# 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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021 9:00 & 11:00 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** (9:00 & 11:00) Dale Neth

**MEDITATION** "I feel that there is nothing more truly artistic than to love people." - Vincent Van Gogh

**PRELUDE** *Poco Adagio con molto espressione* George Oldroyd
from *Three Liturgical Improvisations* *(1886 – 1951)*

*"Whoso dwelleth under the defence of the most High*
*Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty"*

**INTROIT** **GAUDETE** Anders Öhrwall
*(1932 – 2012)*

*An oratorio based on Christmas melodies*
*from the "Piae Cantiones" of 1582*

*I.* *Rejoice!*
*(Gaudete)*

*Rejoice! Christ Jesus is born,*
*Born of Mary, Queen of heav'n: Rejoice!*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
People: *And also with you.*

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE**

Leader: Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.
People: *We light this candle with love.*
Leader: Out of love for the people of God, the Lord speaks through the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14:
Reader: *The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a*

*sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. Let us pray.*

All: *God of hope, Prince of peace, Source of joy and Lord of love, your goodness is beyond our wildest imaginings. You give us more than we can think to ask. Teach us to love this world and all people as you love us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

**MUSIC RESPONSE** *II. Sinfonia*

*III. In Dulci Jublio*

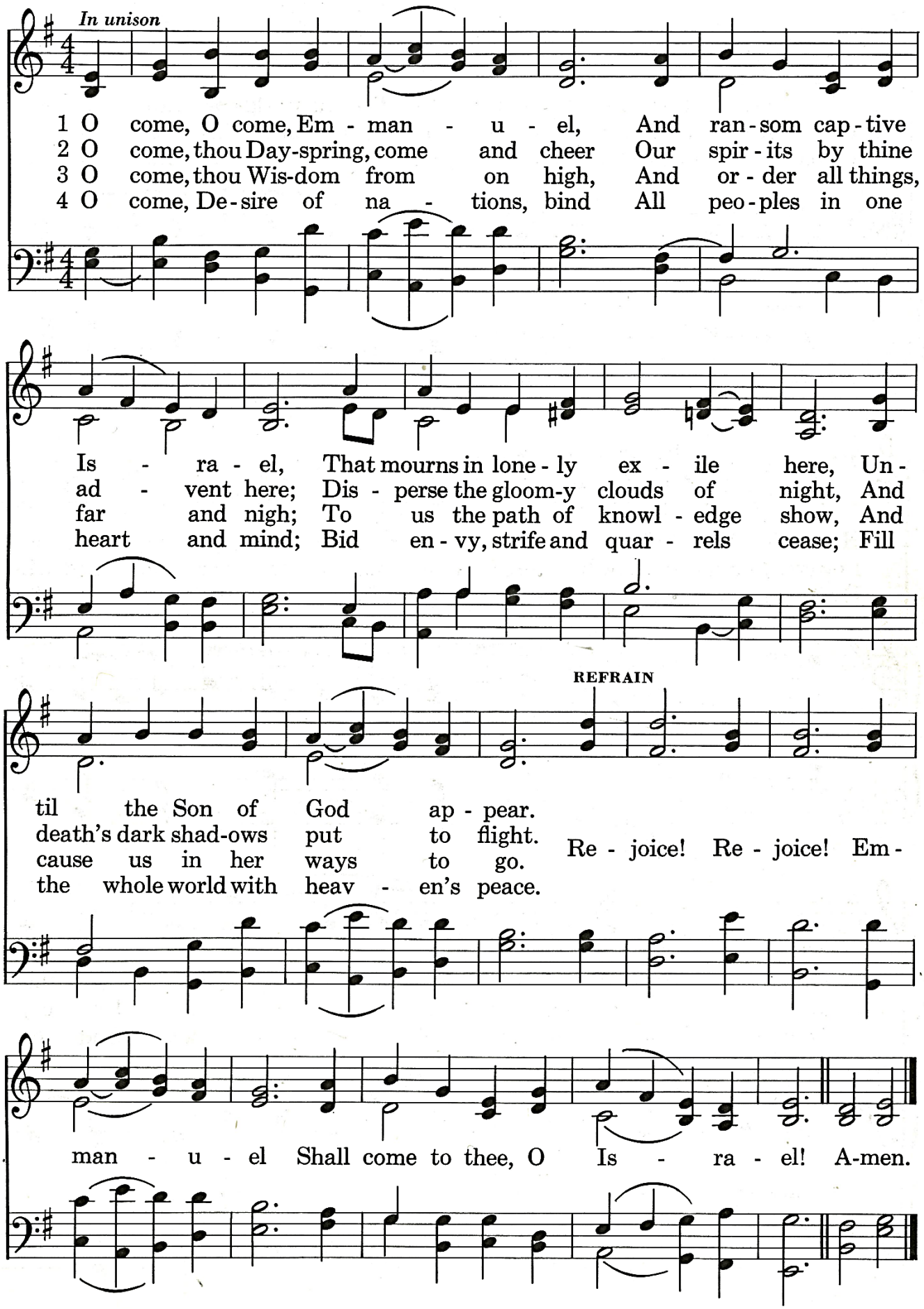
| | |
|---|---|
| In Dulci Jubilo | *(In sweet joy)* |
| *Let our homage show;* | |
| *our heart's Joy reclineth* | |
| In praesepio | *(In the manger)* |
| *And like the bright star shineth* | |
| *Matris in gremio* | *(In the mother's lap)* |
| Alpha es et O | *(Alpha, Thou art and Omega)* |
| O Jesu parvule | *(O Jesus small)* |
| *My heart is sore for Thee* | |
| *Hear me, I beseech Thee!* | |
| O Puer optime! | *(O best boy!)* |
| *My pray'r let it reach Thee* | |
| O princeps gloriae! | *(O Prince of glory!)* |
| Trahe me post Te! | *(Draw me after You!)* |
| Ubi sunt gaudia | *(Where they maintain the joys)* |
| *If that they be not there?* | |
| *Angels there are singing* | |
| Nova cantica | *(New songs)* |
| *There the bells are ringing* | |
| In Regis curia | *(At the King's court)* |
| *O, that we were there!* | |

