



Confirmation 2020

Morning Worship

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Rite of Confirmation

September 20, 2020

10:00 AM

*If it is comfortable for you to do so, please stand

APPROACH TO GOD

Let us keep silence as we prepare for worship.

TOWER CHIMES

Jim Stone

MEDITATION

“My grace is sufficient for you.”

2 Corinthians 12:9

PRELUDE

Nine Pieces for Organ

G. Young
(1919 – 1998)

- i. Chant
- iii. Chanson
- iv. Introitus

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather in God's holy presence,

People: In the midst of the One who inscribes grace on our hearts.

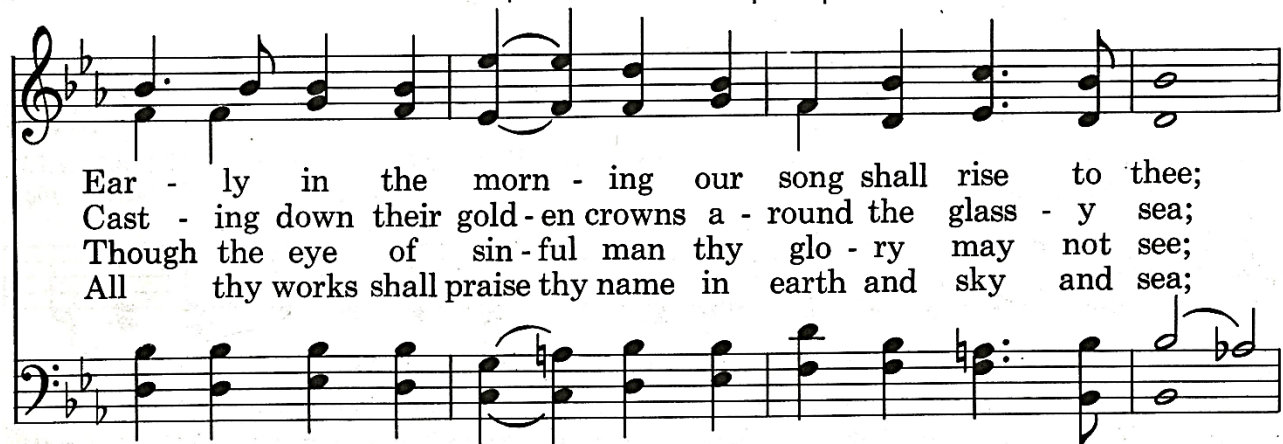
Leader: This is the place where God transforms us into disciples.

People: We glorify our God, who yearns for justice, not just for a favored few,
but for the least of our world.

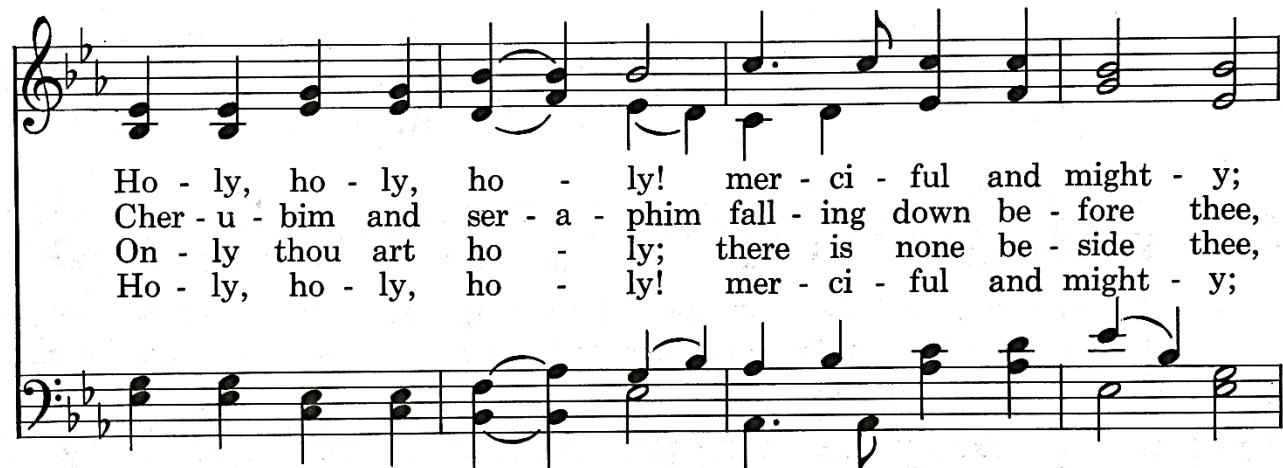
Leader: This is the place where God writes the Word on our souls and
breathes new life into us.



