



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

PALM SUNDAY

March 24, 2024

God was executed by people painfully like us, in a society very similar to our own..., by a corrupt church, a timid politician, and a fickle proletariat led by professional agitators.

–Dorothy L. Sayers

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

Prelude *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*, BWV 736 Johann Sebastian Bach

Call to Worship Adapted from Psalm 118:1, 21-24

One: Give thanks to our God, whose love is without end!

All: We thank God that he is our salvation.

One: What the world deems worthless, God treasures.

All: We marvel at all that God does.

One: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

All: Let us give thanks to our God, whose love is without end!

Hymn 155 (p. 5) *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* St. Theodulph

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

Children's Moment

Today is Palm Sunday. Many of you will recall my making a palm cross with you in years past and offering to show you how this is done. But if you read this morning's lesson from Mark carefully, you'll see that people also waved branches and laid down coats when Jesus entered Jerusalem. Talk to a grown-up and get permission, but I'm sure you can find a branch, even a twig, or pull a coat out of the closet to show you are welcoming Jesus. After all, he isn't looking for a palm frond, but your heart.

Hymn 195 (p. 6) *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

Coronation

Scripture Lesson

Mark 11:1-11. When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Sermon *"Don't Try This at Home"*

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 197 (p. 7) *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

Ellacombe

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

God Almighty, Eternal King, we celebrate your reign, and on this day we join the people of Jerusalem who sang their hosannas in your honor. We, too, would like to show our reverence, but we are cautious. We hesitate, because we worry what others will say. We fear, because we know there is a price for being your disciples. And we are gripped by

trepidation, because we know how those crowds of long ago turned on you and called for your blood—we do not want to do as they did. Give us strength to deny temptation, to resist the urge to go with the crowd and parrot conventional wisdom, to stand by your side and follow your Way.

We pray this, and 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 *How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place* Johannes Brahms

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, as we rejoice in the coming of Jesus, our King, we acknowledge that your way is not what is all too often the way of the world. Rather than hoard, you share; rather than oppress, you serve; rather than hurt, you heal. As a sign of our desire and commitment to be disciples, we present this morning's offering. In the name of your Son, Amen.

Hymn 176 (p. 8) *Ride on, Ride on in Majesty!* The King's Majesty

Responsive Prayer on Christ's Passion

One: Our Redeemer entered Jerusalem to the cheers of the crowd, only to be abandoned and betrayed. He suffered death, was buried, and rose again for our sake. With love let us adore him, aware of our needs. Christ our teacher, for us you were obedient, even to death.

All: Teach us to obey God's will in all things.

One: Christ our life, by dying on the cross you destroyed the power of evil and death:

All: Enable us to die with you, and to rise with you in glory.

One: Christ our strength, you were despised and humiliated as a condemned criminal:

All: Teach us the humility by which you saved the world.

One: Christ our salvation, you gave your life out of love for us:

All: Help us to love one another.

One: Christ our Savior, on the cross you embraced all time with your outstretched arms:

All: Gather all the scattered children of God into your realm.

One: Jesus, Lamb of God,

All: Have mercy on us.

One: Jesus, bearer of our sins,

All: Have mercy on us.

One: Jesus, redeemer of the world,

All: Grant us peace.

One: Eternal God, as we are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ, so give us the grace of repentance, that we may pass through the grave with him and be born again to eternal life. For he is the One who was crucified, dead, and buried, the One who rose again for us: Jesus our Savior. Amen.

Benediction

Postlude

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Alexandre Guilmant

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Jon Scott, Liturgist

Bob Ross and Deb Scott, Ushers • Stacey Steele, 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 * † *

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*)

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Theodulph of Orleans, c.760-c.821
Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

ST. THEODULPH 7.6.7.6.D.
Melody by Melchior Teschner, 1584-1635

1 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To thee, Re - deem - er, King,
 2 Thou art the King of Is - rael, Thou Da - vid's roy - al son,
 3 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; Ac - cept the prayers we bring,

To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring!
 Who in the Lord's name com - est, The King and bless - ed One;
 Who in all good de - light - est, Thou good and gra - cious King.

