



## The Third Sunday in Lent

The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope.

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

Communion upon “*Ecce Panis Angelorum*”

## Call to Worship

Adapted from Psalm 19

**All:** Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

One: There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

**All:** In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

One: The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes.

**All:** Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer

Hymn 436 (p. 5)      O God of Earth and Altar

# Llangloffan

## 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; Our Ministry and Mission

### Anthem

*Lord, For Thy Tender Mercy's Sake*

Richard Farrant

### Children's Moment

Sometimes, when someone cares about you, they'll tell you what you should do or not do. Sometimes, the reasons will be clear. Other times, they will not. There's a reason God has spelled out so many rules in the Hebrew Bible. He did it out of love. Your parents, your teachers will do that too. They care about you. And so does God, who loves us, each and every one of us. Sometimes, we forget that, but it's true. God loves us, no matter how popular or fast or smart we are. And while rules may not be fun to follow, they usually exist for a reason which is often clear if we think about them. Other times, we need to trust that parents, teachers, grown-ups—and yes, God—all know what they're talking about.

### Hymn 161 (p. 6)

*Before the Cross of Jesus*

St. Christopher

### Scripture Lessons

*Exodus 20:1-17.* Then God spoke all these words: <sup>2</sup>I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup>You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

<sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup>You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

<sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. <sup>13</sup>You shall not murder. <sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery. <sup>15</sup>You shall not steal. <sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

*John 2:13-22.* <sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." <sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

**Sermon**

*"Rules and Riddles"*

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, Gordon, Greg, Jan, Edith, Eileen, Waneta, Terry, Juanita, Dan, Travis, Garrett, Sue, Rick, Edward, Duane, Priscilla, Ron, Lauren, Brian, Micah, Al, and Steve.

Dear God: Lent is a time for us to confess our failings, and to rededicate ourselves to following your ways. We know that your commandments are not meant to be a straight-jacket but instead allow us to be truly free. Help us to flourish, help us to love, help us to be your people. Guide us as we seek to follow the way of Jesus, which will lead us to you and your gracious, everlasting love.

We pray this, and all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of your Son Jesus, 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**

*Panis Angelicus*

César Franck

*The bread of angels becomes the bread of men and women, giving an end to bread's earthly form. O wondrous and marvelous sacrament; a poor man, a slave, and the humble one all partake of the Lord.*

## 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*)

Almighty, sustaining God, Maker of Heaven and Earth, we join with your Creation in singing your praise and glorifying your name. In this spirit, we offer these gifts, in the hope that the work and service they enable will witness to your love for all the world. In our Savior's 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



### 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 366 (p. 7)      God of Grace and God of Glory      Cwm Rhondda

## Benediction

Postlude      Postlude-Cantique      Théodore Dubois

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### Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

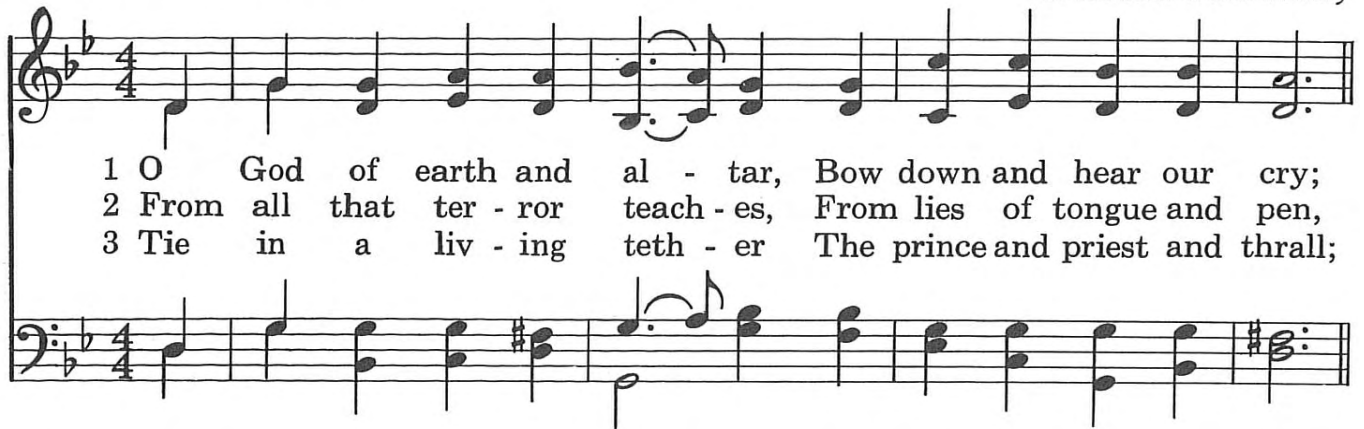
Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Betsy Alexander, Mezzo-Soprano  
Betsy Bowse, Liturgist • Phil Hammond/Stacey Steele, Ushers • Dominic Watson, Zoom

