

# Staying Connected

## The First Baptist Church of Lebanon

It is our desire to be a worshiping, life-long learning people of Jesus, caring for each other, the community around us and the world beyond us.



## Online Church Services

Join for a live service through Facebook on Palm Sunday, April 5. We will begin at 9:45 am with social time. During this time we will be able to share a warm welcome with each other through the chat portion on the live video. At 10 am Pastor Tom will begin the worship service.

To view the service live please go to [www.facebook.com/1stBaptistLebanon](https://www.facebook.com/1stBaptistLebanon). You may need to refresh this link every couple of minutes until you see the live video begin.

After the service the video will be available on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_xyBhBBoS47UB0jsyK8pwg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_xyBhBBoS47UB0jsyK8pwg). You will also be able to find it at our church website - [www.firstbaptistchurchlebanonct.org/video-archive](http://www.firstbaptistchurchlebanonct.org/video-archive). If you missed last week's service or would like to rewatch it, you can find the recordings in each of these locations



## The First Baptist Church of Lebanon

[1stbaptistlebanon@gmail.com](mailto:1stbaptistlebanon@gmail.com)

860.642.7975

[www.firstbaptistchurchoflebanon.org](http://www.firstbaptistchurchoflebanon.org)

**Reverend Thomas Cowger, Pastor** - 860.617.3243, [tcowger37@gmail.com](mailto:tcowger37@gmail.com)

# Holy Week Services

**Palm Sunday - April 5 - 10 am - We will have communion. Have bread and cup ready to share together.**

**Maundy Thursday - April 9 - 7 pm - “Steps to The Cross” A service with communion (have bread and cup ready), scripture, songs and prayer.**

**Good Friday - April 10 - 3 pm - “Jesus: Praying on the Cross”**

**Easter Sunday - Sunrise - April 12 - 6 am - A pre-recorded service with the Congregational Church**

**Easter Sunday - April 12 - 10 am - Celebrate the presence of Risen Christ!**

Each service (aside from the Sunrise Easter Service) will be held live by Pastor Tom and Debbie, with 15 minutes of social time live before the service begins. To view them live please go to [www.facebook.com/1stBaptistLebanon](https://www.facebook.com/1stBaptistLebanon) and then scroll down. You may need to refresh this link every couple of minutes until you see the live video begin.

After the service the video will be available on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_xyBhBBoS47UB0jsyK8pwg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_xyBhBBoS47UB0jsyK8pwg).

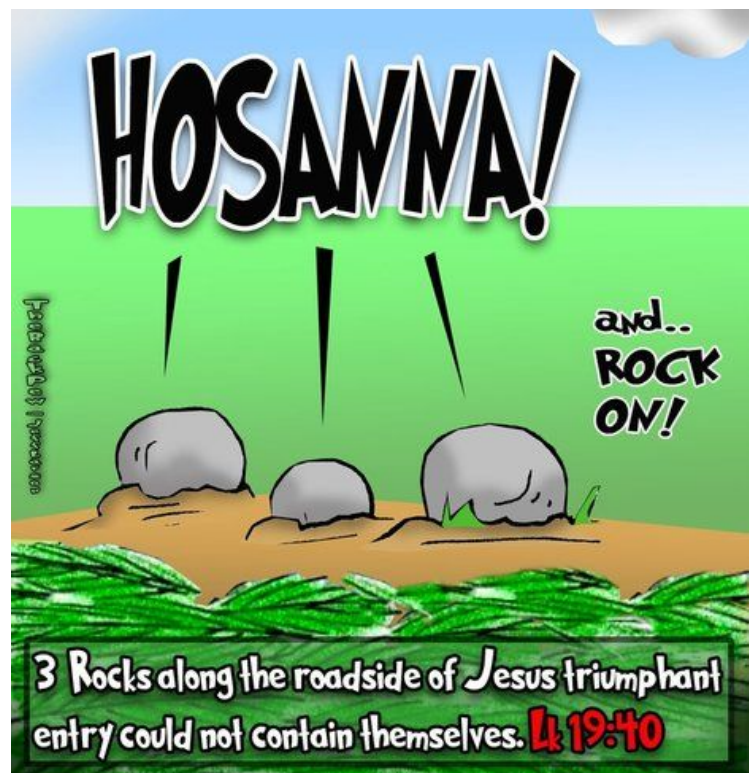
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## “Palm Sunday”