**1st LESSON** **Isaiah 35:1-10**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, fear not!
Behold, your God

will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you.”
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then shall the lame man leap like a hart,
and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,[a]
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not pass over it,[b]
and fools shall not err therein.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

***HYMN #110** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL



*__OPENING PRAYER__ (Unison)

*Almighty and Gracious God, open the deep places of our hearts so that our love may grow in this time of Christ's coming. Take from us all that is hurting, broken, and fearful, and transform us by Your amazing grace. Deliver us from lukewarm faith, and set us free to live an abundant life with a love greater than we expect or deserve. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.*

**GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD**

**2nd LESSON "The Annunciation" Luke 1:26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"[a] But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High;and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever;and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" And the angel said to her,"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born[b] will be called holy, the Son of God.

And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

**CAROL** *IV. Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung*
*Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.*
*It came a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter*
*When half spent was the night*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind*
*With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind*
*To show God's love aright she bore to men a Saviour*
*When half-spent was the night*

*This Flow'r whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air*
*Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere.*
*True man, yet very God; From sin and death He saves us,*
*And lightens ev'ry load.*

**LITANY** **"The Magnificat"** **Luke 1:47-55**

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord,
People: *And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,*
Leader: For he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden.
for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed;
People: *For he who is mighty has done great things for me,*
*and holy is his name.*
Leader: And his mercy is on those who fear him
from generation to generation.
People: *He has shown strength with his arm,*
*He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts,*
Leader: He has put down the mighty from their thrones,
and exalted those of low degree;
People: *He has filled the hungry with good things,*
*and the rich he has sent empty away.*
Leader: He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
People: *As He spoke to our fathers,*
*to Abraham and to his posterity forever.*

**CAROL** *V. Now the Word Becomes the Flesh*
*(Verbum Caro Factum Est)*

*Now the word becomes the flesh, oh virgin so meek*
*Now the word becomes the flesh, thru' Mary, the virgin.*

*God to us has shown His face on this day, so full of grace*
*Born to us, the Son of God, oh virgin so meek*
*Born to us, the Son of God by Mary, the virgin*

*Lord, to us You gave Your Son; Bringing grace to ev'ryone.*
*Unto us, You sent a light, oh Virgin so meek*
*Unto us, You sent a light in Mary, the virgin.*

*Earth and Heaven now rejoice; Honor Him with heart and voice.*
*All that's good has come from thee, oh virgin so meek.*
*All that's good has come from thee, oh virgin Mary, oh Mary…*