The peo - ple of the He - brews With palms be - fore thee went;
 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, They sang their hymns of praise;
 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To thee, Re - deem - er, King,

Our praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 To thee, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.
 To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho-san-nas ring! A - men.

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

First Tune

Edward Perronet, 1726-1792
 Alt. by John Rippon, 1751-1836

CORONATION C.M.
 Oliver Holden, 1765-1844

1 All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
 2 Crown him, ye mar - tyrs of our God, Who from his al - tar call;
 3 Ye seed of Is - ra - el's chosen race, Ye ran - somed of the fall,
 4 Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe, On this ter - res - trial ball,
 5 O that, with yon - der sa - cred throng, We at his feet may fall;

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, And crown him Lord of all.
 Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod, And crown him Lord of all.
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, And crown him Lord of all.
 To him all maj - es - ty as - crite, And crown him Lord of all.
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, And crown him Lord of all.

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, And crown him Lord of all.
 Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod, And crown him Lord of all.
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, And crown him Lord of all.
 To him all maj - es - ty as - crite; And crown him Lord of all.
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, And crown him Lord of all. A - men

Lenten Lunch Bag Offering—Collection This Week!

Palm Sunday is traditionally our collection date for the Children's Community Corner's Lunch Bag Offering. You may drop your bags in the plate, or bring/mail them to the church office this week. The total will be split between WISE of the Upper Valley and Epilogos Charities.

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

197 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna



1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil-dren sang;
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed 'mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an-cient song we sing,

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the joy - ful an - them rang.
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant-ing clear and loud;
 for Christ is our Re - deem - er; the Lord of heaven, our King.

To Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to his breast,
 the Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,
 O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
 nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid-ding wait.
 and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice.

The opening two stanzas narrate the first Palm Sunday in the past tense, but the third stanza shifts to the present tense to emphasize what current singers do and believe. The repeated elements in this anonymous German tune suggest the repetitive patterns in a crowd's chant.

TEXT: Jennette Threlfall, 1873, alt.

MUSIC: *Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Wirtembergischen Katholischen Hofkapelle*, 1784; alt.

ELLACOMBE

7.6.7.6.D

Hymns used and reproduced under license 734395-A from OneLicense, 4/13/2023-4/12/2024.

Ride on, Ride on in Majesty!

Second Tune

Henry H. Milman, 1791-1868, alt.

THE KING'S MAJESTY L.M.

Graham George, 1912-

1 Ride on, ride on in ma - - jes - ty! Hark! all the
 2 Ride on, ride on in ma - - jes - ty! In low - ly
 3 Ride on, ride on in ma - - jes - ty! The wing - ed

tribes ho - san - na cry; Thy hum - ble beast pur - sues his
 pomp ride on to die; O Christ, thy tri - umphs now be -
 squad - rons of the sky Look down with sad and won - dering

road With palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.
 gin O'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
 eyes To see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice. A - men.

4 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
 Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;
 Bow thy meek head to mortal pain,
 Then take, O Christ, thy power, and reign.

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.)



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/.*

Register Now for Classicopia's Music Camp at FCC/UVMC!—August 5-10, 9a-3p Daily

This immersive program offers instrumental and vocal instruction to students aged 8-18, with outstanding faculty and guest artists. *More details and registration at classicopia.org/summer-camp/.*

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!



The Easter Lily Fund TO BENEFIT THE OPEN DOOR MINISTRY

If you'd like to honor or remember loved ones with a modest contribution to our **Open Door Ministry** (\$5 minimum, payable to FCC, memo "Open Door Lily Fund") please contact the church office. All dedications received by noon on **Thursday, March 28**, will be listed in the worship bulletin on Easter Sunday, March 31. *(Contributions are payable anytime after that date. Please note that we will **not** be purchasing flowers for each individual dedication.)*



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