# O God of Earth and Altar

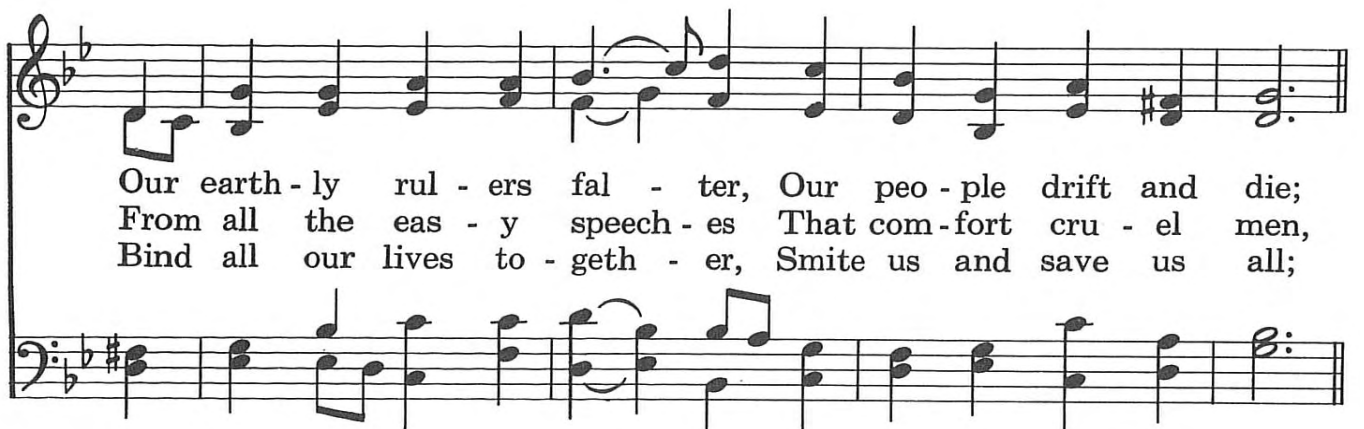
436

Gilbert K. Chesterton, 1874-1936

LLANGLOFFAN 7.6.7.6.D.  
Traditional Welsh Melody



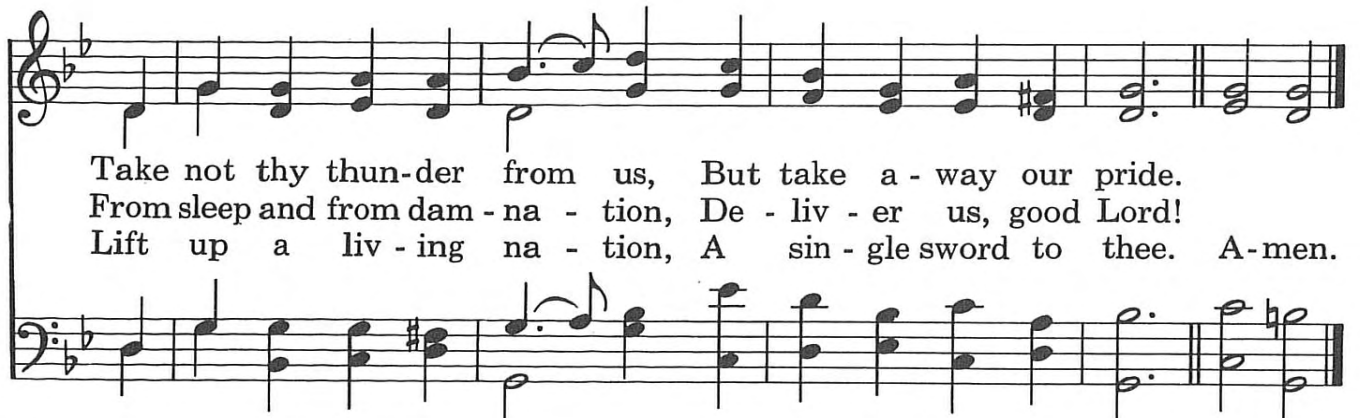
1 O God of earth and al - tar, Bow down and hear our cry;  
2 From all that ter - ror teach - es, From lies of tongue and pen,  
3 Tie in a liv - ing teth - er The prince and priest and thrall;



Our earth - ly rul - ers fal - ter, Our peo - ple drift and die;  
From all the eas - y speech - es That com - fort cru - el men,  
Bind all our lives to - geth - er, Smite us and save us all;



The walls of gold en - tomb us, The swords of scorn di - vide;  
From sale and prof - a - na - tion Of hon - or and the sword,  
In ire and ex - ul - ta - tion A - flame with faith, and free,



Take not thy thun - der from us, But take a - way our pride.  
From sleep and from dam - na - tion, De - liv - er us, good Lord!  
Lift up a liv - ing na - tion, A sin - gle sword to thee. A - men.