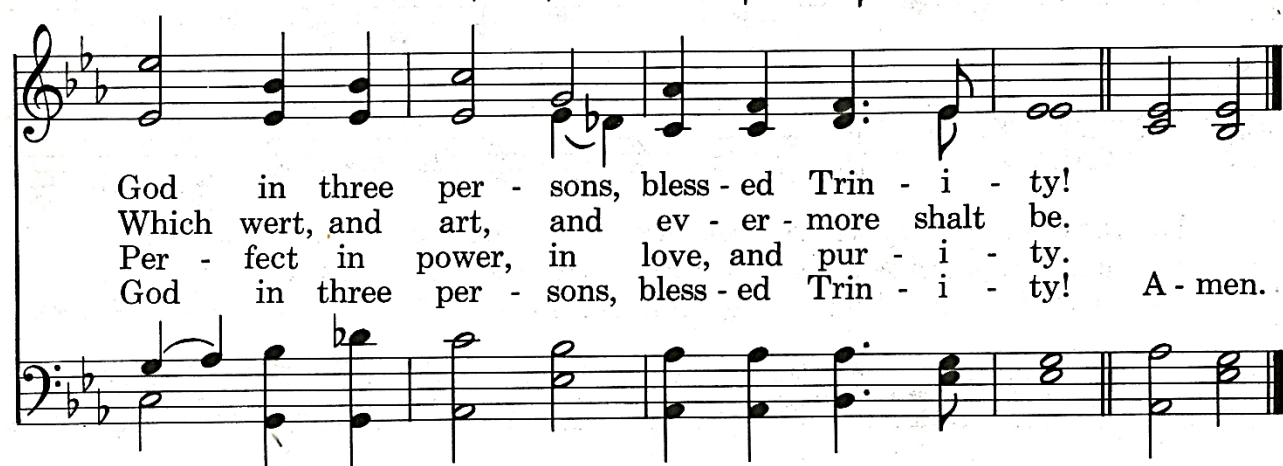
1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore thee,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark-ness hide thee,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee;
 Cast - ing down their gold-en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 Though the eye of sin-ful man thy glo - ry may not see;
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y;
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 On - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y;



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 Which wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 Per - fect in power, in love, and pur - i - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty! A - men.

***OPENING PRAYER** (Unison)

Gracious God, with the precious jewel of holy scripture, you share with us the treasure of your heart. Engrave your covenant--your hopes, your dreams, your vision, your peace--upon our hearts, that they might beat as one with yours. Holy Word, you keep us from wandering down the wrong paths; you make us persistent in bringing justice to the lost and to the least; you show us how not to misplace our hearts. Visit us by the mercies of Christ, who is the living Word, and fill our souls with light and truth. Amen.

***PRAISE**

Praise to the Lord

LOBE DEN HERREN

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen How thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

GREETINGS

SOLO

His Eye Is On the Sparrow

JOSEPH R. OLEFIROWICZ, baritone

C. H. Gabriel

(1856 – 1932)

arr. Alexander

RITE OF CONFIRMATION AND SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptism of Javari Ellison

Introduction of Confirmands and Mentors

Invitation and Scripture

Questions of the Confirmands

Confirmands' Prayer

Act of Confirmation and Presentation of Prayer Shawls

Prayer of Confirmation

Question of Owning the Covenant of The First Church

Words of Welcome by the Congregation

We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Prayer

Right Hand of Christian Fellowship

Benediction

THE CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2020

Confirmands

Madison Berry
Isabella Coppi
Madeline Dlubac
Taevy Downs
Javari Ellison
Anna Fauteux
Alexander Moore
Kelechi Okorie
Tess Prunier