a sonnet by Malcom Guite

Now to the gate of my Jerusalem,  
The seething holy city of my heart,  
The Saviour comes. But will I welcome him?  
Oh crowds of easy feelings make a start;  
They raise their hands, get caught up in the singing,  
And think the battle won. Too soon they’ll find  
The challenge, the reversal he is bringing  
Changes their tune. I know what lies behind  
The surface flourish that so quickly fades;  
Self-interest, and fearful guardedness,  
The hardness of the heart, its barricades,  
And at the core, the dreadful emptiness  
Of a perverted temple. Jesus, come  
Break my resistance and make me your home.



# What is the Corona/ Covid-19 Virus Really Teaching us?

by Bill Gates

I'm a strong believer that there is a spiritual purpose behind everything that happens, whether that is what we perceive as being good or being bad. As I meditate upon this, I want to share with you what I feel the Corona/Covid-19 virus is really doing to us:

- 1.** It is reminding us that we are all equal, regardless of our culture, religion, occupation, financial situation or how famous we are. This disease treats us all equally, perhaps we should too. If you don't believe me, just ask Tom Hanks.
- 2.** It is reminding us that we are all connected and something that affects one person has an effect on another. It is reminding us that the false borders that we have put up have little value as this virus does not need a passport. It is reminding us, by oppressing us for a short time, of those in this world whose whole life is spent in oppression.
- 3.** It is reminding us of how precious our health is and how we have moved to neglect it through eating nutrient poor manufactured food and drinking water that is contaminated with chemicals upon chemicals. If we don't look after our health, we will, of course, get sick.
- 4.** It is reminding us of the shortness of life and of what is most important for us to do, which is to help each other, especially those who are old or sick. Our purpose is not to buy toilet roll.
- 5.** It is reminding us of how materialistic our society has become and how, when in times of difficulty, we remember that it's the essentials that we need (food, water, medicine) as opposed to the luxuries that we sometimes unnecessarily give value to.
- 6.** It is reminding us of how important our family and home life is and how much we have neglected this. It is forcing us back into our houses so we can rebuild them into our home and to strengthen our family unit.
- 7.** It is reminding us that our true work is not our job, that is what we do, not what we were created to do. Our true work is to look after each other, to protect each other and to be of benefit to one another.
- 8.** It is reminding us to keep our egos in check. It is reminding us that no matter how great we think we are or how great others think we are, a virus can bring our world to a standstill.
- 9.** It is reminding us that the power of freewill is in our hands. We can choose to cooperate and help each other, to share, to give, to help and to support each other or we can choose to be selfish, to hoard, to look after only our self. Indeed, it is difficulties that bring out our true colors.
- 10.** It is reminding us that we can be patient, or we can panic. We can either understand that this type of situation has happened many times before in history and will pass, or we can panic and see it as the end of the world and, consequently, cause ourselves more harm than good.
- 11.** It is reminding us that this can either be an end or a new beginning. This can be a time of reflection and understanding, where we learn from our mistakes, or it can be the start of a cycle which will continue until we finally learn the lesson we are meant to.
- 12.** It is reminding us that this Earth is sick. It is reminding us that we need to look at the rate of deforestation just as urgently as we look at the speed at which toilet rolls are disappearing off of shelves. We are sick because our home is sick.
- 13.** It is reminding us that after every difficulty, there is always ease. Life is cyclical, and this is just a phase in this great cycle. We do not need to panic; this too shall pass.
- 14.** Whereas many see the Corona/ Covid-19 virus as a great disaster, I prefer to see it as a \*great corrector\* It is sent to remind us of the important lessons that we seem to have forgotten and it is up to us if we will learn them or not.

# Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Cupboard is closed until further notice. This closure will protect the health of the volunteers and those who use the Cupboard. We continue to be in contact and assist all individuals that frequently rely on NHN Cupboard to supplement their groceries. Please call 860-208-9963 with questions.

We will need your help in the future. Thank you.

## Town of Lebanon Social Services

Town of Lebanon Social Services has set up emergency services for food for residents in need. If you are in need contact Shelly Ashcom, Social Services Director - (860) 642-4580, [sashcom@lebanonct.gov](mailto:sashcom@lebanonct.gov). All intake and appointments need to be scheduled for food through her office. Darcy at the Senior Center is monitoring our older adult population in case they need a delivery or medicine. Social Services will pack items. Those who are able to pick up their items will do so by appointment only. Pickups are at the Community Center with the box picked up outside, to limit contact. We will accommodate those who need delivery. We are accepting donations of non-expired non-perishables by appointment only and only from the churches. Overflow perishable items are being stored at the Fire Safety Complex.

## Support for those in need

The No Freeze Hospitality Shelter has closed. Those folks are now living outside. The food situation is also critical as some of them are too far from the Soup Kitchen and the Baptist church to walk for a meal.

If you have any of the following items at home already and would be willing to donate them, it would be very helpful.

- Blankets - New or used and clean is great
- Tarps (especially 8/10 size)
- Rope to tie tarps into shelters
- Water & food - individually packaged & non perishable such as lunchable tuna, single serving peanut butter and crackers, fruit, granola bars etc. (food that is nourishing and high calorie is ideal.)
- Disinfectant Wipes

Please bring them to the First Baptist Church in Willimantic or to our church and let the Hahn family know.

- Maggie 860-208-7463 [mhahn4341@charter.net](mailto:mhahn4341@charter.net), John 860-208-7746 [jfhondo@yahoo.com](mailto:jfhondo@yahoo.com) . THANK YOU!

## Support for Animals

The Lebanon Senior Center is having a pet food drive to help ensure that no one has to give up their pets if they find themselves unemployed or struggling.

If you would like to purchase items to support this cause, please order online and have it delivered to The Lebanon Senior Center at 37R West Town St. Lebanon, CT 06249. If you have extra pet food at your home that you can share please feel free to drop them off. Donations can be dropped off at the Lebanon Senior Center Monday through Friday from 10 am to 2 pm.

Anyone in need of pet food for their animals should call 860-642-3040.

# “Trust In You”

By Lauren Daigle

[Click here to watch a video of this song](#)

Letting go of every single dream  
I lay each one down at Your feet  
Every moment of my wandering  
Never changes what You see

I've tried to win this war I confess  
My hands are weary I need Your rest  
Mighty Warrior, King of the fight  
No matter what I face, You're by my side

When You don't move the mountains I'm needing You to move  
When You don't part the waters I wish I could walk through  
When You don't give the answers as I cry out to You  
I will trust, I will trust, I will trust in You!

Truth is, You know what tomorrow brings  
There's not a day ahead You have not seen  
So, in all things be my life and breath  
I want what You want Lord and nothing less

When You don't move the mountains I'm needing You to move  
When You don't part the waters I wish I could walk through  
When You don't give the answers as I cry out to You  
I will trust, I will trust, I will trust in You!

I will trust in You!  
You are my strength and comfort  
You are my steady hand  
You are my firm foundation; the rock on which I stand

Your ways are always higher  
Your plans are always good  
There's not a place where I'll go  
You've not already stood

When You don't move the mountains I'm needing You to move  
When You don't part the waters I wish I could walk through  
When You don't give the answers as I cry out to You  
I will trust, I will trust, I will trust in You!

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