

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

Hosanna to the Son of David

Arthur Hutchings

Children's Moment

Let's look carefully at this morning's lesson from Luke, where we'll see that people laid down cloaks in the road when Jesus entered Jerusalem. But what about palms? None here. If you want palms, you'll need to consult the Gospel of John. So, does any of this matter? I'd say not, because it's not our fronds or coats that Jesus seeks; it's our hearts.

Hymn 175 (p. 6)

Ride on, Ride on in Majesty!

St. Drostan

Scripture Lesson

Luke 19:28-40. ²⁸After [Jesus] had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" ³²So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴They said, "The Lord needs it." ³⁵Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" ³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." ⁴⁰He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

Sermon

"Hail to the Chief?"

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.

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 God, each and every one of us seeks answers, and hope. Too often, we look to politicians or celebrities or other flawed humans to show us the way, even to save us. And we are inevitably disappointed. We know from Scripture, and from our own experience, that all humans have limitations—that no matter how gifted they are, they will come up short. Dear God, that does not mean we are all worthless. You have blessed us with gifts, each of us, and we pray that we will have the wisdom to recognize them and the confidence to use them, but also the humility to know that we can only do so much.

We pray that we will turn to you for inspiration and guidance, that we will not give in to cynicism and despair, and that we will place our trust in you as we seek to tackle our problems and deal with our challenges, this day and forevermore.

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

Ingrediente Domino

George Malcolm

"As our Lord entered the Holy City, all the Hebrew children were declaring the resurrection of life. With palm branches, they cried out, 'Hosanna in the highest.' When people heard that Jesus was coming into Jerusalem, they went forth to meet him. With palm branches, they cried out, 'Hosanna in the highest.'"

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 all too often not 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 160 (p. 8)

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

St. Christopher

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

Crucifixion

Spiritual, arr. John Payne

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Betsy Alexander, Alto

Bob Gerlach, Liturgist • Peter Parent and Dawn Troutman, Ushers • Linda Jacobs, Zoom

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.

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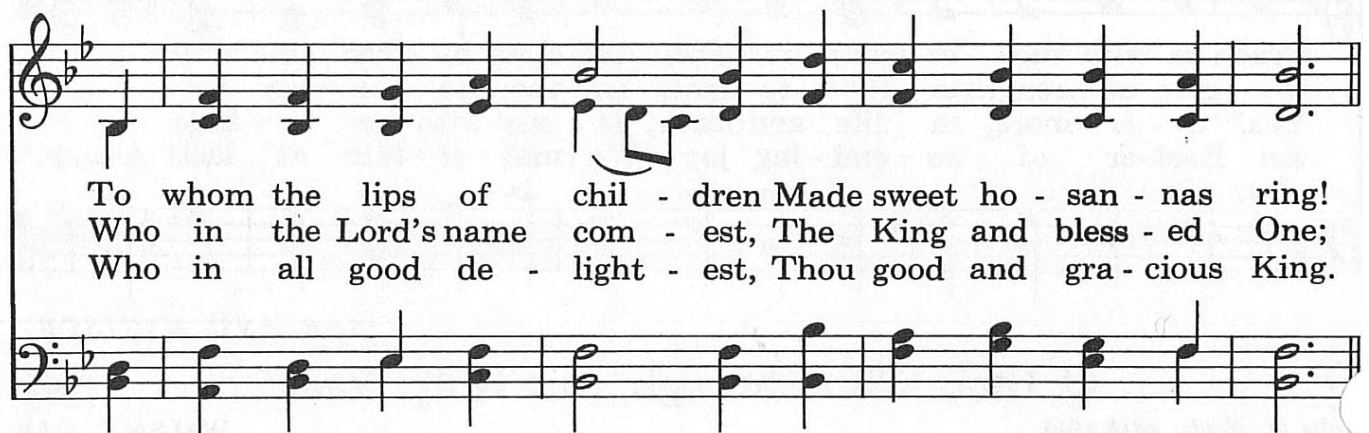
All Glory, Laud, and Honor