Mentors

Laurel Lang
Steve Blunt
Shana Dodge
Jane Salgals
Heather Blondin
Stacey Plummer
Jay Darrin
Alison Dillman
Lynda Pearson

The Confirmation class of 2020 wishes to thank those who have supported them throughout this year's experience: their parents and mentors, the congregation and ministers, confirmation advisors Rev. Ken McGarry, Fred Daniels, Abby Adaszczik, and program coordinator Diane Matthes.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 16:2-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but" against the LORD. Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. The LORD spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat

meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.”“

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.


SERMON

“What’s Up with the What’s It?”


Rev. Ken McGarry

HYMN #101There's A Wideness In God's Mercy*


IN BABILONE




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.

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

***STATEMENT OF FAITH OF THE CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2020**

God is our Creator, the maker of the good world in which we live. God is our divine Parent, who is ever loving, caring, providing, nurturing, teaching, and wanting the best for us.

God came to us in Jesus, and through him offers us forgiveness and guidance in life.

God is always present with us in the Spirit and inspires, motivates, and strengthens us.

We trust in God and follow the teaching of Jesus to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

We gather as the church, and together we will worship God in song and prayer, support one another, spread God's love, practice kindness, act against injustice, and work to make God's world a better place. Amen.

PRAYER CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYERS and PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

OFFERTORY *Who Am I?*

J. M. Hall
(*1969)

***THE DOXOLOGY #515**

OLD HUNDRETH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host:

