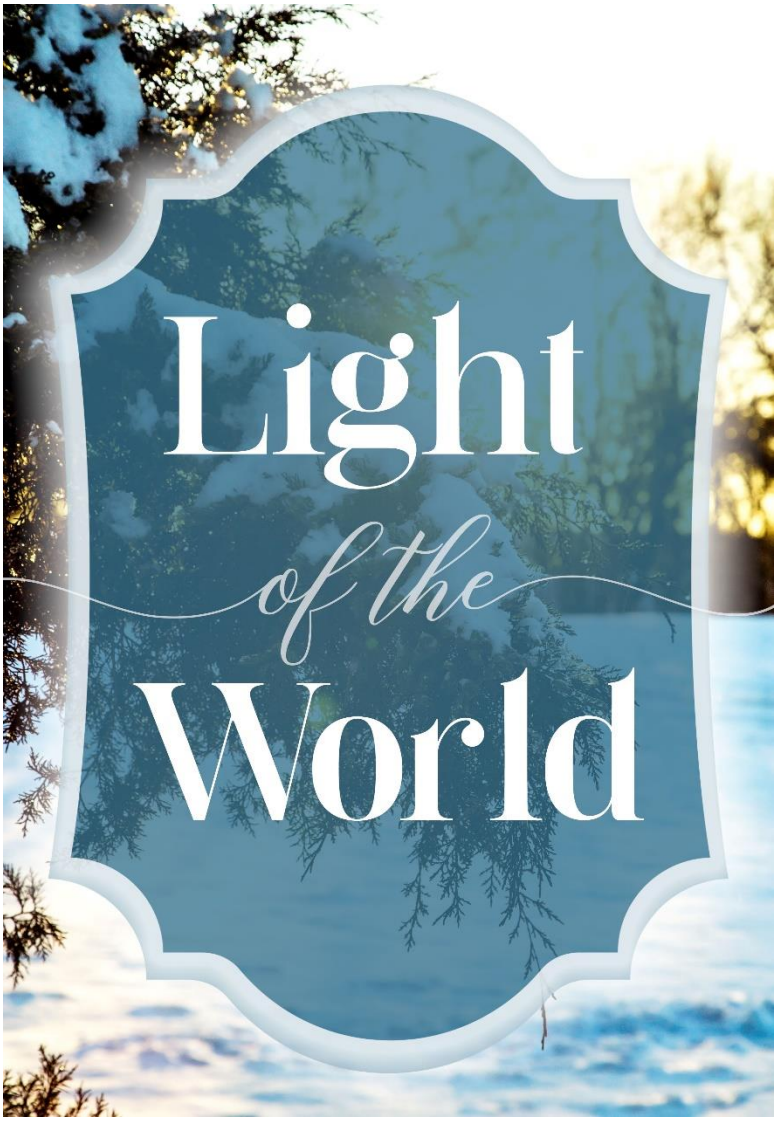

THE FIRST CHURCH

NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Congregational – United Church Of Christ

†

Gathered December 16, 1685

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

Morning Worship

Communion Sunday
Second Sunday after Christmas

January 2, 2022 8:30 & 10:00 AM

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

APPROACH TO GOD

Let us keep silence as we prepare for worship.

TOWER CHIME
(10:00)

MEDITATION "Ring out the old; ring in the new. Ring, happy bells, across the snow. The year is going; let him go. Ring out the false; ring in the true." - Alfred Tennyson

PRELUDE *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern* J. C. Bach
How beautiful lights the morning star *(1642 – 1703)*

