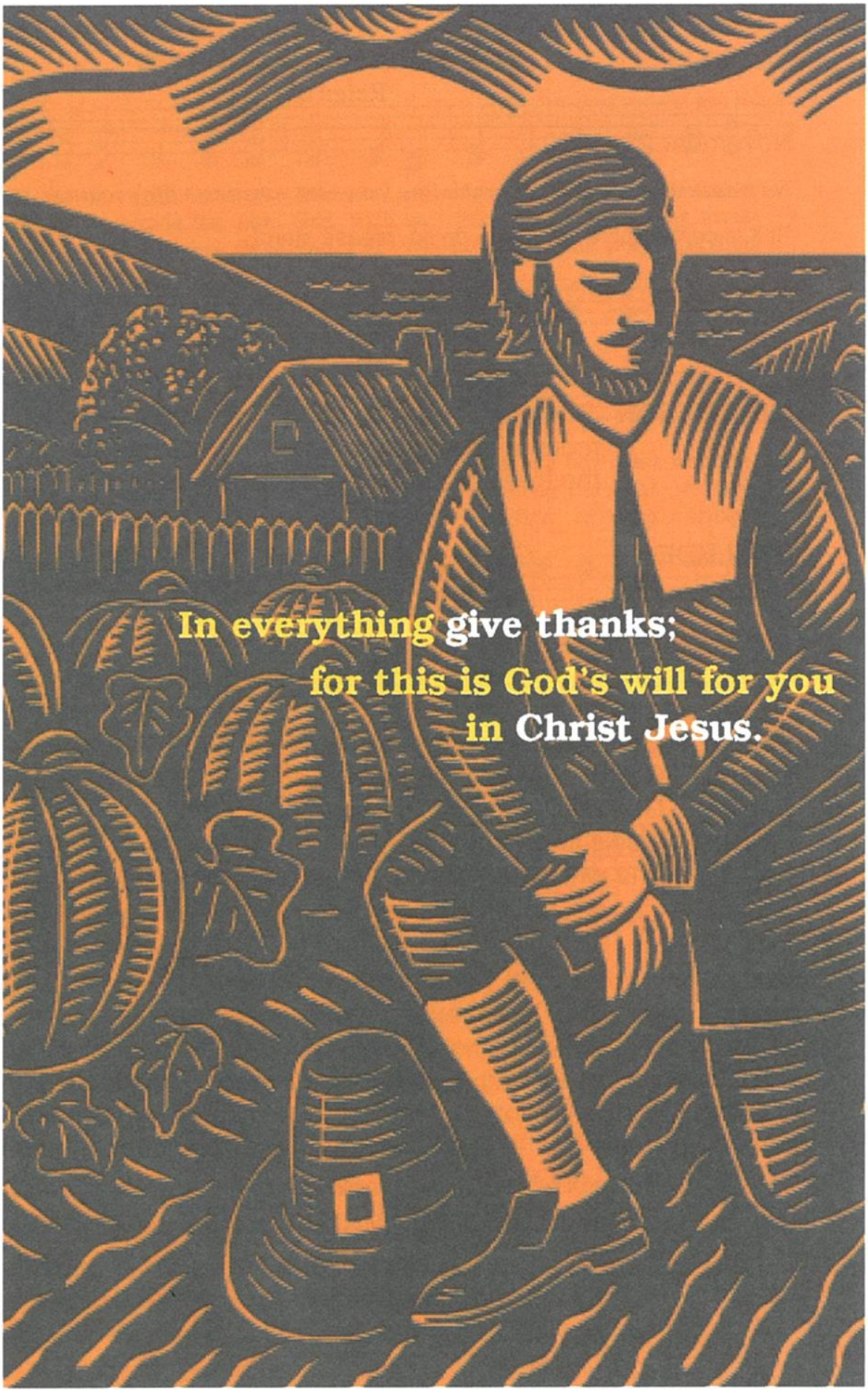

In everything give thanks;
for this is God's will for you
in Christ Jesus.