**3rd LESSON** **Luke 2:8-14**

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a

babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"

**CAROLS**

*VI. Glory to God in the Highest*
*(Gloria in excelsis Deo)*

*Gloria! Gloria! Glory to God in the highest, and on earth,*
*Peace to men of good will. Christ, Christ is born today Hosiana!*

*VII. To Us A Child is Born Today*
*(Dies Est Laetitiae)*

*To us a child has been born today. A message of peace He is bringing*
*A child who in humble manger lay. While angels and shepherds are singing.*
*The Son of God has come to be: From all our bonds to set us free.*
*Now nothing can defeat him. Sing and rejoice the day is here.*
*Christ the Lord and heav'n is near. Fall on your knees and greet Him.*

*The shepherds watching their flocks by night heard heavenly voices swelling*
*A star high above made day out of night. What wond'rous tidings foretelling.*

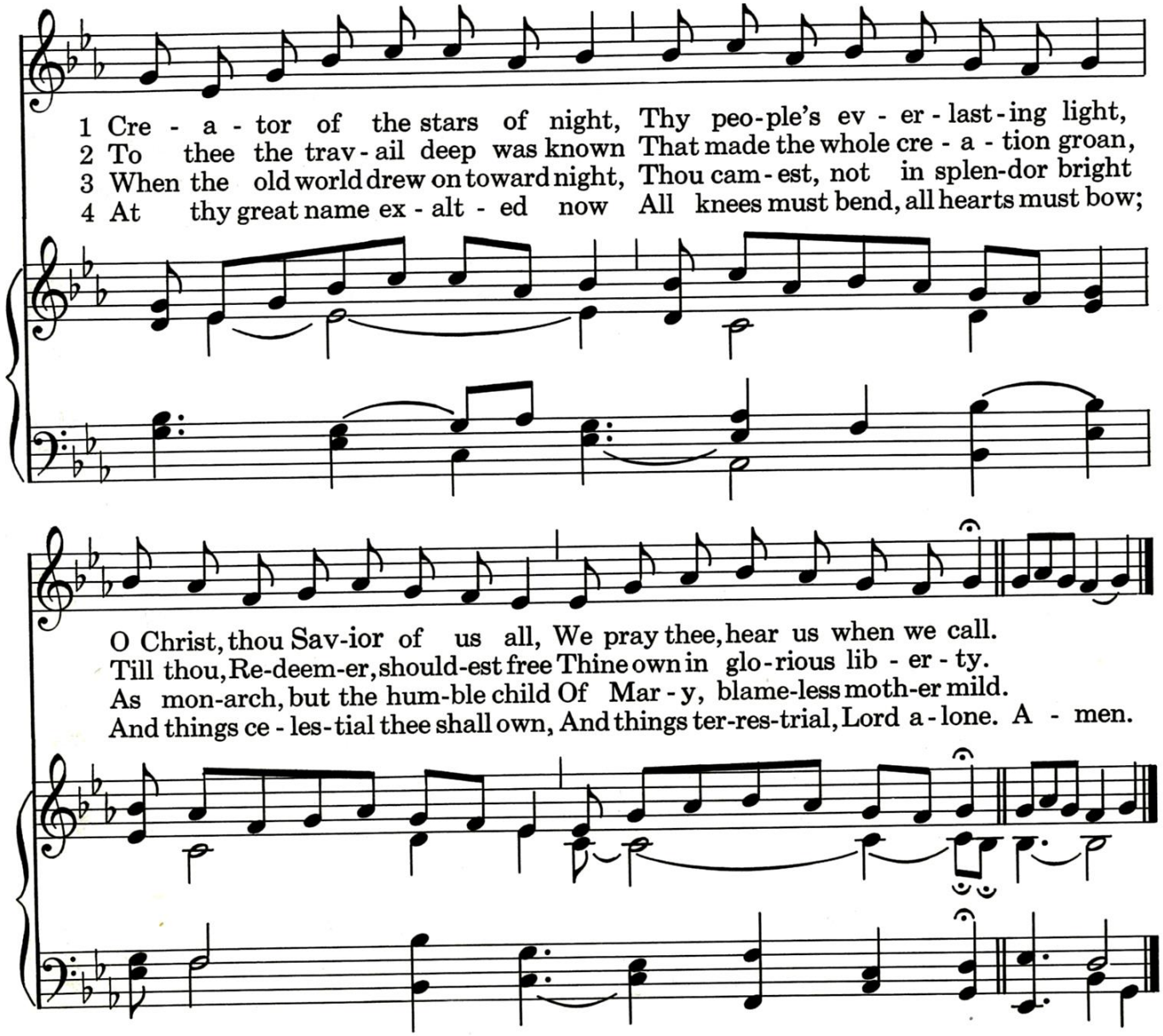
*The angels sang: "Good news we bring. Born is the Son of God, our King."*
*'Tis Christ, our heav'nly Pastor. Oh, what a wondrous jubilee;*
*What a wond'rous sight to see; Christ our heav'ny Master.*

