



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

The Third Sunday of Easter

May 1, 2022

“If Christ be not risen, the dreadful consequence is not that death ends life, but that we are all still in our sins.”

–G. A. Studdert Kennedy

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 6-8.

Prelude *Andante für eine Orgelwalze, K. 616* W. A. Mozart

Call to Worship Adapted from Psalm 30

Leader: I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

People: O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

Leader: O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

People: Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.

Leader: For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

People: You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.

All: O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

Hymn 246 (p. 6) *Christ Is Alive!* Truro

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 *Soul of My Saviour* Richard Shephard

Children's Moment

Have you ever had to deal with a team selection process? You know, you and a bunch of other kids are playing and someone decides to divide you up into teams. Sometimes

you count off and everyone is randomly assigned. Other times, people are chosen. If you're really good at that activity or you're popular, you'll be chosen early. But what if you're not? That can hurt, right? Well, God chooses all of us—each one of us—to be on God's team. God is not running a popularity contest, but is building God's kingdom. Each and every one of us has something to offer. So, let's give thanks to God for wanting us, and let's get to work, since we've all been called.

Hymn 257 (p. 7) *The Risen Christ*

Woodlands

Scripture Lessons

Acts 9:1-30. Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." ²¹All who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?"

²²Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

²³After some time had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, ²⁴but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night so that they might kill him; ²⁵but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.

²⁶When he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples; and they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. ²⁷But Barnabas took him, brought him to

the apostles, and described for them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus.²⁸ So he went in and out among them in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.²⁹ He spoke and argued with the Hellenists; but they were attempting to kill him.³⁰ When the believers learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

John 21:1-19. After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way.² Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples.³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.⁵ Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No."⁶ He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish.⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea.⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread.¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught."¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn.¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord.¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs."¹⁶ A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep."¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."¹⁸ Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go."¹⁹ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

Sermon

"Pick of the Litter"

Stephen R. Silver

Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Pastoral Prayer

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

Today we offer our ongoing prayers for Pete, Lloyd, Arlene, Evelyn, Barbara, Greg, Edith, Jan, Eileen, Michelle, Stephanie, Paulette, and Carolin.

We pray for the people of Ukraine, that they may know peace. We pray, too, for the Russian leadership, that their hearts may be renewed and turned to you, and for the Russian people, that they may be freed from tyranny and corruption.

We pray, too, that we will respond to your call as Paul did, that the scales that block our eyes will fall away and we will be drawn into your light. We pray that we may know grace, and peace, and purpose.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of 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 *Jesu, the Very Thought of Thee*

Simon Lole

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*)

Lord of the Resurrection, God of New Life, just as you called the disciples, you have called us. We thank you for calling us to serve and to follow you, and we respond to this invitation with gratitude and enthusiasm. In this spirit, we offer our gifts this morning to feed and tend to your people. 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

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 180 (p. 8) *Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven*

Weisse Flaggen

Benediction

My friends, life is short. We do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So, be swift to love, and make haste to be kind.

Now go forth with the love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, this day and forevermore. Amen.

Postlude *A Flight of Angels* (from *Tunes for Clay's Musical Clock*) G. F. Handel

Both of today's organ pieces were composed for a small, automatic organ, connected to a clock, which played at set times instead of chiming the hour. These were faddy among 18th-century gentry.



Mother's Day is Blanket Sunday

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.)

If you would like to honor or remember the mother(s) in your life with a contribution to CWS BLANKETS, please complete this form and return it with your contribution to the church office (PO Box 230, Lebanon, NH 03766). The suggested minimum donation is \$10, but any amount is welcome!

Dedications must be received by noon on THURSDAY, MAY 5 to be included in the bulletin for MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 8.

Given by _____

In honor of _____

☐ Please send a card (include address on back)

In memory of _____

Contribution: _____ (payable to FCC, memo "Blanket Sunday")

Christ Is Alive!

246

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No lon - ger bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

In 1968 Easter fell ten days after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and this text was written to express an Easter hope while mindful of that terrible event. Buoyed by a triple-arched tune, it affirms the presence of a wounded, risen Christ with all who suffer.