# Before the Cross of Jesus

161

*Ferdinand Q. Blanchard, 1876-*

ST. CHRISTOPHER 7.6.8.6.8.6.8.6.

*Frederick C. Maker, 1844-1927*

1 Before the cross of Jesus  
Our lives are judged today;  
The meaning of our eager strife  
Is tested by his Way.  
Across our restless living  
The light streams from his cross,  
And by its clear, revealing beams  
We measure gain and loss.

2 The hopes that lead us onward,  
The fears that hold us back,  
Our will to dare great things for God,  
The courage that we lack,  
The faith we keep in goodness,  
Our love, as low or pure,  
On all, the judgment of the cross  
Falls steady, clear, and sure.

3 Yet humbly, in our striving,  
O God, we face its test.  
We crave the power to do thy will  
With him who did it best.  
On us let now the healing  
Of his great Spirit fall,  
And make us brave and full of joy  
To answer to his call. Amen.

*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.*

## It's 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 (March 24) 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!*

## One Great Hour of Sharing: "Time to Share the Light"—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.)

\* † \* **HOLY WEEK IS MARCH 24-31, 2024** \* † \*

# God of Grace and God of Glory

366

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1878-

CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

John Hughes, 1873-1932

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, On thy pec - ple  
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn thy Christ, as -  
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; Bend our pride to  
 4 Set our feet on loft - y pla - ces; Gird our lives that  
 5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion To the e - vils

pour thy power; Crown thine an - cient church's sto - ry; Bring her bud to  
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us, Free our hearts to  
 thy con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, Rich in things and  
 they may be Arm - ored with all Christ - like gra - ces In the fight to  
 we de - plore; Let the search for thy sal - va - tion Be our glo - ry

glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,  
 faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,  
 poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,  
 set men free. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,  
 ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age,

For the fac - ing of this hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.  
 For the liv - ing of these days, For the liv - ing of these days.  
 Lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, Lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.  
 That we fail not man nor thee, That we fail not man nor thee.  
 Serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, Serv - ing thee whom we a - dore. A - men.





### *NE Heritage Music Camp's Midwinter Gathering—Sunday, March 3, at 6:30 pm*

A full day of workshops and jam sessions at UVMC culminates in a concert of traditional music here at FCC. *Adults \$15-25; more information about both daytime programs and concert at [uvmusic.org](http://uvmusic.org).*

### *The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, Mar. 8 and 22, Apr. 5, 19, and 26, all 7:30*

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).*

### *Upper Valley Music Center Faculty Showcase—Saturday, March 9, at 4:00 pm*

This popular annual program features the vocal and instrumental excellence of the faculty next door at UVMC, in classical repertoire, traditional and folk genres, and original compositions.

*Free-will donation; all proceeds benefit UVMC tuition assistance fund. More at [uvmusic.org](http://uvmusic.org).*

### *Classicopia: Wind Power—Saturday, March 23, at 2:00 pm*

In an unusual but expressive combination, pianist Dan Weiser welcomes back oboist Margaret Herlehy and bassoonist Janet Polk for trios by W. A. Mozart, Franz Schubert, Astor Piazzolla, and more. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; more at [classicopia.org/concert/wind-power](http://classicopia.org/concert/wind-power).*

## 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 food and financial insecurity just manage to take care of themselves but cannot afford to keep their beloved pets, whose companionship is vital in difficult times. UVHS seeks to address this need with donated pet food and supplies, and we can help!

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

## THE HEART OF IT ALL—LENTEN BOOK STUDY EACH WEDNESDAY

**Wednesdays through March 27, at 7:00 pm on Zoom**

All are (still!) invited to join this discussion of *The Heart of It All: The Bible's Big Picture* (2019) by the Rev. Dr. Samuel Wells. "As a collection of 66 books spanning thousands of years," explains the publisher, "the Bible can be daunting in size and scope. Rev. Wells simplifies the Bible's complexity and presents the entire sweep of its narrative in eighteen key themes."

*We'll discuss this provocative, engaging book on Zoom, but you needn't attend every week to participate. Copies of the book are free; to RSVP or ask questions, contact [silver@fccleb.org](mailto:silver@fccleb.org).*





**First Congregational Church of Lebanon**

PO Box 230  
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**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)*

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