*With joy to the world, how the heavens rang, the glorious news all resounding*
*That Jesus is born, the cherubim sang, with peace & with love all abounding.*
*Goodwill to men and peace on earth. Rejoice and praise the holy birth…*
*And Mary, she who bore Him. Fall to your knees and sing His praise.*
*Thanks give to Him, this day of days. Come, let us all adore Him.*

**4th LESSON** **Luke 2:15-16**

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger

**HYMN #113** Creator of the Stars of Night CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM



**5th LESSON** **Luke 2:17-20**

And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**CAROL** *VIII. Lift Your Voice and Sing*
*(Psallite)*

*Psallite!*
*Lift your voice and sing! 'Tis Lord Jesus Christ our King. Psallite!*
*Virgin Mary, on this morn to us has borne a child; a child so meek and mild.*

*In His crib, meek and mild, virgin borne, Holy Child,*
*While the heav'nly angles sing praise to the newborn King*

*Psallite! Praise the newborn King! Angels and Archangels sing: Psallite!*
*Son of God to us is born, O holy morn! Sing praise! Rejoice this day of days.*

**SERMON** "When Your "but" is Exposed" Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong

## RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

**PREFACE TO PRAYER**

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say rejoice.
People: *Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.*
Leader: Do not worry about anything, but in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
People: *And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.*

**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.

**PRAYER RESPONSE** *IX. Christ, the Lord, is Born Today*
*(Ecce Novum Gaudium)*

*Christ the Lord is born today. Praise Him ev'ry nation.*
*Fall upon your knees and pray. He will bring salvation.*
*Prophets did foretell it; God, His Son would send us*
*Always to attend us now and evermore.*
*God's grace is forever. He will fail us never,*
*for the virgin Mary bore His Son today.*

*From all sin and from all shame came a Rose to guide us.*
*Living in His holy name, He will be beside us.*
*Came a Rose to guide us, virgin Mary bore Him.*
*He will be beside us now and evermore.*

*How He suffered on this earth: what humiliation.*
*From a wondrous holy birth, died for our salvation.*
*Died for our salvation, died and rose to Heaven.*
*Died for our salvation, Holy Son of God.*

**CALL TO OFFERTORY** **John 1:14; 3:16**

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.
For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

**OFFERTORY** *X. Let the Earth with Praise Resound*

*Let the earth with praise resound. Let the earth with joy abound.*
*Kings and shepherds all surround the Holy Child, the infant born of Mary.*
*Here fulfilled the prophecy of Gabriel. Eja! Eja!*
*Jesus of the virgin born, praise His name this holy morn: Hallelujah!*
*On this day, a Child is born, a Child is born in Israel.*
*Born of virgin Mary, Jesus Christ, our King.*

*There is refuge in His name: Immanuel.*
*He alone brings peace and joy, so love Him well.*
*Zion now behold this Child, born of Mary, undefiled.*
*Son of God so meek and mild, now worship Him, the Infant born of Mary.*