Thanksgiving Sunday

Reign of Christ

November 22, 2020 8:30 & 10:00 AM

No matter who you are, whom you love, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

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

APPROACH TO GOD

Let us keep silence as we prepare for worship.

MEDITATION For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. (Isaiah 55:12, NRSV)

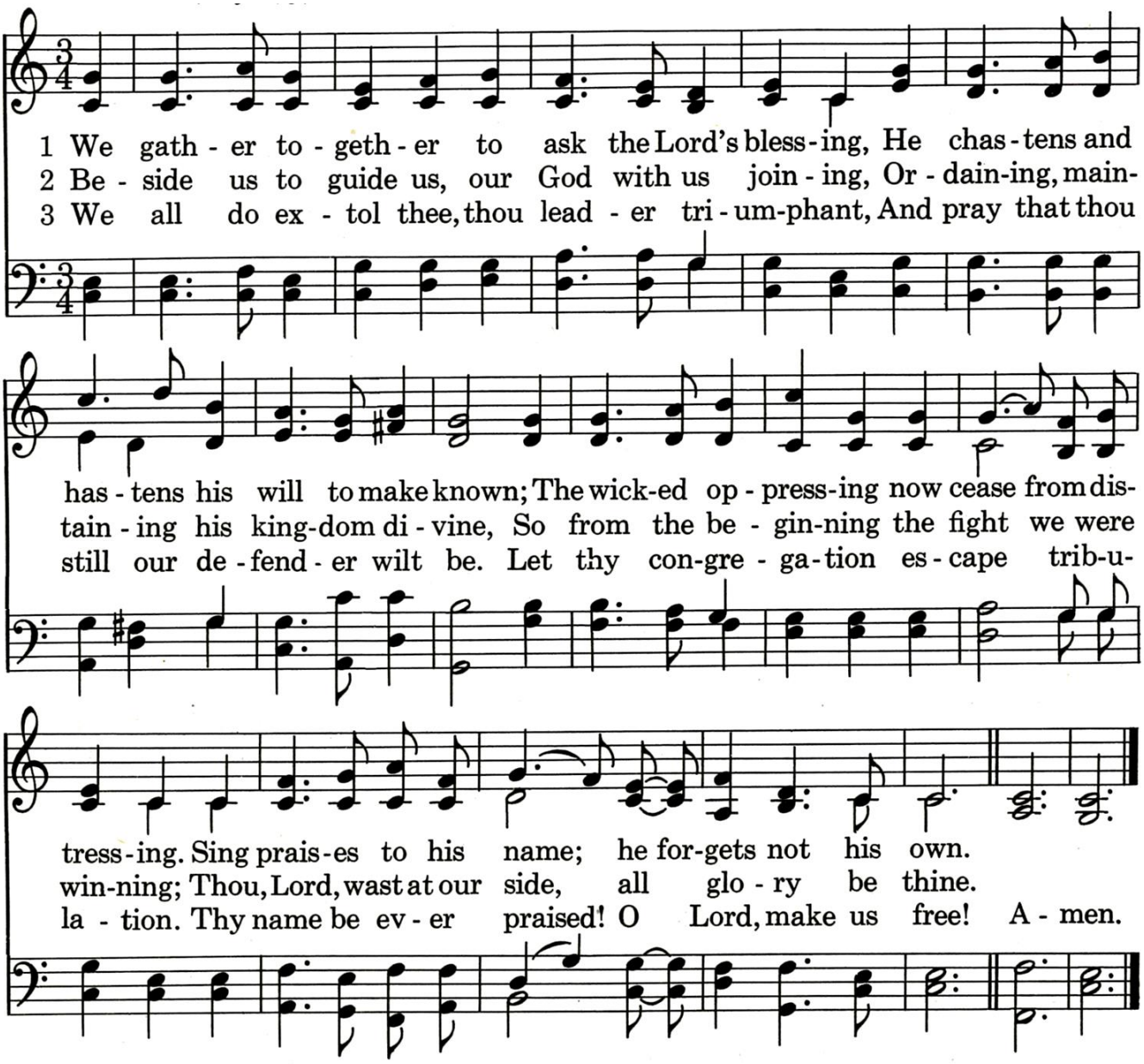
PRELUDE *Canon in D Major* J. Pachelbel
(1653 – 1706)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Grace to you and peace from the one who is and who was and who is to come.
People: God established the world from of old.
Leader: God's reign shall never end.
People: God delivered us in freedom and truth.
Leader: God's love is everlasting.
People: The whole earth is full of God's glory.