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

LITURGY OF FAREWELL TO REV. KEN MCGARRY

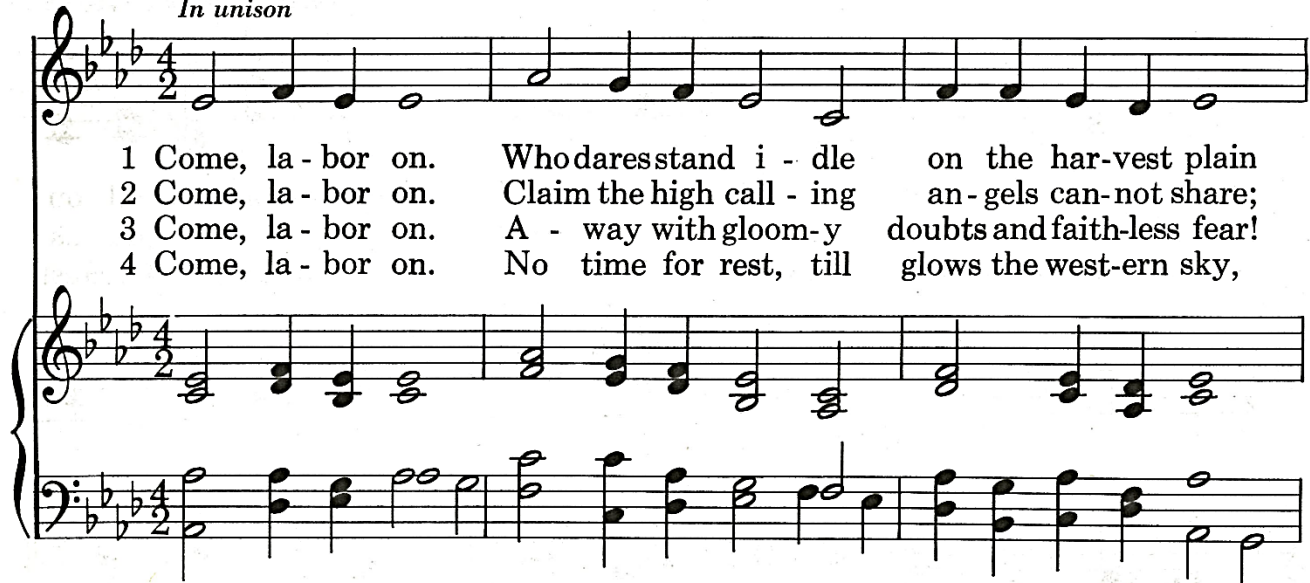
Recognition of the End of Ministry

We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

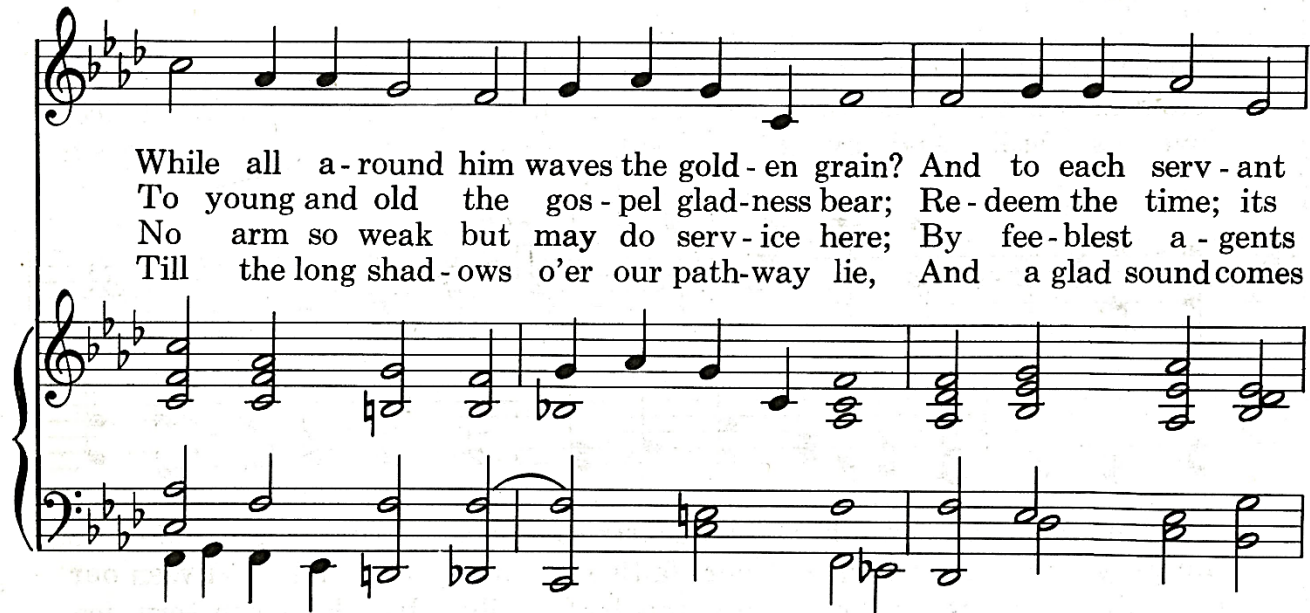
Vows of Release

Prayer

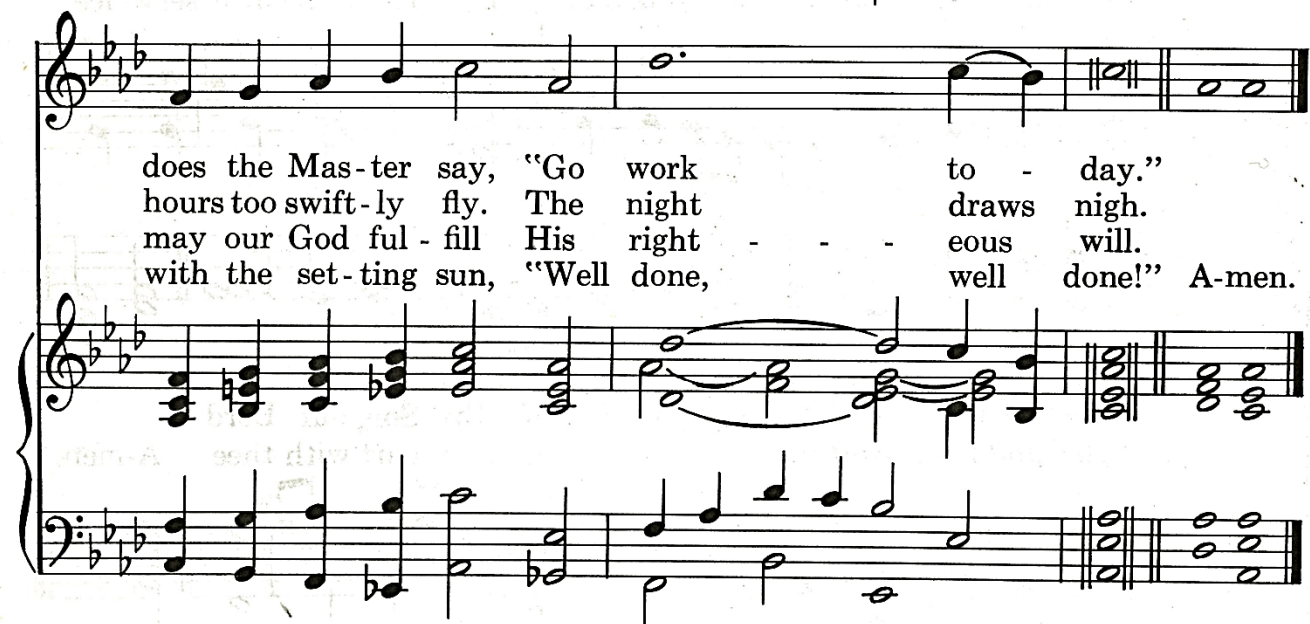
In unison



1 Come, la - bor on. Who dares stand i - dle on the har-vest plain
 2 Come, la - bor on. Claim the high call - ing an - gels can-not share;
 3 Come, la - bor on. A - way with gloom-y doubts and faith-less fear!
 4 Come, la - bor on. No time for rest, till glows the west-ern sky,



While all a-round him waves the gold - en grain? And to each serv - ant
 To young and old the gos - pel glad-ness bear; Re - deem the time; its
 No arm so weak but may do serv - ice here; By fee - blest a - gents
 Till the long shad - ows o'er our path-way lie, And a glad sound comes



does the Mas - ter say, "Go work to - day."
 hours too swift - ly fly. The night draws nigh.
 may our God ful - fill His right - eous will.
 with the set - ting sun, "Well done, well done!" A-men.

DISMISSAL

*Kindly be seated after the Benediction and remain seated for the Postlude.
After the Postlude, ushers will dismiss the congregation row by row.
We ask you to exit through the rear sanctuary door closest to your pew section.
Those in need of handicap accessibility are welcome to use the link and elevator.*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Komm, Gott Schöpfer, Heiliger Geist
Come, God Creator, Holy Ghost

G. Walther
(1684 – 1748)

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

Extend the right hand of Christian fellowship and greet those near you after the service. Members, see that visitors meet the Ministers.