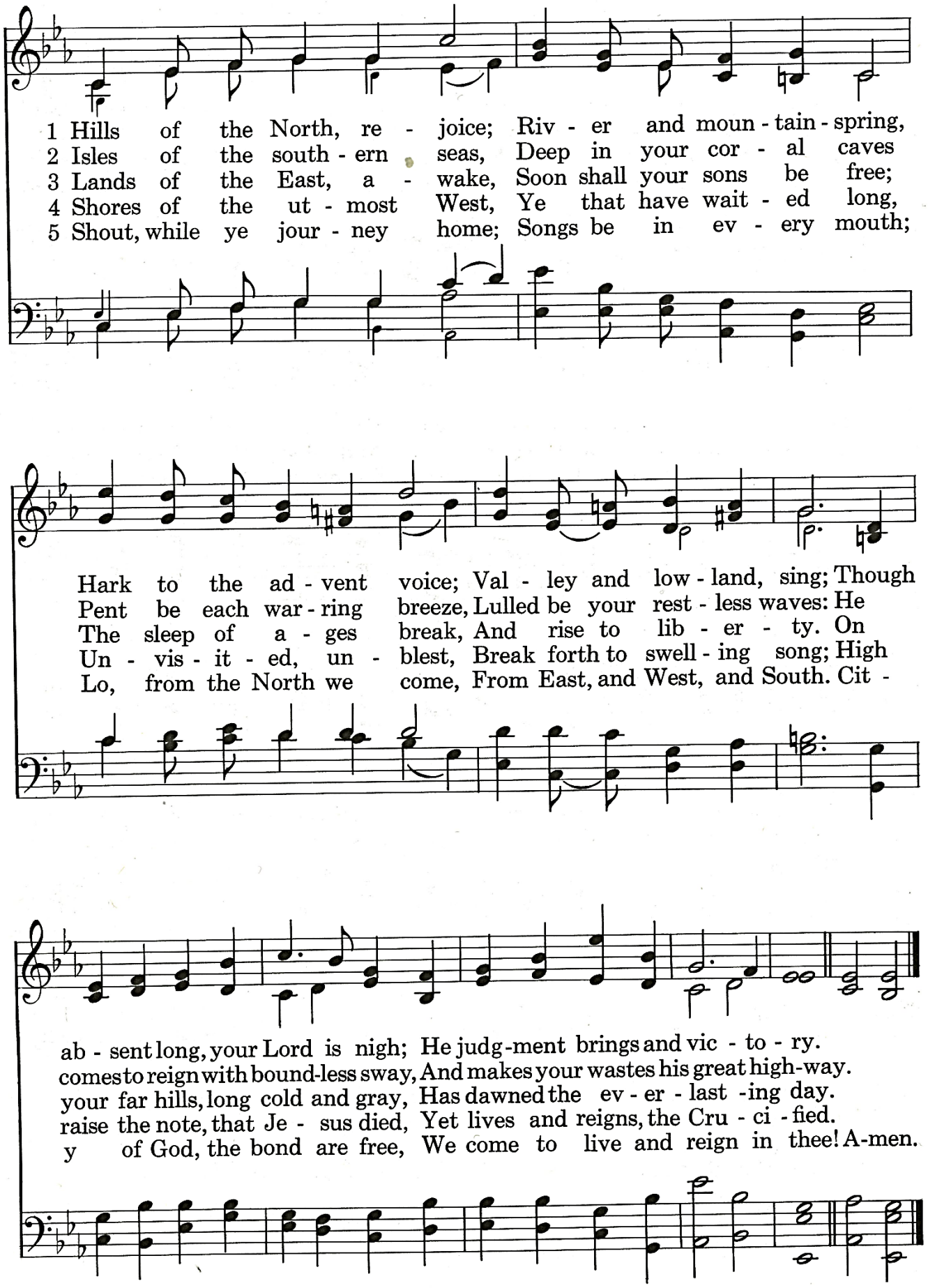
***ADVENT DOXOLOGY** OLD HUNDRETH LM

All praise, eternal Christ, to Thee,
Whose advent sets Thy people free;
Once more upon Thy people shine,
and fill the world with love divine. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Unison)

*We give our offering in confidence rooted in hope that they will further your kingdom and advance the cause of Christ when one day your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.*

***HYMN #106** *Hills of the North, Rejoice* LITTLE CORNARD



*Kindly be seated after the Benediction and remain seated for the Postlude.*

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Concerto à 7,* TWV 44:41 Georg Philipp Telemann
*(1681 – 1767)*
i. Grave
iv. Allegro

## OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

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**AV TEAM CAMERA CREW:** Doug Brenner, Joe Glajch, Lee Hauenstein, Craig Neth, Don Smith-Weiss and Dennis Webster
**COVER ART:** Image from ChurchArt.com
**DEACON OF THE DAY:** Bill McIntyre
**HYMNS:** Pilgrim Hymnal, CCLI#3034682