If comfortable to do so, please join in singing our hymns and sung responses during worship, while wearing your mask.

***HYMN #21** We Gather Together KREMSER



***OPENING PRAYER** (Unison)

God of the people, you have called us to walk humbly before you and to share in the struggle with the least of these, yet we have failed to live up to this call. Today, we come before you asking your Spirit to empower us to be agents of transformation for the world. Make your church a chalice from which thirsty people can find the living waters of God, who calls us to live a life of service, of humility, and of reconciliation with you, with creation, and with the world. Amen.

***PRAISE #38/1** *Mine Is the Sunlight* BUNESSAN

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play.
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

GREETINGS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10:00)

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Responsive Reading for Thanksgiving (Psalm 47:1-7; Psalm 98:1, 4-9a)

Reader 1: Clap your hands, all you nations
shout to God with cries of joy.
The LORD Most High is awesome,
the great King over all the earth.

Reader 2: God subdued nations under us,
peoples under our feet.
The LORD chose our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob, whom he loved.

Congregation: God has ascended amid shouts of joy,
the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

Reader 1: Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
For God is the King of all the earth;
sing to him a psalm of praise.

Reader 2: Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things;
his right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.

Congregation: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubiliant song with music;

Reader 1: Make music to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,
with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn,
shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

Reader 2: Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.
Let the rivers clap their hands,
let the mountains sing together for joy;

Congregation: Let them sing before the LORD,
for he comes to judge the earth.
Thanks be to God!