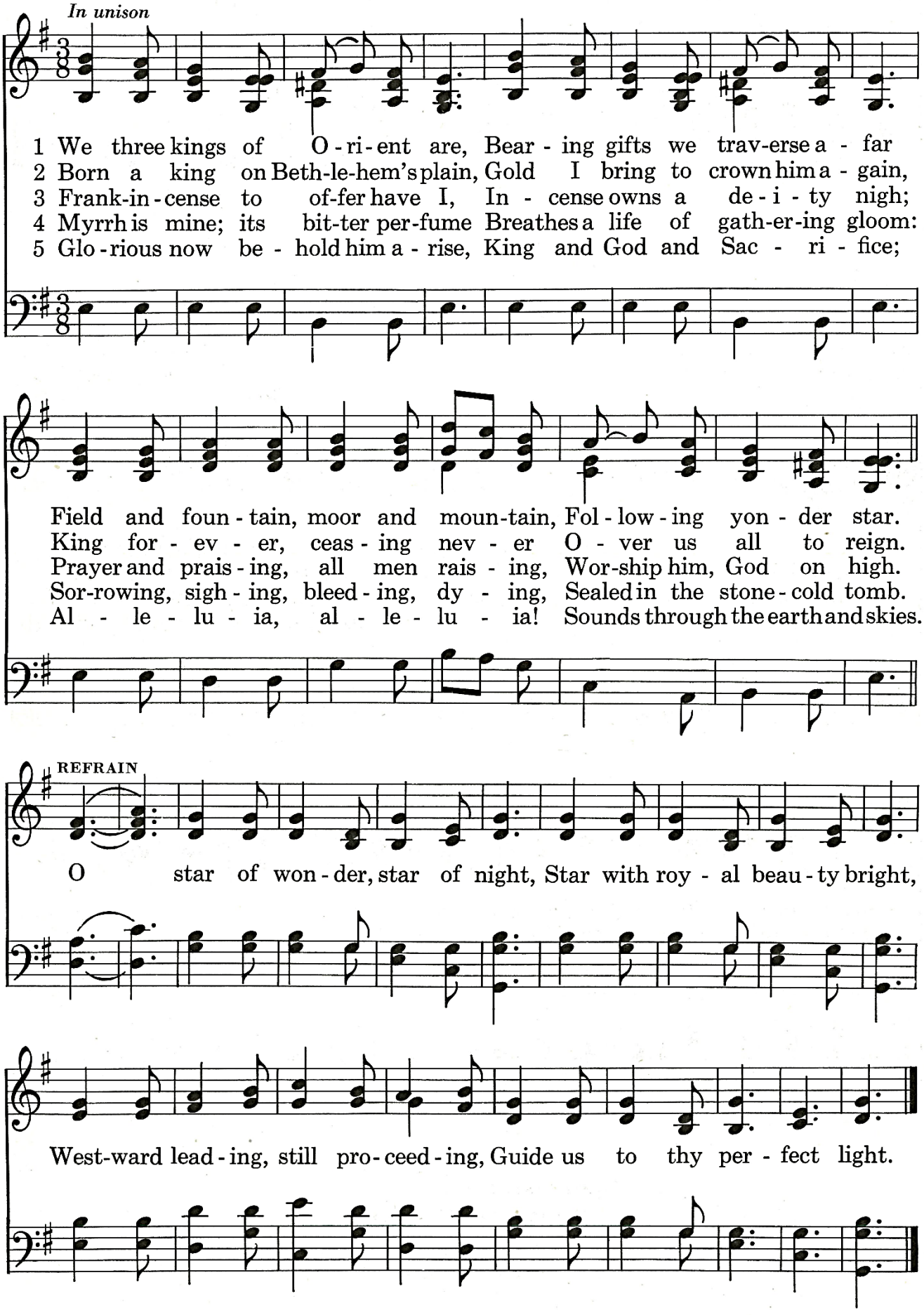
INTROITUS *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET
CHANCEL CHOIR

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
People: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
Leader: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.
People: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.
Leader: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
People: In him was life, and the life was the light of the world.

***HYMN #143** *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

KINGS OF ORIENT
American, 19th century



***OPENING PRAYER** (Unison)

Emmanuel, Light of The World, awaken us to the glory of your presence. Shine upon us and help us see our way through darkness within and around us. Enable us to behold the world as you created it to be, as you created us to be. Empower us to move from darkness to light, from sin to new life in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI #513**

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, A-men, A-men.

GREETINGS

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING **Ephesians 1:3-14**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

John 1:10-18

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.
(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and

truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Pastor: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