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DEACON OF THE DAY: Erin Shannon

HYMNS: CCLI#3034682, Source: Pilgrim Hymnal

PLEASE USE THE VARIOUS CARDS IN THE PEW RACKS TO HELP KEEP THE
STAFF INFORMED OF YOUR PASTORAL NEEDS.

DVD RECORDINGS ARE MADE OF THE SERVICE AND
ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR BORROWING.

Have you remembered First Church in your will?

Sunday Worship

8:30 AM

Outdoor Worship in the Courtyard
Weather permitting through September 27

10:00 AM

Indoor Worship in the Sanctuary
Live and livestreaming
On air on WSMN AM 1590 and FM 95.3

COVID Protocol

Masks must Be worn at all times inside the building.

Social distancing practices are expected of the attendees for indoor worship. There are **set one-way entries and exits** available for indoor worship as follows:

- **ENTRY:** North side only, using the **Courtyard entrance** (*where elevator use is available*)
- **EXIT:** Post-worship, we will exit the sanctuary only through the (nearest) three sets of doors immediately off the Sanctuary. No exit crossing through Fellowship Hall or the link, with the exception of those who **need the elevator**.
- The Ushers and Deacons are available to assist you with seating and will answer any questions you have about protocol.
- There is **no childcare** or children's activities available in August.

Office and Building use

- The Church Office will remain closed through the month of September (available by phone and by appointment)
- The First Church remains closed to all outside group use through the month of December.
- In-Church small group use of the dining room available only through the church office.