2 Corinthians 2:14-17

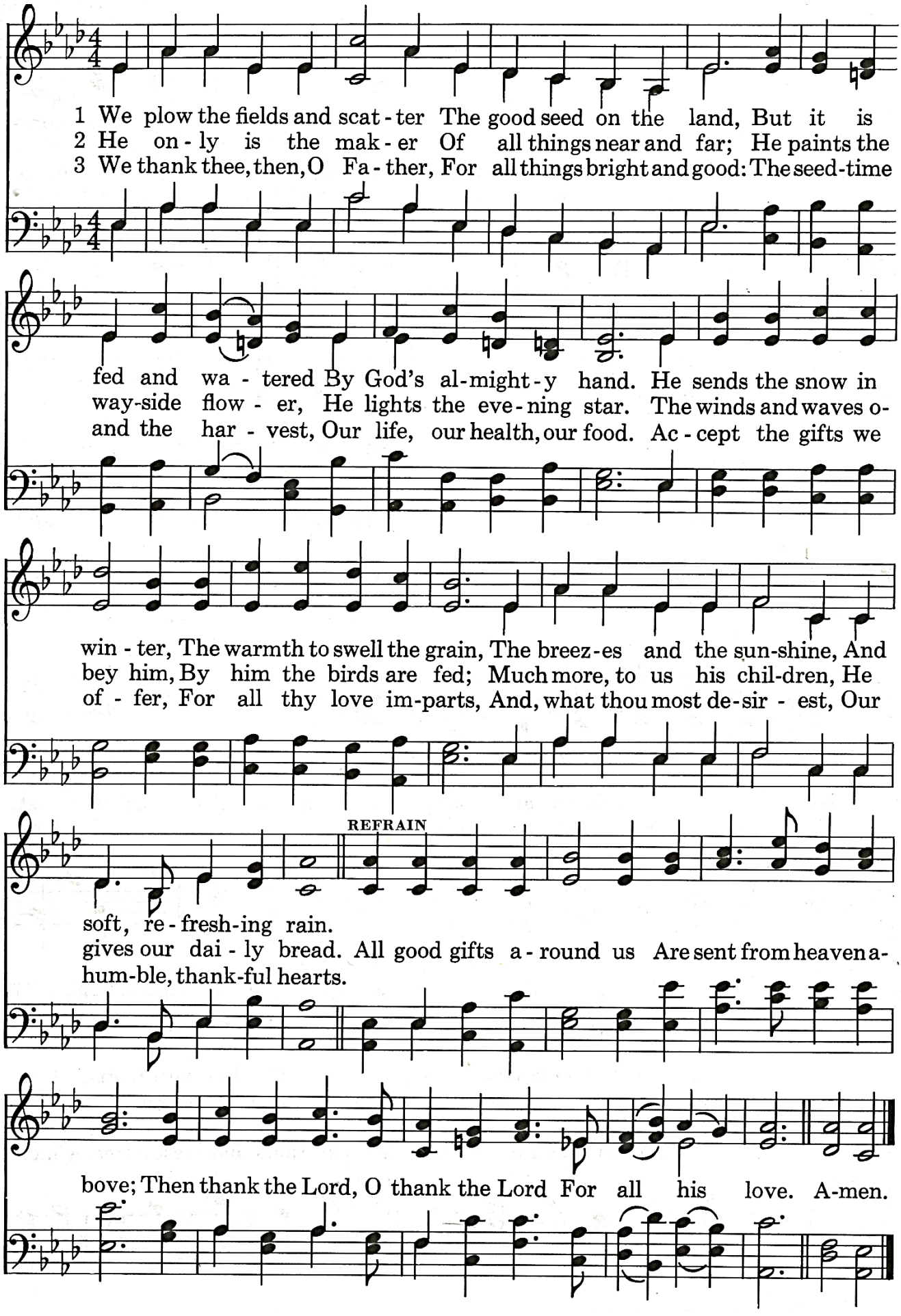
But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads in every place the fragrance that comes from knowing him. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; to the one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? For we are not peddlers of God's word like so many; but in Christ we speak as persons of sincerity, as persons sent from God and standing in his presence.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE *Thanks Be to Thee* T. Tallis
THANKSGIVING SEPTET *(1505 – 1585)*

SERMON "Gestures of Thanksgiving" Rev. Dr. Dennis Bailey

***HYMN #460** (10:00) *We Plow the Fields and Scatter* WIR PFLÜGEN



RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

CENTERING PRAYER (Unison)

Almighty God, we thank you for making the fruitful earth produce what is needed for life. Bless all those whose labor yields a harvest; give us favorable weather; and grant that we share the earth's fruits so that goodness and righteousness may also flourish among all your people through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYER CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYERS and PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE *Let the Words of My Mouth* R. Langdon
(1729 – 1803)

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 *Make a Joyful Noise* W. Mathias
(1934 – 1992)