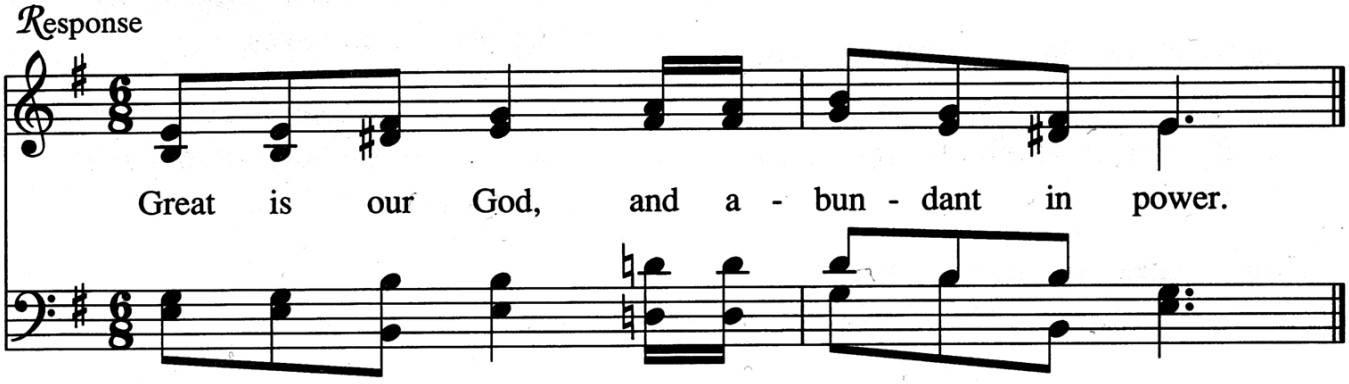
GRATIA TIBI *Thanks Be to Thee* T. Tallis
(10:00) *(1505 – 1585)*

SERMON **"**This Little Light of Mine" Rev. Dr. Andrew Armstrong

RESPONSIVE PSALM 147:12-20

(10:00) **JASON IANNUZZI, psalmist**

The Psalm will be intoned once: The Congregation sings the same Response, and then again at the "℟" indication below.



℟

12Praise God, O Jerusalem!
Praise your God, O Zion!

13For God strengthens the bars of your gates;
God blesses your children within you.

14God grants peace within your borders;
God fills you with the finest of wheat.

15God sends out a command to the earth;
God's word runs swiftly. ℟

16God gives snow like wool;
God scatters frost like ashes.

17God hurls down hail like crumbs —
who can stand before God's cold?

18God sends out a word, and melts them;
God makes a wind blow, and the waters flow.

19God declares the word to Jacob,
and declares God's statutes and ordinances to Israel.

20God has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know God's ordinances.
Praise be to God! ℟

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison) A New Creed

We are not alone, we live in God's world.
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

How many times, Lord Jesus, have you come to us unwelcomed? How often have you visited yet we have been too busy to notice? We are truly sorry for neglecting your life in us and our neighbors. Help us change our ways and become more sensitive to your presence in our lives; then, we shall be well prepared to welcome your Final Coming for your love's sake. Amen!

A time of silence for personal confession

KYRIE #545 *Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us* J. Merbecke
CONGREGATION JOINS IN SINGING *(1510 – 1585)*

Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: How much does God love us? Enough to give his Jesus and The Holy Spirit to us, not to condemn us, but to save us.

People: Not by our speaking or doing, but by God's good and precious grace are we saved.

Together: Thanks be to God! Amen.

OFFERTORY *O Holy Night* A. Adam
(1803 – 1856)
arr. Hopson

***DOXOLOGY #515** OLD HUNDRETH LM

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)

God, whose giving knows no ending, we offer up the treasure that you have entrusted to us; we offer up the skills and time that you have graciously given to us; we offer up ourselves in service and praise. Receive these gifts by your grace. Multiply and use them through the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish Christ's work of love in the world. Amen.

The Communion

It is a tradition at First Church that we eat the bread and drink the cup together as the people of God renewing our covenant. We serve grape juice, bread and gluten free bread.

Invitation, Sursum Corda and Communion Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right to glorify You and to give You thanks, our holy and living God; You dwell in light inaccessible from before time and forever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, You made all things and fill them with Your blessing; You created them to rejoice in the splendor of Your radiance. With the faithful of every time and place, we joyfully praise Your name:

SANCTUS #550 S. Wesley
(1766 – 1837)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory:
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. A-men.

