

Anthem

Teach Me, O Lord, the Way of Thy Statutes

Thomas Attwood

Children's Moment

Hymn 101 (p. 5)

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

In Babilone

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 55:1-9. Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

⁶Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Luke 13:1-9. At that very time there were some present who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?" ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?" ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Sermon

"Who's to Blame?"

Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 792 (p. 5)

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Balm in Gilead

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.

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 Holy God, there is so much we would explain. Often, we assume motives for actions, confusing our ways with yours. But we must admit there are times when we are petty and short-sighted. And that, we know, is not your way. This Lent is an opportunity to admit that we that we have ascribed our errors, our shortcomings, our failings to you. For that we apologize.

We wish to do better, to be honest with you and with ourselves. Give us, we pray, the strength to renew our faith, and imbue us with the power of your Holy Spirit, to look to and accept your truth, this day and always.

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

O Lord, My God

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

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 Creation, inspired by your grace, humbled by this season of renewal, grateful for all that you have done, do, and will do through Jesus, we respond with this morning's offering. In our Savior's name we pray, Amen.

Hymn 649 (p. 5)

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

New Britain

Benediction

Postlude

Basse et Dessus de Trompette

Louis-Nicolas Clérambault

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor
Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Bob Ross, Liturgist
Deb and Jon Scott, 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.

If you would like to receive daily devotional reflections from Rev. Steve Silver during Lent, please contact the church office or email him directly at silver@fccleb.org.

* † * **HOLY WEEK IS APRIL 13-20** * † *

It's Time for the Lenten Lunch Bag Offering

Lent once again 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 (April 13) 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!

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.)

93

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

William Williams, 1717-1791
Tr. Peter Williams, 1727-1796, and others

CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.
John Hughes, 1873-1932

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, Pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, Whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might-y; Hold me with thy
stream doth flow; Let the fire and cloud-y pil - lar Lead me all my
fears sub - side; Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, Land me safe on

power - ful hand; Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
jour - ney through; Strong De - liv - erer, strong De - liv - erer,
Ca - naan's side; Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es,

Feed me till I want no more, Feed me till I want no more.
Be thou still my strength and shield, Be thou still my strength and shield.
I will ev - er give to thee, I will ev - er give to thee. A - mei.

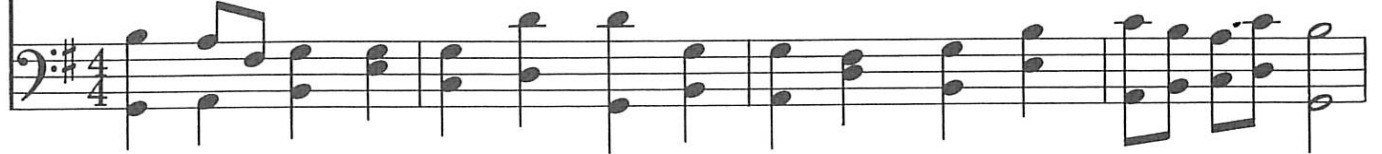
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

First Tune

Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863

IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.
Traditional Dutch Melody

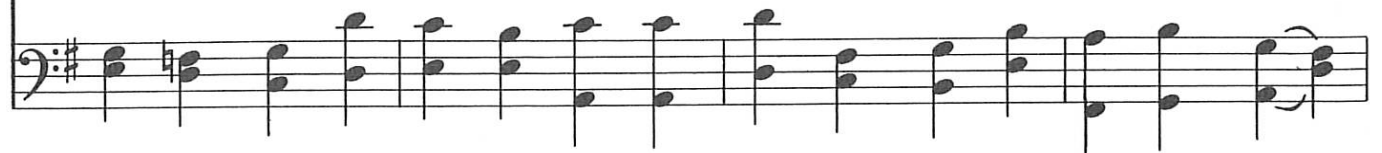
1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, Like the wide - ness of the sea;
 2 For the love of God is broad-er Than the meas - ure of man's mind;



There's a kind-ness in his jus - tice, Which is more than lib - er - ty.
 And the heart of the E - ter - nal Is most won - der - ful - ly kind.



There is no place where earth's sor-rows Are more felt than up in heaven;
 If our love were but more sim - ple, We should take him at his word;



There is no place where earth's fail-ings Have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
 And our lives would be all sun-shine In the sweet-ness of our Lord. A-men.



There Is a Balm in Gilead 792

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil - e - ad to make the wound - ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil - e - ad to heal the sin - sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged, and think my work's in vain, but
 2 Don't ev - er feel dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend, and
 3 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul, you can

then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain. There is a
 if you lack for knowl - edge, he'll not re - fuse to lend. There is a
 tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all." There is a

to Refrain

This African American spiritual offers a long-delayed answer to the prophet Jeremiah's question, "Is there no balm in Gilead?" (Jeremiah 8:22). No earthly remedy can compare with the healing that comes from a sense of God's presence; nothing else can heal "the sin-sick soul."

TEXT: African American spiritual
 MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1989, alt.
 Music Arr. © 1990 Melva Wilson Costen

BALM IN GILEAD
 7.6.7.6 with refrain

649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

As was his custom, the author wrote this hymn to accompany his sermon on 1 Chronicles 17:16–17, preached on January 1, 1773; he called it “Faith’s Review and Expectation.” Much of its current popularity comes from this now-familiar tune, an association that began in 1835.

TEXT: Stanzas 1–4, John Newton, 1772; stanza 5, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790; Navaho, Albert Tsoisie
 MUSIC: *Columbian Harmony*, 1829; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1910, alt.

AMAZING GRACE
 CM



The Anonymous Coffeeshouse—Fridays, Mar. 28, 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.*

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.*

Revels North Spring Sing with Andy Davis—Sunday, April 6, at 7:00 pm

Celebrate the arrival of spring with the Revels Spring Chorale and special guest Andy Davis of Nowell Sing We Clear. Their program will offer a magical blend of traditional and modern folk songs—with plenty of audience participation! *Slidingscale donation; tickets and more at revelsnorth.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. *Free-will 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.*



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