Pastoral Care

Your ministers are available 24/7 to talk and pray with you as need arises.

- Rev. Andy: 978-844-2617 (mobile)
- Rev. Ken: 203-722-4901 (mobile)
- Rev. Jami: 603-325-0772 (mobile)

**Please refer to the church's website for all of our
COVID-19 updates and ministries: tfcucc.org**

Notes from the Chancel



Congregational song this morning, opens with the beloved hymn tune NICEA, a favorite across many denominations of the Christian Church since it was first published in 1826. Originally written for Trinity Sunday by Bishop Reginald Heber (1783 – 1826), this paraphrase of Revelation 4:8-11 first appeared in A Selection of Psalms and Hymns for the Parish Church of Banbury. John Bacchus Dykes (1823 – 1876) remains one of the Victorian era's most popular composers of hymn tunes, and set the tune NICEA to this hymn- decades after the text was penned- in 1861. The name of the hymn tune recalls the "city in Asia Minor where the famous church council, convened by Constantinople in 325 A.D., formulated the Nicene Creed in which the doctrine of the Trinity was defined." As a side note: most Congregational churches were teaching the "Trinitarian" concept of God during this period (Father, Son, Holy Ghost) while the Unitarian Church concentrated on God as a "person" in single "non-triune" form, this belief system developing in the United States from the early 19th century onward, before non-theistic Unitarianism began its development in the 1890's

The post-sermon hymn this morning, draws its tune from a traditional Dutch melody. IN BABILONE was first introduced into English hymnody in 1906, set to a hymn for celebrating the Ascension. (Where Christ was taken up to heaven from earth). The melody is drawn from a collection of songs from around 1710, which were a collection of old and new Dutch songs and peasant dances. Arranged in modern music form by Dr. Julius Röntgen of the Amsterdam Conservatory, he was a contemporary of great composers Liszt, Brahms and Grieg. + Set to a Calvinist text by Frederick William Faber, (writer of no less than 150 hymns), it was first found in the 1861 publication Hymns of Faith and Hope.

During the Offertory this morning, the contemporary Christian song "Who Am I" is offered, originally sung by Christian rock band Casting Crowns. Written by Mark Hall, it was released in 2004, as the second single from the band's 2003 self-titled debut album. Lyrically, the song is centered on worshiping God. The song received positive reviews from music critics upon its release, with several regarding it as one of the best songs on their debut album. It achieved success on Christian radio, topping the Billboard Hot Christian Songs (for six weeks) and Hot Christian AC charts as well as simultaneously peaking atop the Radio & Records Christian AC, Christian CHR, and INSCO charts. It has been certified Gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), signifying sales of over 500,000. (Source: Wikipedia)

Our Closing Hymn is "...drawn undoubtedly from the New Testament passages likening the winning of souls to the harvesting of grain... This hymn for church workers ORA LABORA (work to pray from Latin) was written by Jane Borthwick in her Thoughts and Thoughtful Hours of 1859. Of the seven-stanza poem, stanzas three, four and seven are omitted in the sung hymn, composed for these words by T. Tertius Noble for The New Hymnal in 1918..." + It's offering is dedicated this morning to our departing Associate Minister for Youth and Families, Rev. Ken McGarry. We wish Rev. Ken all the best as he takes on his first Senior Pastor position in Massachusetts!

Christian Education Corner

Rally Day is Sunday October 18. Be prepared for a nontraditional Rally Day. We are prayerfully making preparations to offer lessons, activities and connections during our times. The safety of all is our primary concern. Please reach out to LeeAnne Steenhoek, Director of Christian Formation in the church office.

Nursery care is temporarily suspended due to COVID-19.

Family Activity - Look for a family activity today, Sunday September 20, to accompany the message. Please check for LeeAnne's email or the link on our website.

Confirmation 2020-2021 - The class will meet at Lull Farm on Saturday, **September 26 at 11:00 AM** for apple picking.

The first class starts on **Sunday, October 4, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM** in the dining room.