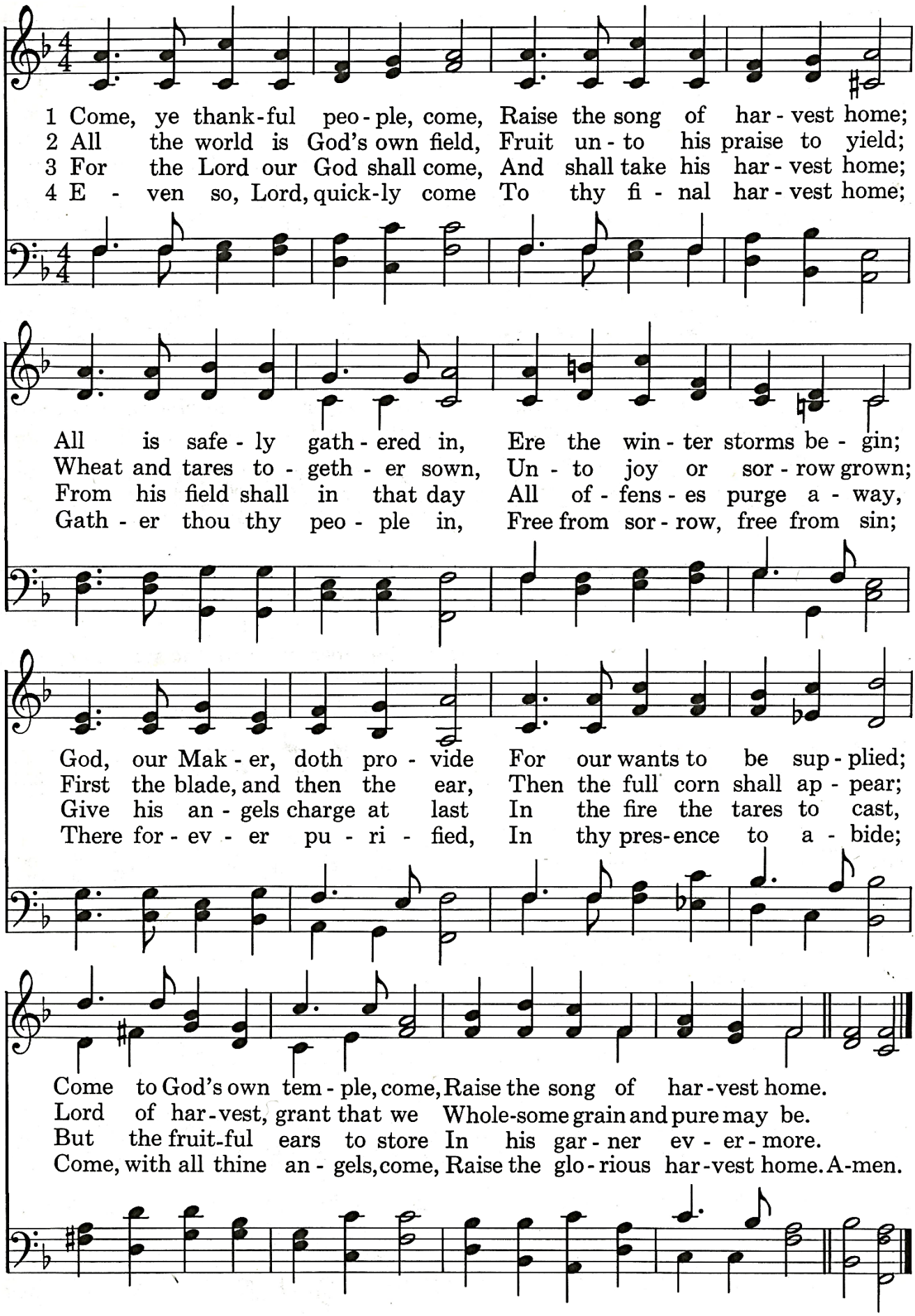
*__THE DOXOLOGY #515__ OLD HUNDRETH

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

*__PRAYER OF DEDICATION__ (Unison)

Lord with the action of this offering we give you our allegiance; we proclaim you Lord over our lives, over our families, over our finances, over our future. We give you thanks for all you have given us, and all we have the privilege to give. Use these gifts for the work of your church, we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

***HYMN #460** *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR



DISMISSAL

Kindly be seated after the Benedictus 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**

BENEDICTUS *All Good Gifts Around Us* J. A. P. Schulz *(1747 – 1800)*

POSTLUDE *Nun Danket alle Gott* S. Karg-Elert *(1877 – 1933)*
Now Thank We All Our God

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

DEACON OF THE DAY: Erin Shannon
HYMNS: Pilgrim Hymnal, CCLI#3034682
THANKSGIVING SEPTET: Susan Cobb & Janet Poisson, soprano; Brianne Biastoff & Cindy Whitney, alto; Timothy Ayers-Kerr & Craig Plummer, tenor; Joseph R. Olefirowicz, bass

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

****

Have you remembered First Church in your will?

