



The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance.
The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.

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

Johann Sebastian Bach

Psalm 119:11-16

All: Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes.

All: I delight in the way of your decrees as much as in all riches.

All: I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

Melcombe

Prayer of Invocation

Lenten Prayer of Confession *(Unison)*

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

Children’s Moment

Happy Saint Patrick’s Day! I see some people here are wearing green, and others may eat corned beef later on. But who was Saint Patrick? Well, he was a Briton who lived in Ireland and, legend has it, rid the country of snakes. He also supposedly taught that the three-leafed clover was a sign of the Trinity. And that’s about it. But if you are remembered for just one thing, teaching about the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost as One would not be bad. Living your life in service to God would not be bad, either.

Hymn 391 (p. 6)

Be Thou My Vision

Slane

Scripture Lessons

Jeremiah 31:31-34. ³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

John 12:20-33. ²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” ²⁹Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ³⁰The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³¹Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³²Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³³And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³⁴He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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.

O God of Lent: we have engaged in the disciplines of this season, engaging in penitence and reflection, seeking to atone for our sins, as we ready ourselves for the miracle of Easter. We are close enough that we feel the Resurrection, taste the sweet triumph of life over death. Yet we know that we are not yet there, that there is still time left in this season, that we will need first to make it through the Passion, and that only then will we be able to rejoice in the ultimate victory over sin. Be with us, we pray, as we complete our Lenten journey; bring us back to you, and the new life that is promised in Jesus.

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

And Didst Thou Travel Light

Richard Shephard

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.

Hymn 408 (p. 8) *All My Hope on God Is Founded*

Michael

Benediction

Postlude *Fugue in C Minor, BWV 549*

Johann Sebastian Bach

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Phil Hammond, Liturgist

Ike and Linda 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 or speak with Rev. Silver directly.

* † * **HOLY WEEK AT FCC** * † *

Palm Sunday, March 24, 10:00 am—Worship Service: Liturgy of the Palms (*Sanctuary/Zoom*)

Maundy Thursday, March 28, 7:00—Communion, Tenebrae, Stripping of the Altar (*Sanctuary/Zoom*)

Good Friday, March 29, 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, March 31, 6:00 am—Ecumenical Sunrise Service (*Outside in Colburn Park*)
10:00 am—Festival Worship Service (*Sanctuary/Zoom*)

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 (March 24) and split between **WISE of the Upper Valley** and **Epilogos Charities**. (*Decorated paper bags 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.)

New Every Morning Is the Love

36

John Keble, 1792-1866, alt.

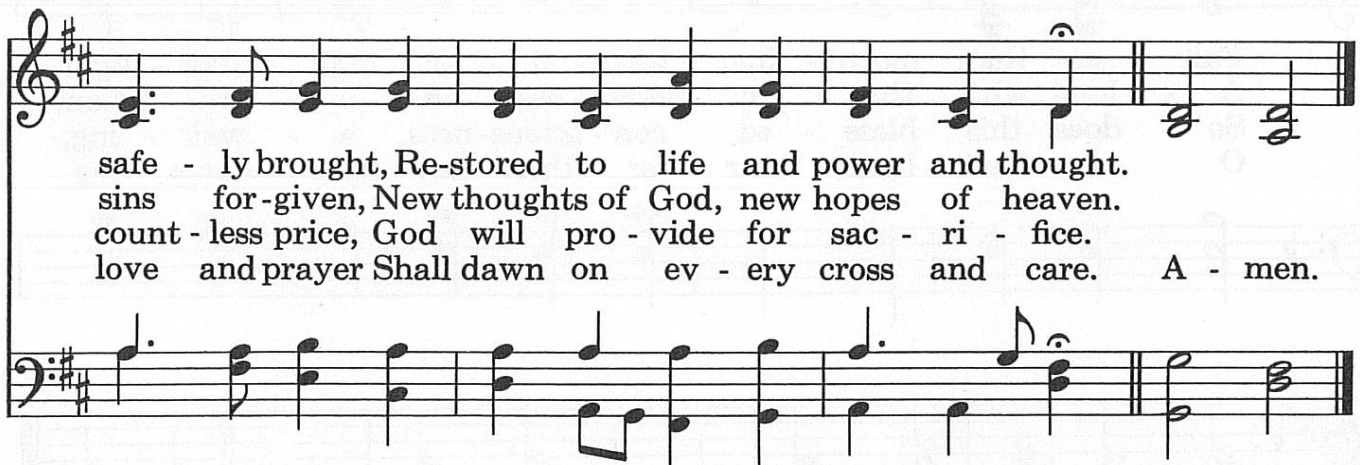
MELCOMBE L.M.
Samuel Webbe, 1740-1816



1 New ev - ery morn - ing is the love Our
2 New mer - cies, each re - turn - ing day, Hov -
3 If on our dai - ly course our mind Be
4 Old friends, old scenes, will love - lier be, As