Leader: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread and having blessed it, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, “This is My body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.” In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is of the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” By eating of this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ’s death, celebrate Christ’s resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Sharing of the Bread

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly W ZŁOBIE LEŻY
Polish, 13th century
arr. Willcocks

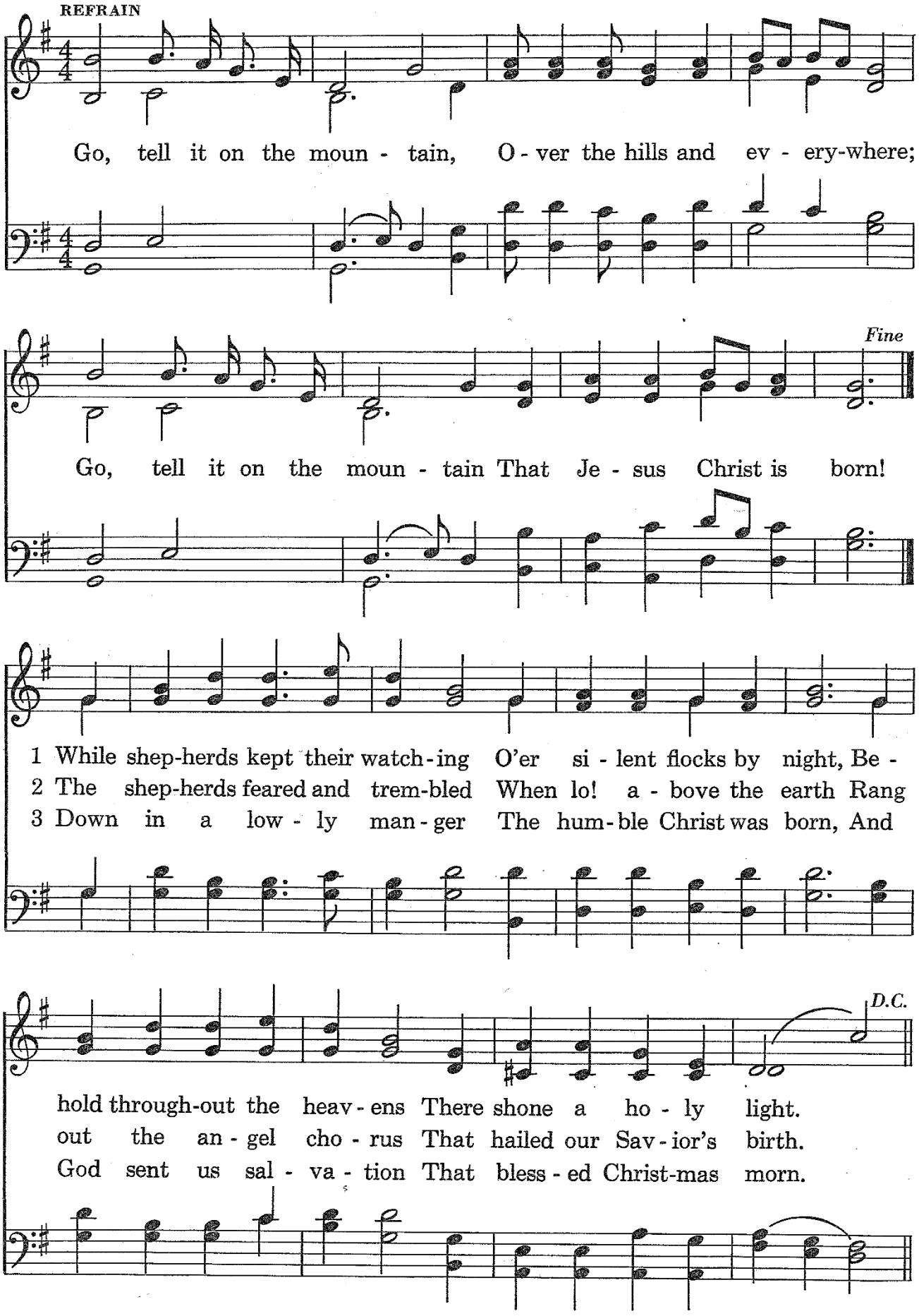
Sharing of the Cup *What Is This Lovely Fragrance?* H. Willan
(1880 – 1968)

Prayer of Thanksgiving and 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.