**********

*The flowers in the pulpit this morning are*
*given in memory of Craig Hutchinson, by his family.*

**********

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

**********

HEARING AIDS AND LARGE PRINT OF HYMNS AND PRAYERS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

**********

**MASK USE IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED WHILE INSIDE THE CHURCH BUILDINGS.**

*The First Church of Nashua* *together with*
***First Music Concert Series*** *present a*
***4th Advent Worship Service***
*Oratorio offering in celebration of Christ's birth:*

# CHRISTMAS AT FIRST
# GAUDETE

*(Rejoice)*

## *Anders* ÖHRWALL

*(1932 - 2012)*

## MUDDY BROOK CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

**Elliott Markow,** *violin 1 (concertmaster)*
**Lynn Bassila,** *violin 2*
**Nathaniel Lathrop,** *cello*
**Jacqueline DeVoe,** *flute*
**Cheryl Bishkoff,** *oboe*
**Gregory Newton,** *bassoon*

**Joseph R. Olefirowicz,** *conductor*

# MUSIC AT FIRST
# CHANCEL CHOIR of THE FIRST CHURCH

*Joseph R. Olefirowicz, CAGO – Minister of Music*

**SOPRANO**
**Laura Amrein**
**Kathryn Bell**
**Jennifer Burks**
**Ellie Freeman**
**Marie Greene**
**Debbie Nordyke**
**Janet Poisson +**
**Betty Scofield**
**Cindy Whitney**

**ALTO**
**Brianne Biastoff +**
**Carol Butler**
**Kendra Comstock**
**Pat Darrin**
**Deborah Kneeland**
**Leslie Woodard**

**TENOR**
**Steve Huff +**
**George Lyons**
**Charles Morris**
**Craig Plummer**

**BASS**
**Ray Crowell**
**George Gardner**
**Chris Guild**
**Ken Heider**
**David Hotham**
**Jason Iannuzzi +**

*+ Chancel Choir Staff Singer*

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## SINGING & RINGING DURING COVID-19

*Vocal & Handbell Choirs of the Music at First Ministry are currently in session.*

*The Chancel Choir usually numbers about 36 singers for this annual project. Our reduced capacity this morning is based on extensive research for safe practices during these times. Any members not present today, are certainly with us in spirit.*

*We are very grateful for the opportunity to bring you the finest music to God's praise this morning, in the safest way we can. Blessings to you all!*

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**Kathleen McIntyre,** *Music Librarian*
**Gregory Newton & Kristin Olsen,** *Orchestra Contracting*
**Mauri Tetreault,** *Choral Contracting*
**Cynthia Whitney,** *Liturgical Apparel Coordinator*

# *Notes from the Chancel*

## CHRISTMAS at FIRST

*Since 2008, The First Church of Nashua has collaborated with the First Music Concert Series, integrating a major choral work into the fabric of Sunday morning worship during the Advent season.*

***Christmas at First*** *offers the unique experience of choral masterworks offered in a vibrant festival service. Rather than a concert performance in one block, the movements of the selected oratorio are interwoven within the fabric of Sunday worship, allowing a time of reflection and inspiration during this joyous season of anticipation. Orchestrations are created for congregational hymns, and select works are presented by the region's finest classical artists, rounding out our corporate worship together. – Soli Deo Gloria!*

*Although such major choral events with chamber ensembles or orchestra are reserved for only a few times a year, the nine ensembles of the wider Music Ministry of The First Church grace worship services every week in a rotating schedule. The strong tradition of fine music at The First Church is one of the many ministries that serve our church and wider community. - Since 1685.*

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**PAST OFFERINGS *of* CHRISTMAS *at* FIRST…**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2008 | Antonio Vivaldi | *Gloria in D Major* |
| 2009 | Benjamin Britten | *Ceremony of Carols* |
| 2010 | Giovanni B.d. Pergolesi | *Magnificat* |
| 2011 | Camille Saint-Saëns | *Oratorio de Noël* |
| 2012 | Georg Friedrich Händel | *The Messiah (Part I)* |
| 2013 | Anders Öhrwall | *Gaudete* |
| 2014 | Johann Sebastian Bach | *Cantata 62* |
| 2015 | Nicholas White | *Magnificat* |
| 2016 | John Rutter | *Gloria* |
| 2017 | Antonio Vivaldi | *Gloria in D Major (10th Anniversary)* |
| 2018 | Antonio Vivaldi | *Magnificat* |
| 2019 | Daniel Pinkham | *Sinfonia Sacra (Christmas Cantata)* |
| | Robert Washburn | *Gloria in Excelsis* |
| 2020 | Johann Sebastian Bach | *Cantata 147* |

## Worship Services this Week

All services are in person. The 11:00 PM service will be live streamed online as well.