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

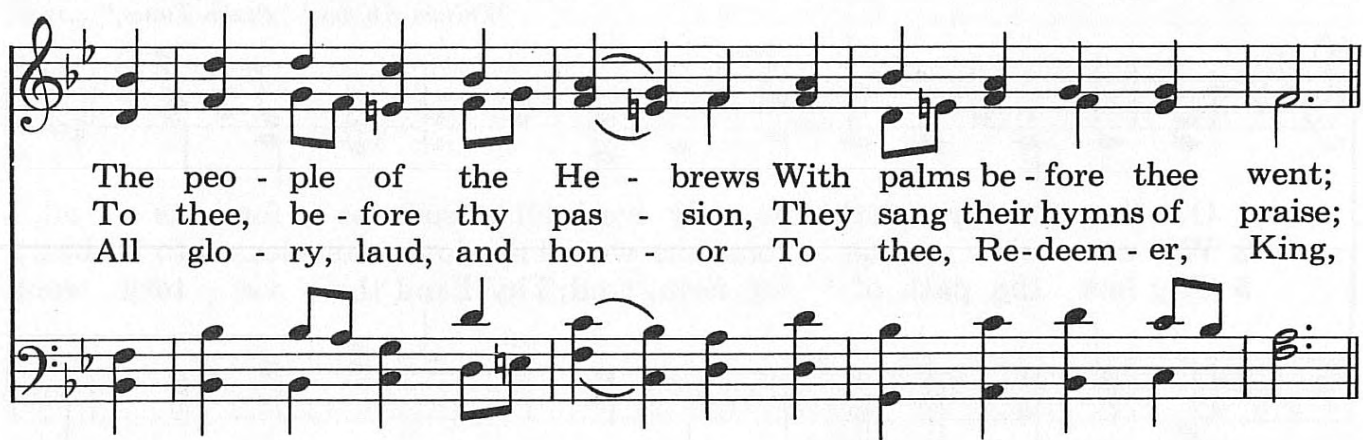
ST. THEODULPH 7.6.7.6.D.
Melody by Melchior Teschner, 1584-1635



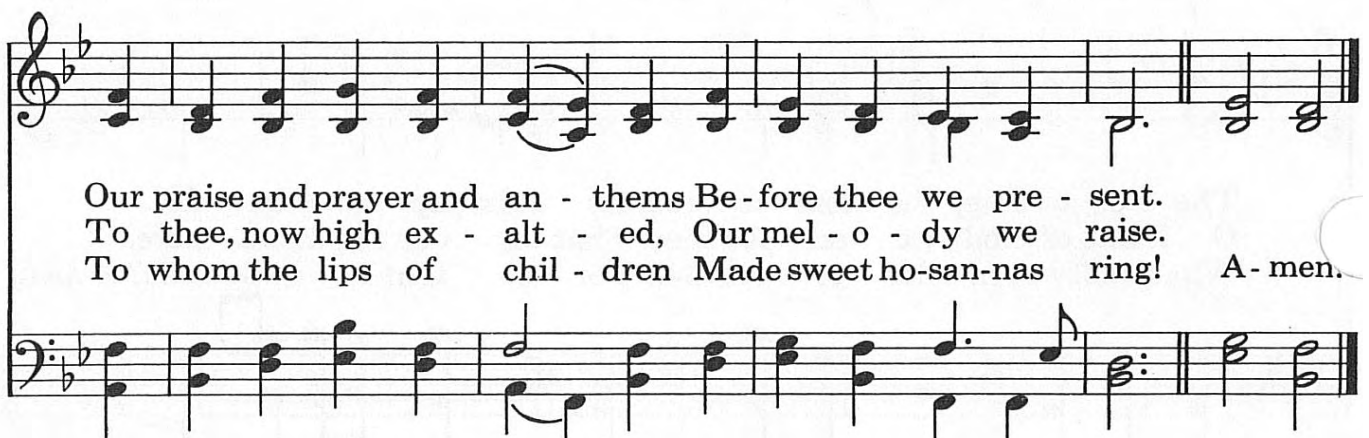
1 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To thee, Re - deem - er, King,
 2 Thou art the King of Is - rael, Thou Da - vid's roy - al son,
 3 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; Ac - cept the prayers we bring,



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.

175

Ride on, Ride on in Majesty!

First Tune

Henry H. Milman, 1791-1868, alt.

ST. DROSTANE L.M.