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1968, rev. 1995

MUSIC: *Musica Sacra*, c. 1778

Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company

TRURO
LM

The Risen Christ

257



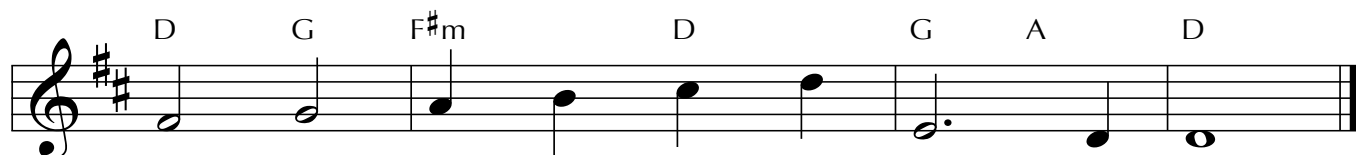
1 The ris - en Christ, who walks on wound - ed
 2 The ris - en Christ, who stands with wound - ed
 3 The ris - en Christ, who breaks with wound - ed
 4 May we, Christ's bod - y, walk and serve and



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

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.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

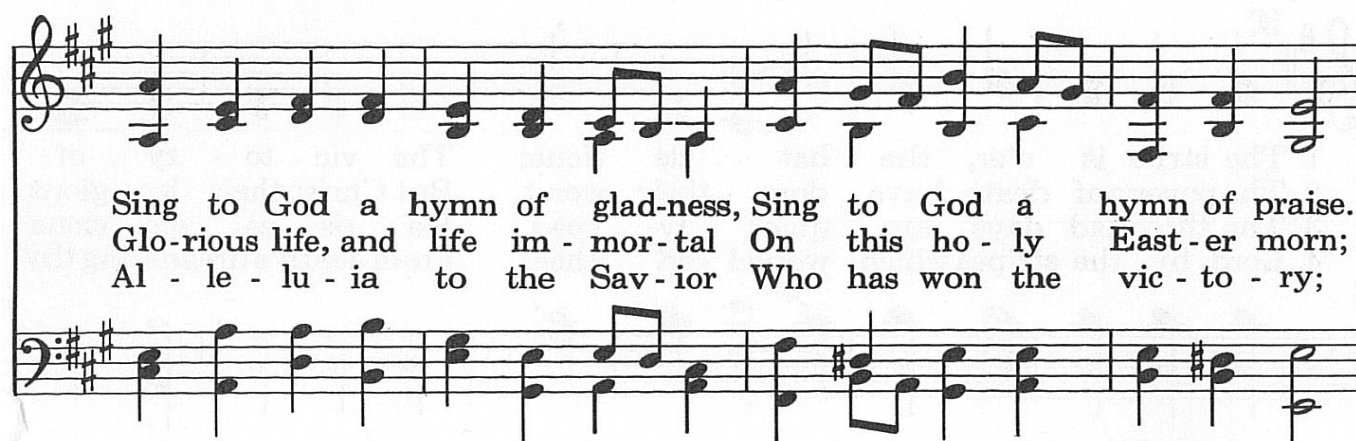
180

Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-1885, *alt.*

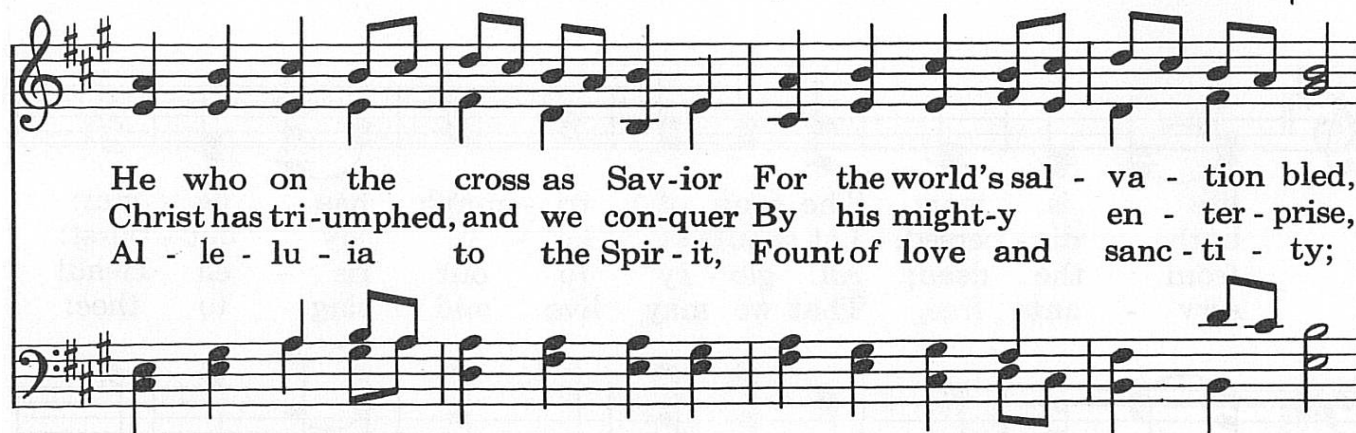
WEISSE FLAGGEN 8.7.8.7.D.
"Tochter Sion," Cologne, 1741