OUR MORNING WORSHIP IS LIVE STREAMED ON SUNDAY MORNING AND IS AVAILABLE ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL.
IT IS ALSO AIRED ON WSMN RADIO AM 1590 and FM 95.3

Masks must be worn at all times inside the building.
Social distancing practices are expected of the attendees for indoor worship.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Christian Formation Corner

"I am a feather on the breath of God." -Hildegard von Bingen

What does it mean to be a feather on the breath of God? You may have heard the expression "be the ball". What does it mean to "be a feather"? Let's consider these words from Hildegard von Bingen as we learn about her life.

Hildegard was born in the 12th century in Germany during the time of the first and second Crusades. She came from a noble family and her parents dedicated her to the church when she was quite young and grew up in the Benedictine tradition devoting her life and work to God.

God revealed Godself to Hildegard through personal experiences of love, light, insight and connection in mystical experiences. She wrote music and lyrical poetry for her compositions. She created art. She wrote down her understanding of plants and animals in Creation. She wrote down human ailments and cures. Her nuns wore vibrant colors and fine fabric, honored as beloved brides of Jesus. The Pope valued her as his consultant and declared her a saint during her own lifetime. Later, she was named a doctor of the church.

Now that you know a little bit about Hildegard von Bingen can you name some ways she lived out being a feather on the breath of God? Do you and I have the potential to make miracles with our gifts and God's guidance? I believe we do. How still and quiet do we need to be to notice God's breath? To respond? To believe in our own Miracle? *Be still and Know that I am God*. God is faithful.

Take a feather as you exit the sanctuary. Watch how it moves as you walk outside and billows in the breeze. Pray with your feather either by yourself or with your family. Hold the feather in front of your mouth so you can see it move as you talk to God. Listen for God's still small voice. Trust in God's response to your prayer. God never fails. Now you, your way, ***be a feather on the breath of God***.

Peace and Grace,
LeeAnne Steenhoek
Director of Christian Formation

Nursery care is temporarily suspended due to COVID-19.

Parent to Parent-Tot to Teen meets on GoogleMeet every other Thursday, from 8:00-9:00 PM. You will need a personal Google email address. Contact LeeAnne for the link and if you have any questions. Here are the dates until the end of the calendar year:
December 3, and December 17
A sampling of the discussion topics: Coping 2020-style, Anchors, The Hamster and the wheel, Inventing as we go, We're Always a Parent to the End

Contact Information please! During the changeover of computer systems, many of your addresses didn't transfer properly. Please reach out to LeeAnne Steenhoek at lsteenhoek@tfcucc.org if you are a parent, teacher or volunteer in the Christian Formation program with your contact information.

Confirmation - The next class is **December 6, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM.**
Able Confirmands are strongly encouraged to volunteer at our new Welcome Center. We have an opportunity to welcome our church family to worship and help deacons and ushers with the detailed work of signing in and sanitizing.

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

Holiday Fair Update – Thank you to all the volunteers who baked, canned, cooked, made homemade crafts for the fall holiday fair, and donated items to the auction. So far, we have raised $1000 on the crafts and food items. The online silent auction raised $3640. What a great result this is for the first-time virtual auction. Thank you to Jocelyn Henning for coordinating the crafts and food items and to Rebecca Small for coordinating the silent auction. Of course, we thank the friends and members of First Church who did their part in making purchases. The proceeds will benefit the Ministers' Discretionary Fund.
If you are interested in purchasing Christmas items or items in general contact Jocelyn Henning (see the directory).

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Midweek Devotions - Each Wednesday, through Advent, the First Church Ministry Team will provide a mid-week devotion to help us reclaim our spiritual center and restore our inner calm. Messages are uploaded every Wednesday on Facebook, First Church You Tube Station and www.tfcucc.org. Please like our messages and spread the Word!