<i>Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current</i>
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Young Adult Ministry: Transitions - After our first discussion, Transitions will meet **every Wednesday from 12 to 1 PM**. Rev. Andy will begin each meeting with a Devotion (Scripture lesson, refecton and prayer) related to our spiritual need in relation to current events. There will be conversation to follow. One need not stay for the entirety of the meeting and friends are welcome to join in. Please e-mail Rev. Andy if you have any questions. A link the group will be provided in the e-news or by calling the office.

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First Church: Virtual Town Hall - September 24 at 7:00 PM - We've been on an extraordinary journey as Church since the pandemic altered our lives. While the church building may have closed and/or restricted our movements because of social distancing, we've put forth extraordinary efforts to be together in different ways. In our gathering, you'll hear brief descriptions from our staff and leaders about what we've done and are doing to be a faithful church in our times. Highlights will include our plans to reconfigure our ministry in light of Rev. Ken's new call, updates to the in-person and online worship, improvements made to our facility, our financial picture and stewardship plans for 2021. There will be opportunity for questions and answers, too. Look for the link in forthcoming e-news or call the office.

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A New Member Informational Meeting is being planned for **Sunday, September 27, following the 10:00 service** in room 10 for those interested in learning more about our faith community and becoming a member. Contact the church office for more information and to register.

Women's Wisdom and Spirituality (WWS) will have their first gathering on **Sunday September 27 at 11:30 AM** in the dining room under social distance protocols. During the fall, we will continue to meet on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. Second Sundays will be via Zoom and fourth Sundays will be in the church dining room. Our topic of study is yet to be determined. Please check the church bulletin and/or website for the forthcoming announcement.

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Bible, Friends and Coffee will gather in the courtyard for a time of study and fellowship on **Monday, October 5 at 9:30 AM**. Contact Rev. Andy with any questions.

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The First Church Cyclists will meet for four rides this fall. The group invites anyone, regardless of age or ability, to join for some fun, fresh air, fellowship and most importantly, ice cream. All rides begin at 2:00 PM. Rain dates will be on the following Sunday. Contact Ray Baldwin or the church office for more information. The schedule:

Sunday, September 27: Windham/Derry Rail Trail, Manning St., Derry, NH; 13.6 miles

Sunday, October 11: Minuteman Bikeway, Depot Park, Bedford, MA; 20.6 miles

Sunday, October 25: Nashua River Rail Trail, Gilson Rd. at Countryside Dr., Nashua, NH; 24 miles

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Wednesday Morning Men meets online 8:00-9:00 AM. This season we continue reading Wayne Muller's "A Life of Being, Having, and Doing Enough." Contact the church office or Rev. Andy for the link. Reminder: One need not commit to all sessions in order to benefit, so drop by as you're able. New folks and friends are encouraged to join in.

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First Church Holiday Fair Silent Auction – If you would like to make a donation, please contact Rebecca Small or the church office. We accept all items. These can be handmade items, gift cards to your own personal business or local establishments, a basket that you put together with any theme in mind or if you'd like to donate any small amount of a gift card Rebecca is happy to put them together in a larger basket. All items are very much appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support of this year's Holiday Fair.

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The craft group will meet in the dining room on **Wednesday, October 14** at 4:00 PM. Please contact Jocelyn Henning with any questions.

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Music in Worship Next Week

Sunday, September 27, 2020

8:30 & 10:00 Staff Singer Quartet

Thanksgiving Baskets and White Dove/Silver Dove Programs will be modified this Year - We will not be able to do sign-ups following church services. Anyone who is interested in participating in either program (or both) should contact Carol Butler as soon as possible (phone number and email address are in the church directory or call the church office). This will give her an idea as to how many families we can take on. Shopping is an issue for many so she asking for volunteer shoppers as well. More information will be forthcoming.

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Calling All First Church Vegetable Gardeners. We Need Your Help! The Unitarian Church in collaboration with Grow Nashua has opened a Lil' Free Farm Stand to benefit the French Hill neighborhood by providing free healthy produce on Sunday afternoons. Their stand is located on Grove Street behind the White Wing Nursery School and is open for distribution 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM.