***HYMN #488** *Go Tell It On the Mountain*

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN
Spiritual, 19th century



***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTUS** *Star of Wonder!* KINGS OF ORIENT

The congregation is kindly asked to be seated for the POSTLUDE

POSTLUDE *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern* A. Armsdorff
(1670 – 1699)

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

AV TEAM CAMERA CREW: Doug Brenner, Joe Glajch, Lee Hauenstein, Craig Neth, Don Smith-Weiss and Dennis Webster
HYMNS & PSALM: Pilgrim Hymnal & New Century Hymnal, CCLI#3034682
COVER ART: Image from ChurchArt.com
DEACON OF THE DAY: Gary Lambert
STAFF SINGER QUARTET: Janet Poisson, soprano; Brianne Biastoff, alto; Steve Huff, tenor; Jason Iannuzzi, bass

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The flowers in the pulpit are given in memory of Paul Sipe, by the Sipe and Champigny families.

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HEARING AIDS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

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Have you remembered First Church in you will?

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MASK USE IS REQUIRED WHILE INSIDE THE CHURCH BUILDINGS.

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

Coffee Hour Update – Coffee will not be served until the mask mandate is lifted.

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Nursery Care - The nursery is closed today. Nursery care resumes on January 9, 2022 for the 10:00 AM Service.

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Sunday school classes will resume next Sunday, January 9, 2022.

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Winter parking reminder - Use caution when parking along the north side of the church building. Heed the posted signs. Falling snow and ice can cause damage to your cars!

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Church Cancellation Policy - In the event of inclement weather, a power outage, or severe weather advisory, First Church may cancel the First Service, Sunday School, or All Services. Please visit the church webpage (www.tfcucc.org), or Facebook Page (First Church Nashua UCC) for any cancellation notices. You can also check media outlets WMUR Channel 9, or WZID 95.7 under the heading First Church Nashua. The notifications will read as follows: First Service Cancelled or Sunday School Cancelled or All Services Cancelled and will be announced by 6am on the Sunday in question.

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All Boards will meet on Monday, January 10 at 7:00 PM.

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The Wednesday Morning Men's Group will resume on January 19, 2022 on Zoom. Contact the church office for the link. This semester we'll continue with reflections and discussions on Psalms, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.

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Bible, Friends and Coffee will resume on Monday, January 24, 2022 at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. This study is open to anyone with a desire to learn and grow in faith, prayer and fellowship. Rev. Andy will facilitate the study. If you have a Bible, please bring it; if not, one will be supplied for you. No sign-up is required.

++++

Mission Trip to La Romana - First Church is sending a mission team of eight people to the Dominican Republic in late February. Beth Raymond will help coordinate our efforts on the "home front". We are gathering a variety of supplies to take with us. See the list of items needed at the table in Fellowship Hall or on the church website. ***Generic brands are okay.*** Please drop off the items in the marked bin in Fellowship Hall. Direct any questions to Rev. Andy or Beth Raymond.
For more information about the mission, visit https://centralmalaromana.org/

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Pulpit Flowers – If you would like to provide fresh flowers for the pulpit on Sunday morning, sign up on the chart located on the window sill near the welcome center or contact Sue in the church office to see what dates are available.

The Friday Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter volunteers have a new leader. After many years at the helm, Cindy Staradub is stepping down. Thank you, Cindy, for your years of leadership. Don Shippey will take over as the contact person. Welcome, Don! If you would like to join the Friday team, give Don a call. They serve dinner on the 4th Friday of the month.

++++

First Church of Nashua to receive $60k grant - On December 14, 2021, The Board of Directors of the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) announced the awarding of a $60,000 grant to The First Church of Nashua to support the historic preservation of our Church tower and bells. The work continues that was started last year. This includes the tower of the church building, both inside and out, as well as the 15 bells located near the top of the tower. Also being done is work on the roof of the tower and the 23 leaded glass windows to ensure good sealing and to prevent water damage. Exterior repointing and caulking as well as interior brickwork are other major items included in this major restoration. Work began in 2020 and the first two major areas (belfry interior and exterior and window sashes and frames) have been completed (total expense $130K). That work was funded through other sources. The remaining $190K is anticipated in 2022-2023 and will be aided by this grant. Our thanks go to the "Tiny" Tower Team members Curt Potter, Carol Baldwin, Peter Chaloner, Bill Thompson, Joe Glajch and (chair) Caryl Sullivan

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Tornado Disaster Relief – If you wish to contribute to the relief efforts for the recent tornados in Kentucky and other states in the Midwest, you may make donations online or by check. Make checks out to: United Church of Christ with "2021 Severe Storms" in the memo line and mail to: United Church of Christ PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194 or go online: https://www.ucc.org/appeal-severe-storms-2021/

Our Make a Difference (MAD) teens will also be collecting for the storm relief. With our love and resources, we turn rubble into rooms for storm survivors. Steve Buck is generously crafting a wooden bowl to receive our checks and cash for the UCC Storm relief fund. Stay tuned for more information about their creative collection efforts.