John Dykes, 1823-1876

1 Ride on, ride on in ma - jes - ty! Hark! all the tribes ho - san - na cry;
 2 Ride on, ride on in ma - jes - ty! In low - ly pomp ride on to die;
 3 Ride on, ride on in ma - jes - ty! The wing-ed squad-rons of the sky
 4 Ride on, ride on in ma - jes - ty! Thy last and fierc - est strife is nigh;

Thy hum - ble beast pur - sues his road With palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.
 O Christ, thy tri - umphs now be - gin O'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
 Look down with sad and won - dering eyes To see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
 Bow thy meek head to mor - tal pain, Then take, O Christ, thy power, and reign. A - men

* † * HOLY WEEK AT FCC * † *

Palm Sunday, April 13, 10:00 am—Worship Service: Liturgy of the Palms (Sanctuary/Zoom)
 4:00 pm—Franz Joseph Haydn, *The Seven Last Words of Christ* (Sanctuary)

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 7:00—Communion, Tenebrae, Stripping of the Altar (Sanctuary/Zoom)

Good Friday, April 18, 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, April 20, 6:00 am—Ecumenical Sunrise Service (Colburn Pk); Light Breakfast (FCC)
 10:00 am—Festival Worship Service (Sanctuary/Zoom)

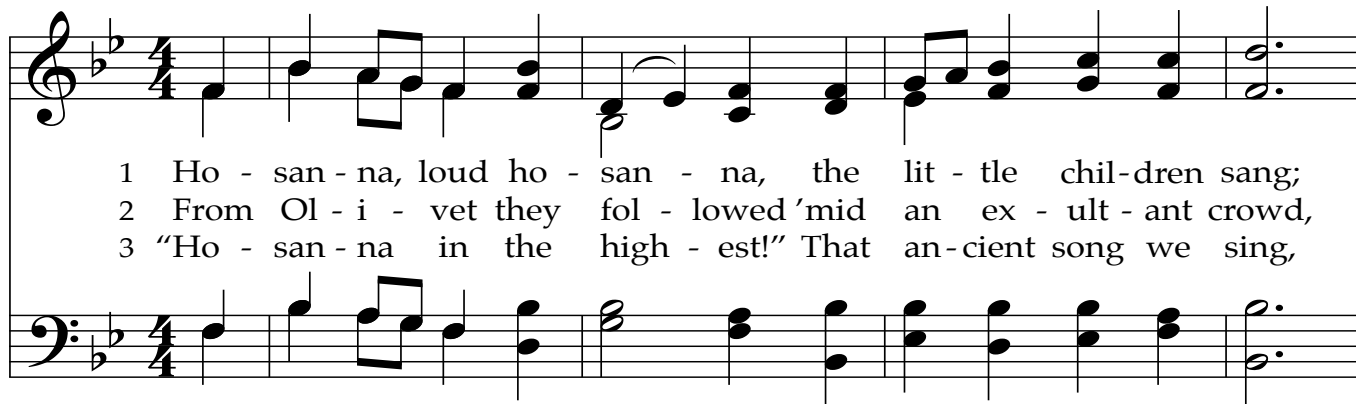
Be the Light: One Great Hour of Sharing UCC Mission Offering

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.

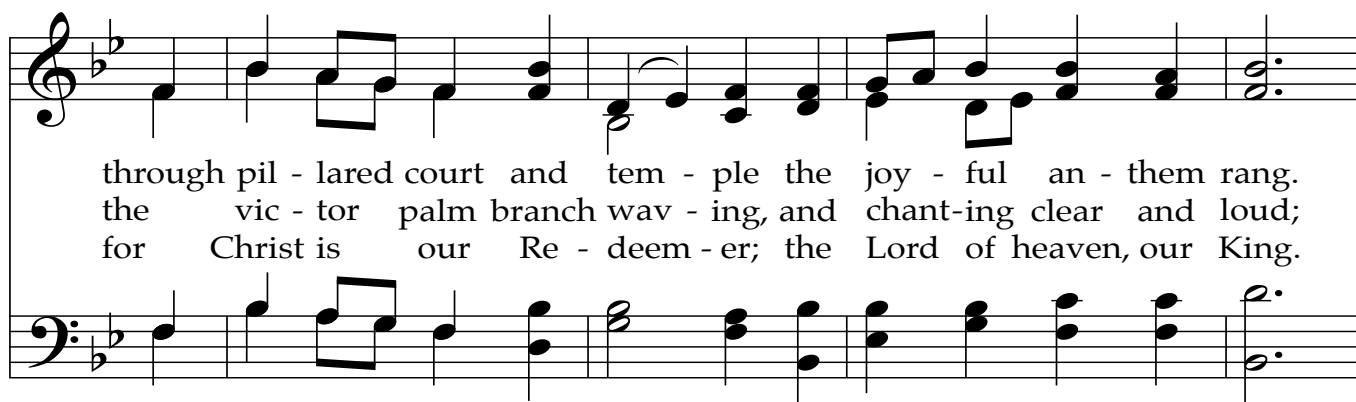
Please consider a contribution as you are able, and thank you for SHARING!