**Christmas Eve - December 24**
**5:00 PM: Families and Children of all ages**
*Music: Chapel Chimers*

**7:00 PM: Service of Lessons and Carols**
*Music: Nicole Plummer, mezzo soprano*

**11:00 PM: Service of Lessons and Carols**
*Music: Chancel Choir; Nicole Paquette, flute; Handbell Quartet*

**December 26 - First Sunday after Christmas**
10:00 AM only: Worship
*Music: Catie Kondi, soprano*

*There will be no childcare provided for the service.*

## *Church Happenings and Outreach*

**Nursery care is available, today,** for our youngest members at both the 9:00 and 11:00 AM services.
The nursery will be closed December 26 and January 2. Nursery care resumes on January 9, 2022 for the 10:00 AM Service.

**Sunday school classes will resume on Sunday, January 9, 2022.**

**++++**

**The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and Emergency Fund will be received today.** This is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ. It grants us an opportunity to recognize and honor those who have served, and continue to serve, in lay and authorized ministries of the UCC. Your gift to the Christmas Fund will also provide for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and provide Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks next December to low-income retirees. Make checks payable to The First Church, with "Christmas Fund" in the memo line. Envelopes are available in the pew racks and were included in the December newsletter. If you prefer to donate online, go to:
https://www.pbucc.org/christmas-fund-home and click on the "donate" button.

**++++**

**Walk the Labyrinth on Tuesday December 21 from 3:00-5:00 PM** in Fellowship Hall. Join Rev. Jami and LeeAnne Steenhoek in faith and fellowship to restore, renew and await the light of Christ. *Emmanuel- God with us.*
In recent years, the labyrinth has re-emerged as a Christian spiritual tool. Unlike a maze, which is a form of puzzle with trick turns and dead ends, the labyrinth has a single path that leads one into the center and back out again. There is no need to worry about figuring out what turns to take. One just follows the path. Modern "pilgrims" walk the labyrinth as one of many tools to enhance prayer, contemplation, meditation, and/or personal growth.

**++++**

**Rev. Andy Gilman** will be leaving First Church after his last sermon on December 26. We appreciate all that he has shared with us over this past year and we wish him well in his retirement (for real!). He will return in January, on a date to be determined, for a farewell reception.

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**Year-End Reminder -** All contributions for the 2021 tax year must be in the church office by December 31, 2021 or if mailed, the envelope must be postmarked December 31, 2021. Contact Dianne Smigliani with any questions.

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**The First Church Thrift Shop will be closed on December 23 and 30.**

**Church Cancellation Policy -** In the event of inclement weather, a power outage, or severe weather advisory, First Church may cancel the 8:30 service or both services. Expect a robocall from Rev. Andy. Visit the church webpage (www.tfcucc.org), or Facebook Page (First Church Nashua UCC) for any cancellation notices or you can check media outlets WMUR Channel 9, or WZID 95.7 FM under the heading First Church Nashua. The notifications will be announced by 6:00 AM on the Sunday in question.

**++++**

**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

**++++**

**Tornado Disaster Relief –** If you wish to contribute to the relief efforts for the recent tornados in Kentucky, 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/

The M.A.D. (Make a Difference) 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.

**++++**

**Mission Trip to La Romana** - First Church is sending a mission team of eight people to the Dominican Republic next spring. They are gathering a variety of supplies to take with them. See the list of items needed at the table in Fellowship Hall. ***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/

**Afghan Evacuee Resettlement -** Over 600 Afghan allies are scheduled to be resettled in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Ascentria is working with the Nashua Host Home Network to resettle Afghan families who have helped our troops. Would you like to join a team that supports a resettled family or individual? Would you like to form your own Neighborhood support group? Do you have a live-in apartment or in-law space that is not being used? Please contact the Nashua Host Home Network to learn how you can help.
Paul Introcaso: p.introcaso@comcast.net
MaryAnn McHugh: m.a.mchugh@comcast.net

**++++**

**Adult Winter Retreat -** Marie Joseph Spiritual Center - January 21 – 23, 2022
**Reminder: The balance is due by January 7, 2022.** Rev. Andy Armstrong will lead the retreat with a theme around simplicity and sabbatical. Contact the church office for more information.