We are inviting First Church gardeners to support their effort by bringing in a few of your fresh vegetables to First Church on Sunday mornings in September and October from 8:30 - 11:00 AM. There will be marked collection baskets at the edge of our church courtyard for drop off. Requested produce: Zucchini, Summer Squash, Winter Squash, Tomatoes, Onions, Potatoes, Peppers, Eggplant, Carrots, Beans, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Cucumbers and Berries.

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The United Way of Greater Nashua is building a "Tech Pantry" to support the needs, of local school kids. The pantry will be filled with "gently used" laptops, tablets, iPads, etc., which a team of volunteers will wipe clean and configure to go back out in support of remote learning. If you have items to donate, contact info@unitedwaynashua.org. Monetary donations are also accepted: <https://www.tinyurl.com/uwgnccovid19>.

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2020 CROP Hunger Walk: "Walking Together Apart" - This year's CROP Hunger walk will be different, just as life is different for all of us right now. We invite people to walk anytime **between October 1 and October 25** in small groups.

Sarah Creaney is First Church's liaison for the walk. She has created a team page at the below link. If you would like to sign up a walker or donate to a walker or the First Church UCC team, please go to:

www.crophungerwalk.org/nashuanh/FirstChurchUCC

More details will follow in the October newsletter and upcoming bulletins.

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Thank You Project's 6th Annual Water Walk - This year, the walk will be a virtual event. **Between September 27 and October 27**, you are invited to walk on your own with your friends and family. Take pictures and videos of your walks and share them on your Facebook page for everyone to see. To make a donation, go to the Thank You Project's website page: <https://thankyouproject.org/>

THE FIRST CHURCH

STAFF

Senior Minister, *Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong*, aarmstrong@tfcucc.org
Associate Minister for Youth and Families, *Rev. Ken McGarry*, kmcgarry@tfcucc.org
Associate Minister for Congregational Care, *Rev. Jami D. Boyle*, jboyle@tfcucc.org
Minister of Music, *Joseph R. Olefirowicz, CAGO*, jolefirowicz@tfcucc.org
Director of Christian Formation, *LeeAnne Steenhoek*, lstenhoek@tfcucc.org
Church Business and Marketing Manager, *Dianne Smigliani*, dsmigliani@tfcucc.org
Secretary/Receptionist, *Susan T. Englander*, senglander@tfcucc.org
Sexton, *Bruce Lund*

Pastors Emeriti, *Rev. James S. Chaloner and Rev. Dr. Jeffrey C. Evans*

WELCOME

A warm welcome is extended to all who are attending this worship service. A special greeting to those who are visiting or worshipping for the first time. Please sign the guest book in the back of the sanctuary or fill out the **visitor card** found in the pew racks. Fill out the back of the card, and put it in the offering plate or hand it to a minister, Usher or Deacon so we may acknowledge your visit. Join in the time of fellowship, in Fellowship Hall, following worship. If you have any questions about the life and ministry of First Church please seek out the individuals wearing colored name tags; they are members of the various boards and committees.

INFORMATION

First Church was gathered on December 16, 1685 as The Church of Christ in Dunstable. On the same day Thomas Weld was ordained and settled as minister of the church. The current building, built in 1894, is the tenth building to house the First Church community. In 1961, the church entered fellowship with the United Church of Christ. We welcome into our membership any who will own the covenant of First Church and seek to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ in the community and world. Those interested in joining the church should contact the church office for information. The Sacrament of Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month and the Sacrament of Baptism on the last. First Church is supported almost entirely by pledges. Every member is expected to make a financial pledge according to their ability.

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care is available to all in need. Please keep the ministers informed of occasions of sickness, sorrow, and joy. Let the church office know if you or family member or friend is hospitalized.

COMMUNICATIONS

If you have a change of address, phone number, or email address, please let the church office know so that we may keep our records current.

All information for the weekly bulletin must be in the office by noon on Wednesday. All information for the monthly newsletter must be in the office by 4:30 PM on the second Monday of the month.

All use of the building must be scheduled by the Secretary.

The First Church * One Concord Street * Nashua, New Hampshire 03064 * 882-4861

Office Hours: Closed until further notice.

Visit our web site at www.tfcucc.org

Find us on Facebook