(Payable to FCC, with "OGHS" in the memo line. Contributions gratefully accepted until Easter.)

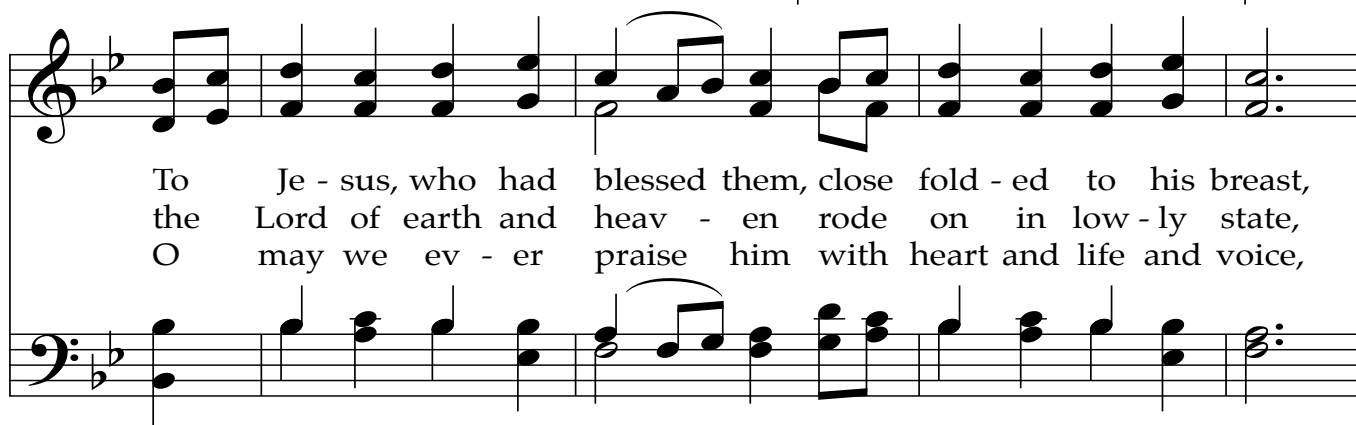
197 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna



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

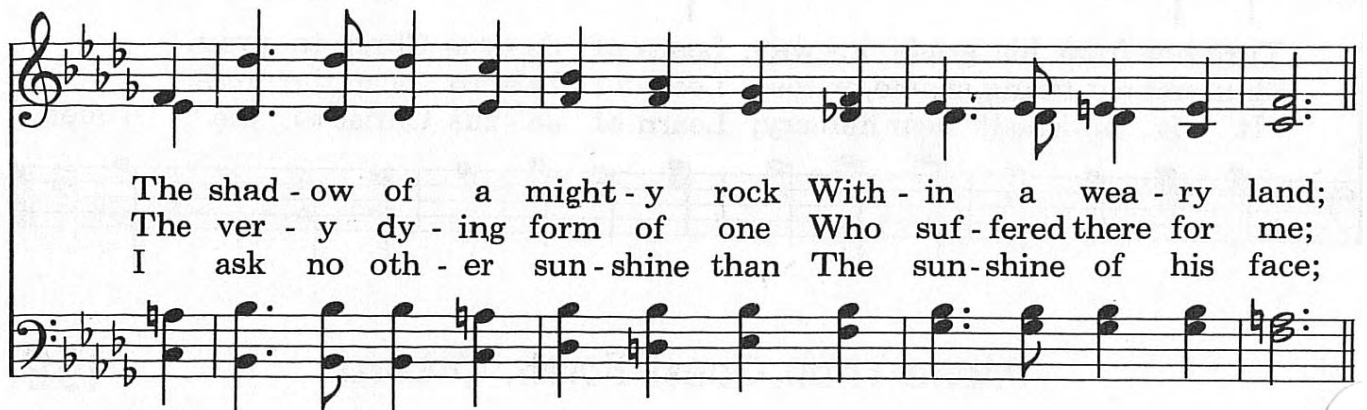
Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830-1869

ST. CHRISTOPHER 7.6.8.6.8.6.8.6.