wake - ning and up - ris - ing prove; Through sleep and dark - ness
er a - round us while we pray; New per - ils past, new
set to hal - low all we find, New treas - ures still, of
more of heaven in each we see; Some soft - 'ning gleam of



safe - ly brought, Re-stored to life and power and thought.
sins for-given, New thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.
count - less price, God will pro - vide for sac - ri - fice.
love and prayer Shall dawn on ev - ery cross and care. A - men.

5 The trivial round, the common task,
Will furnish all we ought to ask;
Room to deny ourselves—a road
To bring us daily nearer God.

6 Only, O Lord, in thy dear love,
Fit us for perfect rest above;
And help us, this and every day,
To live more nearly as we pray.

Be Thou My Vision

Ancient Irish

Tr. by Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935

SLANE 10.10.9.10.

Traditional Irish Melody

Harm. by David Evans, 1874-1948

In unison

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,
 4 High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

Nought be all else to me save that thou art.
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 Thou mine in - her - it - ance, now and al - ways;
 May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Thou my great Fa - ther, I thy true son;
 Thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
 High King of heav - en, my treas - ure thou art.
 Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all. A - men.

O for a Closer Walk With God

First Tune

William Cowper, 1731-1800

CAITHNESS C.M.
"Scottish Psalter," 1635

1 O for a clos - er walk with God, A calm and heav - en - ly frame,
 2 Where is the bless - ed - ness I knew When first I saw the - Lord?
 3 Re - turn, O ho - ly Dove, re - turn, Sweet mes - sen - ger of rest!
 4 The dear - est i - dol I have known, What - e'er that i - dol be,
 5 So shall my walk be close with God, Calm and se - rene my frame;

A light to shine up - on the road That leads me to the Lamb!
 Where is the soul - re - fresh - ing view Of Je - sus and his word?
 I hate the sins that made thee mourn And drove thee from my breast.
 Help me to tear it from thy throne, And wor - ship on - ly thee.
 So pur - er light shall mark the road That leads me to the Lamb. A - men.

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 financial insecurity manage can't afford to care for their beloved pets, whose companionship is vital in difficult times. We can help with donations to UVHS—most needed are wet/dry pet food, cat litter, and soft dog treats; full wish list at uvhs.org/give/.

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

* † * PALM SUNDAY IS NEXT WEEK, MARCH 24 * † *

All My Hope on God Is Founded

408

Joachim Neander, c. 1680

Ps. 62:5-8; 1 Tim. 6:17

Paraphr. by Robert Bridges, 1899; alt.

1 All my hope on God is found - ed: who else can my hope re-new?
 2 Well does the al - might-y Giv - er boun-teous gifts on us be-stow!
 3 In glad hymns to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of praise be done,

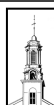
Still through change and chance God guides me, on - ly good and on - ly true.
 With de - light our souls are nour-ished; plea-sure leads us where we go.
 high a - bove all prais - es prais - ing for the love in Christ made known.

God un - known, grace a - lone, calls my heart to be God's own.
 At God's hand does love stand; joy a - waits each new com - mand.
 Hear Christ's call, one and all; those who fol - low shall not fall.

British composer Herbert Howells studied with Charles V. Stanford at the Royal College of Music in London and later taught there. The tune was composed for an English school and was named for Howells' son who died in childhood.

Tune: MICHAEL 8.7.8.7.3.3.7.
 Herbert Howells, 1930, 1977

Music Copyright © 1930, renewed 1977 by Novello Music



The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, Mar. 22, Apr. 5, 19, and 26, and May 10, 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.*

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.*

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.*

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/.*



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, MARCH 28**, will be listed in the worship bulletin on Easter Sunday, March 31. (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 _____



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 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 • prayer@fcclleb.org • music@fcclleb.org • www.fcclleb.org