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Music in Worship Next Week
Sunday, November 29, 2020
First Sunday in Advent
8:30 & 10:00 Janet Poisson, soprano

The Thanksgiving and White Dove/Silver Dove Christmas Programs are complete! Carol Butler came up with a gift certificate plan for this year. Our church family rose to the occasion once again and many families here in Nashua will be celebrating the holidays through your generosity. All families were adopted in record time. Thanks to Carol for leading this effort. Her compassion and dedication to these programs are greatly appreciated.

++++

The Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service for the Greater Nashua community will take place online this Tuesday, November 24 at 7:00 PM. To participate, click on this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83252144008?pwd=NFJQSUtQWVMvbkMyM0tJdFp6S3l2QT09 or from the Zoom app or phone number (929) 436-2866, enter meeting ID832 5214 4008 and passcode 2020naic.

The service includes readings and words from representatives of many of our faith communities, music prerecorded by the Greater Nashua Interfaith Choir, and a "virtual collection" to channel our gratitude into giving to support needs in our community. All are welcome to attend.

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Gratefulness Tree – In-Reach thanks you for your participation in our Gratefulness Tree project. Although symbolic, the tree represents our intentions to pause and give thanks for all each of us are grateful for this Thanksgiving. As quiet and, maybe as different, your Thanksgiving may be this year – we hope each of you will recognize our many, individual blessings and give thanks!

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Wednesday Morning Men is on recess and will resume in January. Contact the church office or Rev. Andy with any questions.

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Thank You Project's 6th Annual Water Walk - This year's virtual 3K event will be held now through December 31, 2020. The organization supports the third Water Well in Nigeria and also provides scholarships to Nigerian students who would not otherwise be able to afford to go to college. Visit the Thank You Project's website for more information about the organization and their mission. Please gather your family and friends and participate in this virtual walk. Take pictures and videos of your walks and share them on your Facebook page for everyone to see.

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3C: Christ Church Connection - By now, you should have received a postcard mailer from the new 3C social ministry program. This program is designed to help congregants meet others in our church. Contact Al Hock, Sue Haas, Ray Baldwin, Rev. Jami or the church office with any inquiries. *I have called you friends*, said Jesus.

Office and Building use - The church office is open by appointment. Please call ahead to set up a time if you wish to come to the office. Calls continue to be received between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM. The First Church remains closed to all outside group use through the month of December.

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Outreach Focus of the Month for November - The Front Door Agency

The Front Door Agency offers support and provides services to assist individuals and families transition from crisis to self-sufficiency. The core programs of this agency are: Housing Stability, Transformational Housing, Financial Literacy, and the Holiday Santa Program. Currently The Front Door has the capacity to serve 21 families at one given time.

The following is a wish list for supplies used by their residents. If you are able to make a contribution, a container for these items will be at the Welcome Center:

Cleaning supplies (disinfecting wipes, Lysol, 409 all-purpose cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, shower cleaner, Windex etc.)
Mops, brooms/dustpans, toilet bowl brushes, plungers
Antibacterial liquid soaps and dish detergent;
Paper towels, tissues, toilet paper
Batteries (AA, AAA, C);
Gift cards to grocery stores, Walmart, Target
Gas Cards

For more information see the November newsletter or visit their website: https://www.frontdooragency.org/

Sunday, November 29, 2020

First Sunday of Advent

Worship Services at 8:30 & 10:00 AM

Livestream at 10:00 AM

Available on our YouTube channel

and is also aired on

WSMN RADIO AM 1590 and FM 95.3

FRIDAYS at FIRST
ORGAN SERIES

Recitals will be on the first three Fridays of the
Advent season and will begin at 12:15 p.m.

Regional organists will perform FREE 30-minute programs
on our 4,000-pipe, 1926 Anderson Memorial Organ—each designed
to replenish the soul with beautiful music for the workday
or to get the weekend off to a great start.