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heaven and voic - es raise;
2 Now the i - ron bars are bro - ken, Christ from death to life is born;
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high;



Sing to God a hymn of glad-ness, Sing to God a hymn of praise.
Glo - rious life, and life im - mor - tal On this ho - ly East - er morn;
Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior Who has won the vic - to - ry;



He who on the cross as Sav - ior For the world's sal - va - tion bled,
Christ has tri - umphed, and we con - quer By his might - y en - ter - prise,
Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, Fount of love and sanc - ti - ty;



Je - sus Christ, the King of glo - ry, Now is ris - en from the dead.
We with him to life e - ter - nal By his res - ur - rec - tion rise.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! To the Tri - une Ma - jes - ty. A - men.



Bel Canto Chamber Singers—Saturday, April 30, at 7:30 / Sunday, May 1, at 4:00

We're delighted to have Bel Canto return to our Sanctuary under the direction of Jane Woods! The program features music for choir, strings, timpani, and piano, including a premiere by NH composer Travis Ramsey. *Adults \$15, students \$10, under 13 free; more at www.belcantosingers.org.*

The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, May 6 and 20, at 7:30

This highly popular venue for established and emerging musicians features several acoustic acts, and patrons may come and go as they please; baked goods and non-alcoholic drinks are available. And it's all free of charge, so please come and enjoy! *For more details, visit anoncoffee.org.*

Nicolas Babineau and Alexis Chartrand—Saturday, May 7, at 7:00

UVMC and Vermont Violins bring us this talented duo, who explore the Québécois musical universe with fiddle, guitar, and foot percussion and offer an intimate, truly contemporary vision of the repertoire. *Adults \$15 or \$25 w/afternoon workshop; more details at uvmusic.org.*

Classicopia: Broadway Violin Encore!—Sunday, May 15, at 1:00

Violinist Tim Schwartz returns for a reprise of last summer's popular "Broadway Violin" concert with pianist Dan Weiser. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at www.classicopia.org.*

Cameo Baroque: Music of Johann Sebastian Bach—Saturday, May 21, at 7:00

Our own Ernie Drown brings back his superb ensemble for an evening celebrating the master of Baroque music. *Free-will donation (\$20 suggested), beneficiary TBD; more at www.cameoarts.org.*

Roseminna Watson, Violin, and Melody Fader, Piano—Sunday, May 22, at 3:00

Having shared an excellent concert with us last October, this pair of friends returns with a new program for spring. *Program and more details coming soon.*

Cantabile Women's Chorus: Gloria!—Sunday, June 5, at 4:00

We are delighted to welcome back Cantabile for a concert originally planned for January but canceled due to COVID. The program includes music of Antonio Vivaldi, Johannes Brahms, and a new commission from Philip Silvey to commemorate Cantabile's 20th anniversary last year. *Adults \$15, students/seniors \$10, under 13 free; more at www.cantabilewomen.org.*

UCC Emergency Appeal for Ukrainian Refugee Assistance

The UCC is working both as a member of the ACT Alliance and through the relief agency of the Reformed Church in Hungary. Visit www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal/.

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Betsy Bowse, Liturgist
Stacey Steele and Dawn Troutman, Ushers • Barb Jones, Zoom Greeter



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@fcclb.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@fcclb.org • prayer@fcclb.org • music@fcclb.org • www.fcclb.org