



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

United Church of Christ – Open and Affirming

EASTER SUNDAY

April 20, 2025

Jesus' resurrection is the beginning of God's new project, not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about.

–N. T. Wright

Kindly silence cell phones and other devices during worship. All hymns are included on pages 4-7.

Prelude *Allegro, from Concerto in G (after Johann Ernst), BWV 592* J. S. Bach

Easter Proclamation

Christ Conquers! Christ Reigns! Christ Commands!

Hymn 182 (p. 4) *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* Easter Hymn

Call to Worship (*Unison*) Adapted from Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

One: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever.

All: Let Israel say, “His steadfast love endures forever.” The LORD is our strength and our might; he has become our salvation.

One: There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: “The right hand of the LORD does valiantly; the right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.”

All: We shall not die, but we shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.

One: The LORD has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.

All: Open to us the gates of righteousness, that we may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

One: This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

All: We thank you that you have answered us and have become our salvation.

One: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

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

Prayer of Invocation

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 *The Easter Song of Praise* Richard Shephard

Children's Moment

Hymn 188 (p. 5) *Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day* Puer Nobis Nascitur

Scripture Lesson

Luke 24:1-12. But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." ⁸Then they remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Sermon "See for Yourself" Stephen R. Silver

Hymn 193 (p. 6) *Thine Is the Glory* Judas Maccabeus

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, Stacey, Juliet, Alicia, Terri, and Mike.

Almighty God, it is with gratitude and wonder that we thank you for this Easter. Help us, we pray, to make the most of the new life you have given us. Though we are uncertain of what tomorrow will bring, we can be sure of your presence, your power, your grace, and your love. We can be sure of the great thing that happened some 2,000 years ago: the resurrection of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. In him and through him, the light overcame the darkness, despair yielded to hope, and life conquered death. We confess these things knowing that sometimes it is hard for us to live as Easter People; still, you love us, each of us and all of us. For this we give you thanks and praise, saying Alleluia! Christ the Lord is risen today!

We offer these prayers, with all the joys and concerns we hold in our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ, 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 *This Joyful Eastertide* Dutch, arr. Philip Ledger

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*)

God of resurrection hope, on this day of joyful celebration we present to you this offering, inspired by the wondrous gift of new life you have shared with us in our risen Lord. We are confident that our gifts will contribute to the building of your Kingdom of love and grace. In Jesus' name we pray, Alleluia, Alleluia, Amen!

Hymn 187 (p. 7) *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* Llanfair

Benediction

Postlude *Toccata in G* Théodore Dubois

ALLELUIA! HE IS RISEN! HAPPY EASTER TO ALL!

* * *

Leading Worship This Week

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organ/Piano • The FCC Choir • Jon Scott, Liturgist
Linda Gerlach and Phil Hammond, Ushers • Bob Gerlach, 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.

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

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Charles Wesley, 1707-1788 alt.

EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with Alleluias
Arr. from "Lyra Davidica," 1708

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day,
2 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King,
3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - - le - lu - ia!
4 Soar we now where Christ has led,
5 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!

Sons of men and an - gels say:
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - - le - lu - ia!
Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head,
Praise to thee by both be given,

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,
Dy - ing once, he all doth save,
Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - - le - lu - ia!
Made like him, like him we rise,
Thee we greet tri - um - phant now,

Sing, ye heavens, and earth re - ply:
Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave?
Christ has o - pened Par - a - dise, Al - - le - lu - ia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies,
Hail, the Res - ur - rec - tion thou! A-men.

A descant may be found at No. 10

Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day

188

Latin: 5th century?

Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR L.M.

Adapted by Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

Harm. by George R. Woodward, 1848-1934

1 Joy dawns a - gain on East - er Day, The sun shone
2 O Je - sus, King of gen - tle - ness, Do thou thy -
3 O Lord of all, with us a - bide In this our

out with fair ar - ray, When to their long - ing eyes re -
self our hearts pos - sess That we may give thee all our
joy - ful East - er - tide; From ev - ery wea - pon death can

stored, The A - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord.
days The will - ing trib - ute of our praise.
wield Thine own re - deemed for ev - er shield. A - men.