Frederick C. Maker, 1844-1927

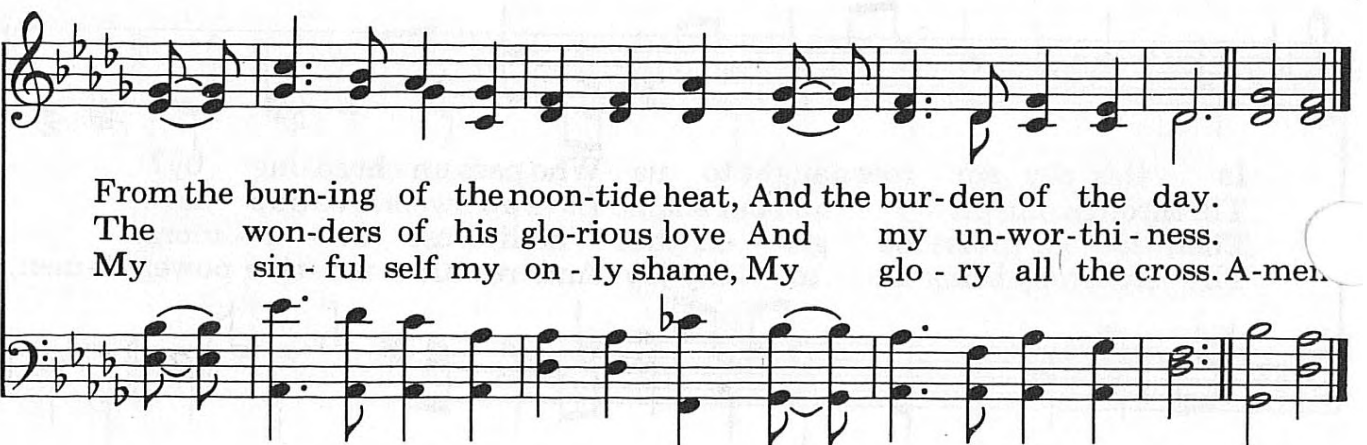

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I fain would take my - stand,
 2 Up - on that cross of Je - sus Mine eye at times can see
 3 I take, O cross, thy shad - ow For my a - bid - ing place;



The shad - ow of a might - y rock With - in a wea - ry land;
 The ver - y dy - ing form of one Who suf - fered there for me;
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than The sun - shine of his face;



A home with - in the wild - er - ness, A rest up - on the way,
 And from my smit - ten heart with tears Two won - ders I con - fess -
 Con - tent to let the world go by, To know no gain nor loss,



From the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, And the bur - den of the day.
 The won - ders of his glo - rious love And my un - wor - thi - ness.
 My sin - ful self my on - ly shame, My glo - ry all the cross. A - men.

Lenten Lunch Bag Offering—Collection This Week!

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



Music
at the
Meetinghouse

SPRING CONCERTS

All in the FCC Sanctuary

The Anonymous Coffeeshouse—Fridays, April 11, April 25, and May 9, all at 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.*

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 join a string quartet for Haydn's bracingly dramatic, sublimely poignant portrayal of Christ's final hours on the cross. *Freewill 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.*

Bel Canto Chamber Singers: On Beauty—Saturday, May 3, at 7:00 / Sunday, May 4, at 4:00

In music for choir, piano, strings, and percussion, Bel Canto responds to inhumanity with the beauty of nature and spirit. The program spans classical to contemporary, spirituals to folk and shape-note, with an array of poetic texts. *Admission by donation (\$15 suggested); more at belcantosingers.org.*

Cameo Baroque Benefit Concert: Handel and His Rivals—Saturday, May 10, at 7:00 pm

This superb ensemble explores the world of G. F. Handel, offering his music alongside pieces by John F. Lampe, Thomas Arne, and G. B. Bonocini, as well as selections from *The Beggar's Opera*. *Free-will donation to benefit Vermont Foodbank; more at vtfoodbank.org and cameoarts.org.*

Do Your Part to Fill the Cart!

Currently, we are collecting non-perishable food and personal-care items on behalf of:

THE UPPER VALLEY HAVEN

For a list of current and ongoing needs, please visit uppervalleyhaven.org/current-wish-lists/ or see the list that is attached to the shopping cart itself.



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, APRIL 17**, will be listed in the worship bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 20. (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 _____

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@fccleb.org • prayer@fccleb.org • music@fccleb.org • www.fccleb.org