DECEMBER RECITALS

04 **Michael Havay**
Congregational Church of Amherst, Amherst, NH

11 **George Bozeman**
First Congregational Church, Pembroke, NH

18 **Nicholas White,** Master of Chapel Music
St. Paul's School, Concord, NH

Parking behind the church building.
Handicap accessibility / elevator access is in the courtyard
between old and new buildings.

Please bring your masks and enjoy the ample socially distanced seating.

THE FIRST CHURCH
1 Concord Street • Nashua, NH

For more information:
FIRST-MUSIC.ORG
603.882.4861

FIRST MUSIC
FM
CONCERT SERIES 2020–21 SEASON

FIRST MUSIC
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CONCERT SERIES 2020–21 SEASON

SEASON XIII
MUSIC ALIVE!

BRINGING the JOY of MUSIC to the GATE CITY

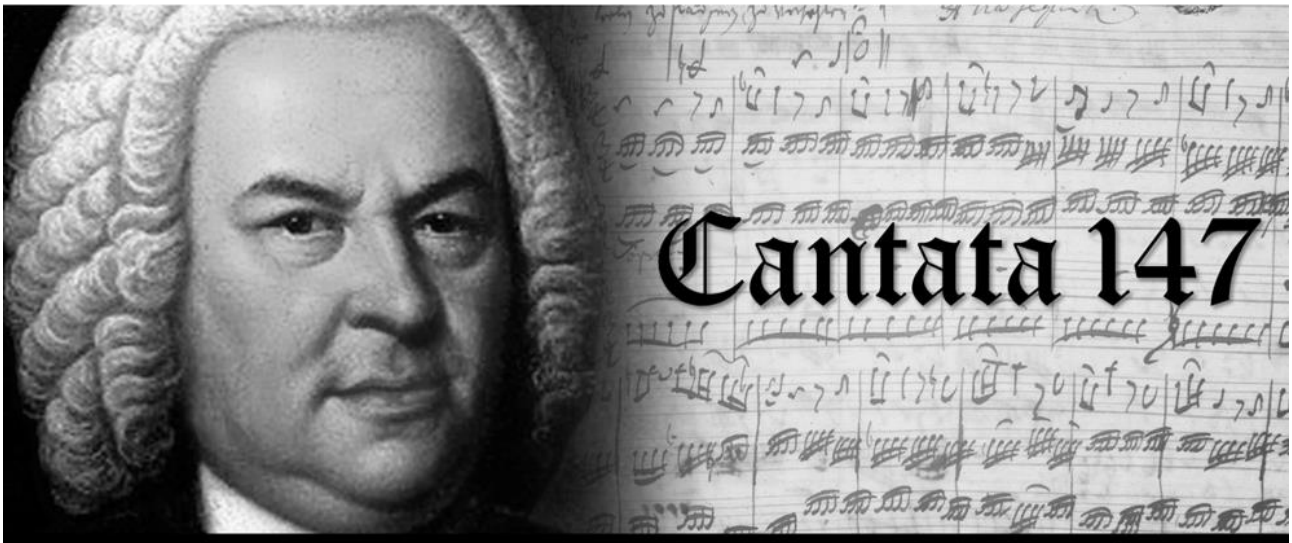
4th ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES

CHRISTMAS at FIRST

THE FIRST CHURCH STAFF SINGER QUARTET

MUDDY BROOK CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

JOSEPH R. OLEFIROWICZ conductor



Please bring your masks and enjoy the ample socially distanced seating.

SUNDAY DEC 20

OPEN TO THE **PUBLIC**

ALL ARE WELCOME

9 & 11 AM

THE FIRST CHURCH

1 Concord Street
Nashua, NH

FIRST-MUSIC.ORG
603.882.4861

THE FIRST CHURCH

STAFF

Senior Minister, *Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong*, aarmstrong@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*, lsteenhoek@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 worshiping 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.

<u>All use of the building must be scheduled by the Secretary.</u>

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

Office Hours: Open by appointment and by phone.

Visit our web site at www.tfcucc.org
Find us on Facebook

SP206 8½" x 14" Special Occasion Series UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE
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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST