41</sup> Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.”<sup>42</sup> While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father.<sup>43</sup> And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

**Sermon**

*“What a Long, Strange Trip It’s Been”*

Stephen R. Silver

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

*As we hold community members in prayer, please exercise care and discretion when sharing.*

We offer our ongoing prayers for Pete, Marcia, Arlene, Evelyn, Greg, Jan, Edith, Eileen, Waneta, Terry, Juanita, Dan, Travis, Garrett, Sue, Rick, Edward, Priscilla, Ron, Lauren, Brian, Micah, Al, Steve, Denzil, Jacobe, Reg, Chris, Pam, Ellen, Tricia, Deserai, Jon, Elizabeth, and Dominic.

O God of the mountaintop, we ask that we be able to receive your love, your grace, your salvation. We know that at this moment we are convicted, and we would stay true, but we also admit that Peter and the other disciples—who knew, loved, and lived with Jesus—fell away. Be with us when we are tempted, help us stay on your path, gird us when we falter. We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of your Son, 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**

*From the Rising of the Sun*

F. A. Gore Ouseley

### **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)**

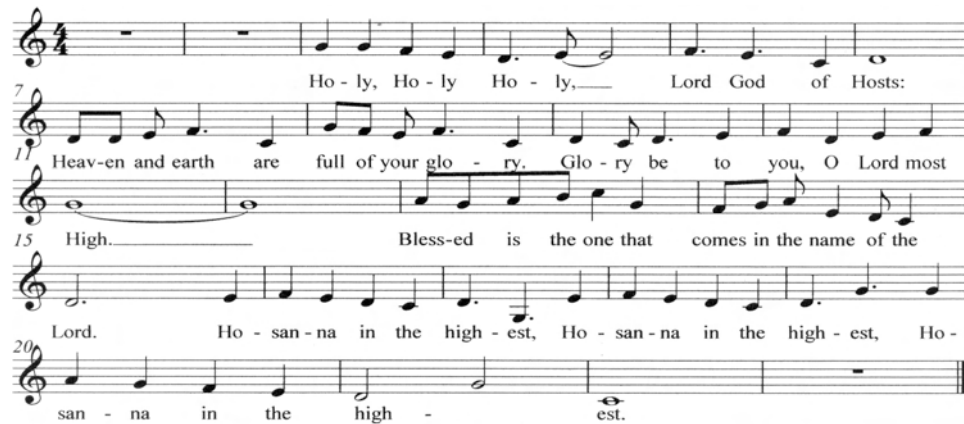
God of the Transfiguration, you came to Moses, you came to Elijah, you came to Jesus not to do magic tricks but to show your love. We share this morning’s offering in the hope that we will be shaped by your actions of caring for others, just as you have cared for us. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

## 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

#### 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 202 (p. 7) *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun* (v. 1-5) Duke Street

#### Benediction

Postlude *Offertoire sûr les Grands Jeux* François Couperin

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#### *Leading Worship This Week*

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • FCC Choir • Betsy Alexander, Soprano

Barb Jones, Liturgist • Linda and Ike Jacobs, Ushers • Bob Gerlach, Zoom

### **Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service – March 5 at 5:30 pm, LUMC**

All are welcome to gather as a community at Lebanon United Methodist Church (18 School St) to initiate the holy season of Lent. *If you are unable to attend in person, Zoom will be available.*

*If you would like to receive daily devotional reflections from Rev. Steve Silver during Lent, please contact the church office or email him directly at [silver@fccleb.org](mailto:silver@fccleb.org).*

\* \* \* **HOLY WEEK IS APRIL 13-20, 2025** \* \* \*

O wondrous sight, O vision fair / of glory that the church shall share,  
which Christ upon the mountain shows, / where brighter than the sun he glows!

From age to age the tale declare, / how with the three disciples there,  
where Moses and Elijah meet, / the Lord holds converse high and sweet.

The law and prophets there have place, / two chosen witnesses of grace;  
the Father's voice from out the cloud / proclaims his only Son aloud.

With shining face and bright array / Christ deigns to manifest today  
what glory shall be theirs above / who joy in God with perfect love.

And faithful hearts are raised on high / by this great vision's mystery,  
for which in joyful strains we raise / the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

Text—Latin, 15th c., trans. John Mason Neale, 1851, alt.

\*From *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal* (Presbyterian Publishing Co., 2013).

### Potluck Lunch Theater: *The Chosen*—This Sunday, March 2, at 11:30

All are invited to Potluck Lunch Theater after church on March 2! While enjoying a delicious meal, we'll watch the first episode of the acclaimed series *The Chosen*. A groundbreaking historical drama based on the life of Jesus as seen through the eyes of those who knew him, it's set against the backdrop of Roman oppression in first-century Palestine. *The episode lasts approximately one hour.*

*We hope you will join us for this time of food, fellowship, and film!*

### It's Almost Time for the Lenten Lunch Bag Offering

The arrival of Lent brings the **Children's Community Corner** Lunch Bag Offering! We ask for your participation in this annual collection of savings from a regular sacrifice during Lent. The total collection on Palm Sunday (April 13) will be split between **WISE of the Upper Valley** and **Epilogos Charities**. (*Decorated paper bags will be available, but not required to participate.*)

*The Children's Community Corner thanks you for supporting this stewardship project!*

### Be the Light: One Great Hour of Sharing UCC Mission Offering

This annual, nationwide UCC offering funds mission initiatives around the world. It supports healthcare, education, agriculture, refugee assistance, and disaster relief in over 130 countries. OGHs funds are leveraged with local, national, and global partners to maximize their impact.

*Please consider a contribution as you are able, and thank you for SHARING!*

(Payable to FCC, with "OGHS" in the memo line. Contributions gratefully accepted until Easter.)

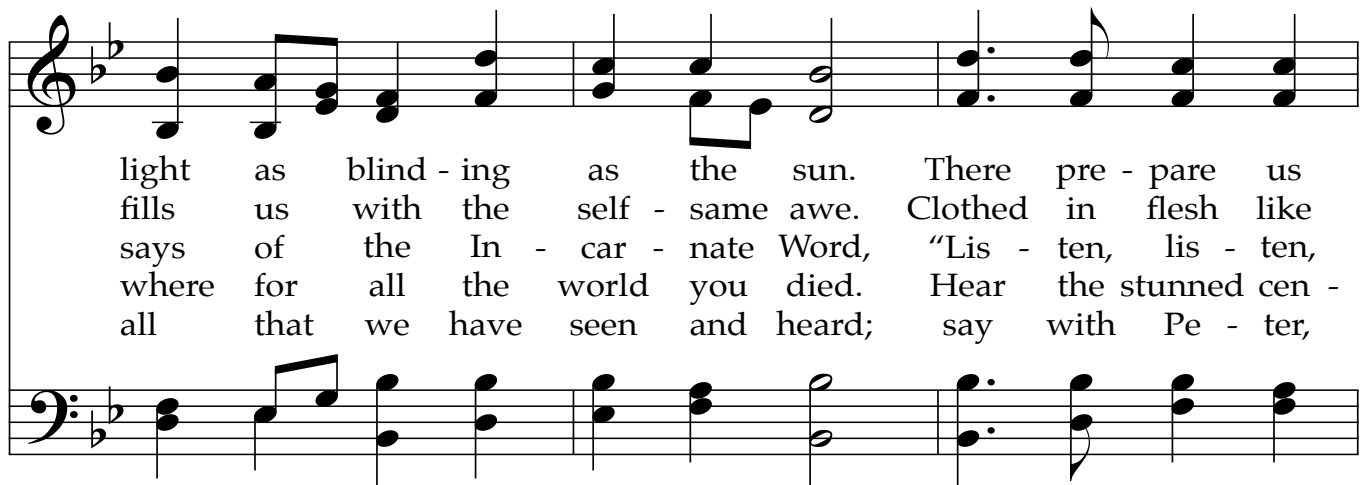
# 193 Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain



1 Je - sus, take us to the moun - tain, where, with Pe - ter,  
2 What do you want us to see there, that your close com -  
3 What do you want us to hear there, that your dear dis -  
4 Take us to that oth - er moun - tain where we see you  
5 We who have be - held your glo - ry, ris - en and as -



James, and John, we are daz - zled by your glo - ry,  
pan - ions saw? Your di - vin - i - ty re - vealed there  
ci - ples heard? Once a - gain the voice from heav - en  
glo - ri - fied, where you shout - ed "It is fin - ished!"  
cend - ed Lord, can - not help but tell the sto - ry,



light as blind - ing as the sun. There pre - pare us  
fills us with the self - same awe. Clothed in flesh like  
says of the In - car - nate Word, "Lis - ten, lis - ten,  
where for all the world you died. Hear the stunned cen -  
all that we have seen and heard; say with Pe - ter,

Some version of the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1–9/Mark 9:2–9/Luke 9:28–36) is always read on the last Sunday after the Epiphany. In this text that foretaste of Christ's glorification helps to prepare Peter, James, and John for their roles as proclaimers of "God's beloved Son."

TEXT: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1991  
MUSIC: Joachim Neander, 1680; harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863, alt.  
Text © 1991 Concordia Publishing House

UNSER HERRSCHER  
8.7.8.7.7.7

for the night by the vi - sion of that sight.  
 ours you go, matched to meet our dead - liest foe.  
 ev - ery - one: this is my be - lov - ed Son."  
 tur - i - on: "Tru - ly this was God's own Son!"  
 James, and John: "You are God's be - lov - ed Son!"

## 202 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

DUKE STREET L.M.

John Hatton, d.1793

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun Doth his suc -  
 2 For him shall end - less prayer be made, And prais - es  
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue Dwell on his  
 ces - sive jour - neys run; His king - dom stretch from  
 throng to crown his head; His name like sweet per -  
 love with sweet - est song, And in - fant voic - es  
 shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
 fume shall rise With ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
 shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on his name. A - men.

4 Blessings abound where'er he reigns;  
 The prisoner leaps to lose his chains,  
 The weary find eternal rest,  
 And all the sons of want are blest.

5 Let every creature rise and bring  
 Peculiar honors to our King;  
 Angels descend with songs again,  
 And earth repeat the loud Amen.



**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)**