Thine Is the Glory

Edmond L. Budry, 1854-1932
Tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939

JUDAS MACCABEUS 5.5.6.5.6.5.6.5. with Refrain
Georg F. Handel, 1685-1759

1 Thine is the glo - ry, Ris - en, con-que-ri-son; End - less is the
2 Lo! Je - sus meets thee, Ris - en from the tomb; Lov - ing - ly he
3 No more we doubt thee, Glo - rious Prince of life! Life is nought with-

vic - tory Thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment
greet thee, Scat - ters fear and gloom; Let his church with glad - ness
out thee; Aid us in our strife; Make us more than con-que-ri-son,

Rolled the stone a way, Kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
Hymns of tri - umph sing, For her Lord now liv - eth;
Through thy death - less love; Bring us safe through Jor - dan

REFRAIN

Where thy bod - y lay.
Death hath lost its sting. Thine is the glo - ry, Ris - en, con-que-ri-son.
To thy home a - bove.

End - less is the vic - tory Thou o'er death hast won. A - men.

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Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Latin: 14th century
 English translation, "New Version," 1698
 Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, St. 4

LLANFAIR 7.7.7.7. with Alleluias
 Melody by Robert Williams, c.1781-1821
 Harm. by John Roberts, 1822-1877

1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day,
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing: Al - - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured,
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove:

Our tri - umph - ant ho - ly day,
 Un - to Christ, our heav - en - ly King, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured,
 Praise e - ter - nal as his love,

Who did once up - on the cross,
 Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Now a - bove the sky he's King,
 Praise him, all ye heav - en - ly host,

In unison
 Suf - fer to re - deem our loss.
 Sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Where the an - gels ev - er sing:
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.



The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, 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.*

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.*

Last Call! — Lenten Lunch Bag Offering / One Great Hour of Sharing

If you've collected donations throughout Lent for the Children's Community Corner Lunch Bag Offering, or you wish to make a one-time gift either to that or to the One Great Hour of Sharing special mission offering, please drop them in the plate on Easter Sunday (or contact the office).

Many thanks to all those who have contributed to these vital stewardship efforts!

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.



ALLELUIA! HE IS RISEN! HAPPY EASTER!

We are grateful to all who offered contributions to our OPEN DOOR MINISTRY for community assistance, in loving honor or memory of those listed below.

IN HONOR OF...

My great-granddaughter Hayden (born April 16, my first great-grandchild!)—*Ron Bailey*

DeAnn Clancy—*Amy, Brian, Katie, and Grace*

Our wonderful families—*Marcia Corkins and Pete Mason*

Bethany and Duncan Hilton—*Karen and George Hilton*

Terri Reese, Ike's aunt; Betty Adams, Ike's mom; Carey and Craig Jacobs, our children; Heidi Preston, our "adopted" daughter; and Ginny Bennett and Lola Baldwin, dear friends—*Linda and Ike Jacobs*

My mother, Suzette Ragan—*Valerie Nevel*

Grandma Phyllis, Grandma Kathy, and Grandpa Ron—*Deb and Jon Scott*

Mother and grandmother Juliet, and the wonderful FCC-Lebanon congregation—*Dominic and Stacey*

My family—*Dawn Troutman*

My friend Caroline—*Susan Weeks*

IN MEMORY OF...

Mike and Susie Jenkins, founders of Epilogos—*Ron Bailey*

Times and people from the past, but hopeful for peace in the future—*Kathy and Warren Belding*

Lloyd Bennett—*Ginny Bennett*

Joseph Bowse—*Betsy Bowse*

Bill Driscoll III, Sandy Zickler Driscoll, and Maury Clancy—*Amy, Brian, DeAnn, Katie, and Grace*

Jean Gerlach, Izetta and Ted Hopkins, and Elsa and Ben Hopkins—*Linda and Bob Gerlach*

Laura and Gordon Place—*Sue and Ken Gould and Family*

Gloria P. Hammond, E. Ruth Hammond, Ralph F. Hammond, Larry P. Hammond,

Emily Maloon Pike, Earl Pike—*Philip Hammond*

Barbara and Maurice Sumner, Linda's parents; Raymond Adams, Ike's dad; Ruby Sumner, Linda's Gram; Betty Sumner King, Linda's aunt; Helen Smith, the Places, and the Howards—*Linda and Ike Jacobs*

Willmott "Bin" Lewis—*Barbara Jones*

My friend Millie Hubbard—*Valerie Nevel*

Helen and Alfred Walling—*Susan Pratt*

Grandma Aya, Aunt Jeanie, Grandpa Ken, Grandpa Jim, and Grandpa Roger—*Deb and Jon Scott*

Ruth and S. F. Silver, Jo Ann Smith, and all of our loved ones—*Rachel, Steve, and Chip Silver*

(Great)Grandpa Hezekiah, (Great)Grandma Gladys, Grandpa Keith, Uncle Noel, and Aunts Dor,

Sonia, Heather, and Dulcey—*Dominic and Stacey*

Dear departed friends and family—*Dawn Troutman*



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

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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