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Annual Mitten Tree Drive - At the start of the new year we will be collecting mittens to benefit the children at three of our neighborhood schools: Mt. Pleasant Elementary, Broad St. Elementary and Adult Learning Center Day Care. All children sizes are needed. They may be handmade or purchased. Contact Susan Testa or the church office for more information.

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Music in Worship Next Week

Sunday, January 9, 2022

8:30 & 10:00 Joseph R. Olefirowicz, baritone

Aspects of Christianity - In an effort to further feed the Spirit that is within each of us, First Church is making available small brochures that are based on one particular area of Christian concern, and consist of scripture and other helpful quotes on that topic. The brochures are displayed on the windowsill opposite the Welcome Center. Please feel free to take one of the brochures, and an information sheet about the project. Each brochure has a black and white drawing that you may color if you like.

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The First Church Thrift Shop is open on **Thursdays, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM.** They are accepting donations of *FALL & WINTER CLOTHING*. Items needed: Boys' and girls' clothing up to size 14, baby clothes, women's clothing (all sizes), costume jewelry, pocket books and accessories, small knickknacks. Leave donations - *clean and in good repair* - in the marked bin in the courtyard lobby. Contact Gale Cummings, Beth Bartlett or the church office with any questions.

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Submit Prayer Concerns Online - Find the 'prayer request' button on the worship page for any prayer concerns you would like to share with Rev. Jami. You may also submit a confidential prayer by calling the church office.

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Prayer Shawl Ministry – Crafted by the loving hands and hearts of parishioners, this ministry strives to bring comfort and healing to those in need and to those celebrating. Upon completion of each shawl, a final blessing is said before being sent to the individual. Prayer shawls bless recipients by knowing they are wrapped in loving prayers of healing and celebration from their fellow parishioners. This vital ministry is looking for more knitters. For more information, speak with Karen Bianchi, Kay Potfora, or Rev. Jami.

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This Week at First Church

SUN JAN 02	8:30am	Worship
	10:00am	Worship, Livestream, Radio Broadcast
MON JAN 03	9:30am	Organ Rehearsal, Sanctuary
	7:00pm	Music Committee, room 14
TUE JAN 04	6:30pm	First Folk, Music Room
WED JAN 05	12:00pm	Nashua Area Interfaith Council
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
THU JAN 06	7:00pm	Decibells
FRI JAN 07	12:15pm	First Fridays at First, Sanctuary
	2:00pm	Hunt Community Service
SAT JAN 08	10:00am	Organ Rehearsal, Sanctuary
	11:00am	Sisters in Sobriety, Dining Room

FIRST FRIDAYS at FIRST
ORGAN SERIES

The **First Music Concert Series** invites you to six "mini" organ recital offerings in addition to our Sunday music outreach programs. Recitals will be on the first Friday of the month 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.

2021 RECITALS

November 5 — **Scott Bergendahl**
St. Hedwig Roman Catholic Parish, Manchester, NH

December 3 — **Barbara Flocco**
Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, NH

2022 RECITALS

January 7 — **Bruce Adami**
Christ Church Exeter (Episcopal), Exeter, NH

February 4 — **Mary Jodice**
Saint Andrew Episcopal Church, Marblehead, MA

March 4 — **Kristjon Imperio**
Pakachoag Music School, Worcester, MA

April 1 — **Emily Adams**
Main Street United Methodist Church, Nashua, NH

THE FIRST CHURCH

1 CONCORD STREET • NASHUA, NH
FIRST-MUSIC.ORG • 603.882.4861

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

FIRST MUSIC FM CONCERT SERIES 2021 – 22 SEASON

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, *Steve Buck,* sbuck@tfcucc.org

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 Chapel 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. New members are received during worship in November, February and May. 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
NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

One Concord Street * Nashua, New Hampshire 03064 * 603-882-4861
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00am-noon & 1:00-4:00pm
Visit our web site at tfcucc.org - Find us on Facebook

Give online. Scan the QR code to view one of the giving options available.