



# First Congregational Church of Lebanon

*United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming*

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## The Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 6, 2025

Happiness is not only a hope, but also in some strange manner a memory.... We are all kings in exile.

–G. K. Chesterton

Everyone must come out of his Exile in his own way.

–Martin Buber

*Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 5-8.*

### Prelude

*Chorale Prelude on “Rockingham”*

C.H.H. Parry

### Call to Worship

Psalm 126

One: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

**All: Then our mouth was filled with laughter, our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”**

One: The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

**All: Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.**

One: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

**All: Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.**

### Hymn 459 (p. 5)

*With Songs and Honors Sounding Loud*

Ellacombe

### Prayer of Invocation

#### Lenten Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Open our hearts to you, that we may receive your forgiveness and be redeemed by your reconciling love. Amen

### Assurance of Pardon

#### 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

### Moment for Mission

Kristi Lenart-Rikert, LISTEN Community Services

### Anthem

*Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

Harold Friedell

### Children's Moment

Sometimes, if you're not paying attention, you can miss something.

I'll give you an example: last week, I forgot it was Laetare Sunday. I knew it was the fourth Sunday of Lent, and I should have talked about this opportunity to take a break from Lent, and why the early church believed that was important for the faithful. But I missed it, and now we're on the fifth Sunday of Lent.

So, what do I want to say to you? Don't miss your chance to say you're sorry, to make things right with God, and with people in your life, today. Don't miss your chance to help someone, to be a friend. Because once today is gone, it's gone. Done and over.

### Hymn 225 (p. 6)

*Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*

St. Agnes

### Scripture Lessons

*Isaiah 43:15-21.* <sup>15</sup>I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King. <sup>16</sup>Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, <sup>17</sup>who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: <sup>18</sup>Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. <sup>19</sup>I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. <sup>20</sup>The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, <sup>21</sup>the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

*John 12:1-8.* Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup>There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. <sup>3</sup>Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup>But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup>"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup>(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) <sup>7</sup>Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup>You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

### Sermon

*"Out With the Old, In With the New"*

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, Dominic, Alicia, Terri, and Mike.

O God of the lost, we confess that there are times when we may feel as if we are in exile, inhabitants of a place and time that seem foreign, even alien. At such moments, help us, we pray, to remember that we are always citizens of your kingdom, that there is always a place for us at the table where Jesus is host. Strengthen us as we embrace this truth, and empower us as we seek to share this blessing with others.

We offer these prayers, with 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

*For the Bread Which You Have Broken*

Timothy Shaw

## 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, you have come to us in hope, showing us a new way; with grace, offering us another chance; and in love, endowing us with true life. In response, we present these gifts, a sign of our thanks and commitment to share our blessings with others. In Jesus' name 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** *Oculi Omnium*, Charles Wood  
 “The eyes of all wait upon thee, and thou givest them their food in due season.”

**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 284** (p. 7) *According to Thy Gracious Word* Bangor

**Benediction**

**Postlude** *Chorale Prelude on “Rockingham”* Kenneth Leighton

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*Leading Worship This Week*

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor  
 Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Deb Scott, Liturgist  
 Linda and Ike Jacobs, Ushers • Dawn Troutman, 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.*

\* † \* **HOLY WEEK AT FCC** \* † \*

**Palm Sunday, April 13, 10:00 am**—Worship Service: Liturgy of the Palms (*Sanctuary/Zoom*)  
 4:00 pm—Franz Joseph Haydn, *The Seven Last Words of Christ* (*Sanctuary*)

**Maundy Thursday, April 17, 7:00**—Communion, Tenebrae, Stripping of the Altar (*Sanctuary/Zoom*)

**Good Friday, April 18, 12:00-3:00 pm**—Quiet Meditation on the Seven Last Words (*Sanctuary*)  
 7:00 pm—Service of the Word and Prayer (*Sanctuary/Zoom*)

**EASTER SUNDAY, April 20, 6:00 am**—Ecumenical Sunrise Service (*Colburn Pk*); Light Breakfast (*FCC*)  
 10:00 am—Festival Worship Service (*Sanctuary/Zoom*)

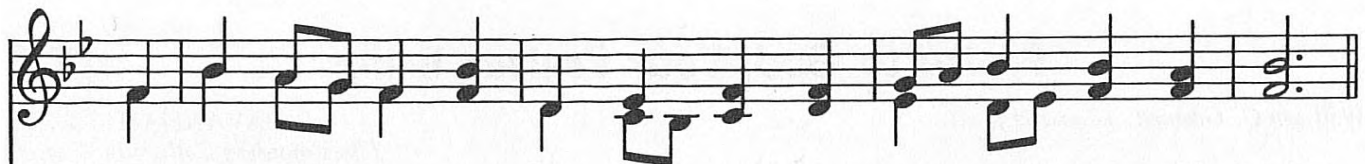
## 459

## With Songs and Honors Sounding Loud

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

ELLACOMBE C.M.D.  
"Gesangbuch," Wirtemberg, 1784

1 With songs and hon-ors sound-ing loud, Ad - dress the Lord on high;  
 2 His stead-y coun-sels change the face Of the de - clin - ing year;  
 3 He sends his word and melts the snow, The fields no long - er mourn;



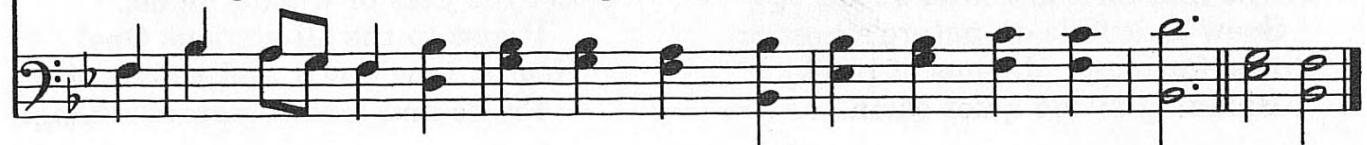
O - ver the heavens he spreads his clouds, And wa - ters veil the sky.  
 He bids the sun cut short his race, And win - try days ap - pear.  
 He calls the warm - er gales to blow, And bids the spring re - turn.



He sends his showers of bless - ing down To cheer the plains be - low;  
 His hoar - y frost, his flee - cy snow, De - scend and clothe the ground;  
 The chang-ing wind, the fly - ing cloud, O - bey his might - y word;



He makes the grass the moun-tains crown, And corn in val - leys grow.  
 The liq - uid streams for - bear to flow, In i - cy fet - ters bound.  
 With songs and hon-ors sound-ing loud, Praise ye the sov-ereign Lord. A-men.



## Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

First Tune

Latin: 12th century

Tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878, alt.

ST. AGNES C.M.

John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of thee, With sweet-ness fills my breast;  
 2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, Nor can the mem-ory find  
 3 O hope of ev - ery con - trite heart, O joy of all the meek,  
 4 But what to those who find? Ah, this Nor tongue nor pen can show;  
 5 Je - sus, our on - ly joy be thou, As thou our prize wilt be;

But sweet-er far thy face to see, And in thy pres-ence rest.  
 A sweet-er sound than thy blest name, O Sav-ior of man-kind.  
 To those who fall, how kind thou art! How good to those who seek!  
 The love of Je - sus, what it is None but his loved ones know.  
 Je - sus, be thou our glo - ry now, And through e-ter - ni - ty. A - men

### Lenten Lunch Bag Offering—Collection Next Week on Palm Sunday

The Children's Community Corner looks forward to receiving your generous contributions to the Lunch Bag Offering! This annual collection of savings from a regular sacrifice during Lent will be totaled on Palm Sunday (April 13) and split equally 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.)





# The Easter Lily Fund to Benefit the Open Door Ministry

On Easter morning, we'll have an array of fresh flowers on the Sanctuary altar. As in past years, we invite you to honor or remember beloved family and friends with a modest contribution to our **OPEN DOOR MINISTRY** for community assistance.

If you'd like to offer a dedication in honor or memory of loved ones, please return this form in the offering plate or by mail, with a contribution (\$5 minimum, payable to FCC, memo "Open Door Lily Fund"). All dedications received by noon on **THURSDAY, APRIL 17**, will be listed in the worship bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 20. (Contributions payable after that date. Please note that we will **not** be purchasing flowers for each individual dedication.)

Given by \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

## 284

## According to Thy Gracious Word

James Montgomery, 1771-1854

First Tune

BANGOR C.M.

William Tans'ur, 1706?-1783

1 Ac - cord - ing to thy gra - cious word, In meek hu - mil - i - ty,  
 2 Thy bod - y, bro - ken for my sake, My bread from heaven shall be;  
 3 Re - mem - ber thee, and all thy pains, And all thy love to me;  
 4 And when these fail - ing lips grow dumb, And mind and mem - ory flee,

This will I do, my dy - ing Lord, I will re - mem - ber thee.  
 Thy tes - ta - men - tal cup I take, And thus re - mem - ber thee:  
 Yea, while a breath, a pulse re - mains, Will I re - mem - ber thee.  
 When thou shalt in thy king - dom come, Je - sus, re - mem - ber me. A - men.



*Classicopia: Blowin' in the Winds—Friday, April 4, at 7:30 pm*

In an uncommon but expressive combination, pianist Dan Weiser joins oboist Margaret Herlehy and bassoonist Janet Polk for a selection of trios. Dan will also remember his Classicopia co-founder Marcia Colligan (1931-2025). *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at classicopia.org.*

*The Apple Hill String Quartet—Saturday, April 5, at 4:00 pm*

The Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music in Nelson, NH, is one of our state's musical treasures. Its renowned resident quartet offers eclectic programs, ranging from canonical works to new compositions and globally inspired pieces. *Adults \$25, under-18 free; more at uvmusic.org.*

*The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, Apr. 11 and 25, and May 9, all 7:30 pm*

Our comfy community venue for live folk music continues its fifth season! Come and go as you please; food and drink available. *Free admission. For performers and more, visit anoncoffee.org.*

*Franz Joseph Haydn: The Seven Last Words of Christ—Palm Sunday, April 13, at 4:00 pm*

FCC welcomes a performance that has been a Holy Week tradition across Vermont for over three decades. Four singers (Martha Peck, Cara Hill, Brian Clancy, Jose Schmidt) join a string quartet (Susan Janes, Jane Tulloh, Jody Racht, Melissa Perley) for Haydn's bracingly dramatic, sublimely poignant portrayal of Christ's final hours on the cross. *Freewill donation to benefit the Open Door Ministry.*

*Upper Valley Music Center CelloFest—Saturday, April 26, at 6:00 pm*

Upper Valley Music Center is excited to welcome Sara Bennett Wolfe's advanced Cello Choir from Connecticut for a collaborative concert with Ben Kulp and other UVMC faculty and students. The program ranges from J. S. Bach to Nirvana and Neil Diamond. *Free admission; more at uvmusic.org.*

*Young Traditions Vermont Touring Group—Sunday, April 27, at 2:00 pm*

UVMC hosts this ensemble of talented teenage musicians and singers for a concert and jam session on their New England tour. A program of Vermont Folklife, the group nurtures youth involvement in traditional music and dance. *Suggested \$10-20 donation, under-18 free; more at uvmusic.org.*

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

Currently, we are 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/) or see the list that is attached to the shopping cart itself.

*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@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)**