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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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**The Adult Learning Center is in need of part-time evening teachers** for their adult basic education and English as a second language (ESL) classes. They need teachers for in-person and on-line (Zoom) classes. As a private nonprofit they require that all of their in-person students provide proof of vaccination and they must wear masks at all times. Strict COVID procedures are followed in the building.

Classes begin the week of January 10, 2022. Evening classes run on Monday-Wednesday or Tuesday-Thursday. All you need is a Bachelor's Degree, in any field, and a desire to teach. They provide the curriculum and support and pay for preparation time. Classes are free to New Hampshire residents and are funded by the NH Department of Education. Starting salary is $27.00 per hour.

If you are interested, please reach out to Carol Baldwin at cbaldwin@nashuaalc.org or call (603) 882-9080 x 2204 to schedule an interview. You can really make a difference in the life of adult students studying to pass the HiSET (former GED) exam or improve upon their English skills."

# POINSETTIA DONATIONS

## GIVEN BY

Ken and Tasha Drew, in celebration of our three wonderful, young adults; Morgan, Haleigh and Nick - Love, Mom and Dad
The family of Randy Staradub, with love
Beverly Tucker, with thanks to First Church

## GIVEN IN HONOR OF

Celeste and Calvin, by Deborah Batchelder
Ginny and Phil Brooks, by Rev. Jami Boyle
My children and grandchildren- Kevin, Cory, Kirsten, Kayla, Eric, Cole, Luke, Natalie and Maya, by Carole Chapman
Our wonderful office volunteers- Bonnie, Dale, Flo, Jeanne, Karen, Kathryn, and Susan, by the church staff
The Glory of God, by Peter and Janet Conrad
Special friends, Sue and Jim, by Carol Decker
Dorothy Eaves, by Don Eaves
Our grandson, Logan Kneeland, by Bruce and Deb Kneeland
The Stephen Kiley Family, by Sonja Lee
Family and friends, by Fred and Judy McManus
Church Family, by Patricia Mullin
My mother and father, by Tom O'Hare
Norman and Marion Petersen, by Roland Petersen
My eight great grandchildren, by Kay Potfora
Foster, MacKenzie, Taylor, Connor, Julian and Brayden, by Ron and Pat Rose
Our parents, by Roy and Sandra Rumbaugh
Our wonderful FPF Kids, who are so loved and cherished, by Dianne and Rich Smigliani
Our parents, by Jack and Caryl Sullivan

## GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Douglas E. Ayer, by his family
Aunt Irene, Matthew and Ted, by Ray and Carol Baldwin
Maurice and Arlene Barrett, by Doug and Roberta Barrett
Hetty Andrews, by Beth and John Bartlett
Those we lost in 2021, by Susie and Ed Boyd
May parents, Bill and Pauline Richardson, by Carole Chapman
Frances Crosby, by Mike and Gale Cummings and Jake Crosby
Paul Messier, by Mike and Gale Cummings
Alma and Ray Cannon, by Pat and Jay Darrin
Loved ones, by Carol Decker
Leslie and David Ray, by Andy Dillman
Jane Murray, by The Drew Crew
Virginia Batista and Manuel Cabral, by Zenalia Eaves
Loved ones, by John and Sue Englander
Bob and Cheryl Fontes, by Tim and Sandra Fontes
My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank R. Gardner, by George Gardner
Our parents, by Richard and Dorothy Gillespie
Loved ones, by Walter and Cynthia Hallonquist
Those who have gone before, by Pat Harris
Helen Brown, by Ken Heider
My parents, Robert and Doris Polley, by Carol Hutchinson
Stephen Kiley, by Sonja Lee
Our grandson, Daniel Mullaney, by Bruce and Floice Lund
My wife, Doris, by Richard Lustig
Family and Friends, by Bill and Kathie McIntyre
Jamie and Joy Mohrmann, by The Mohrmann Family
Our grandparents, by Craig and Dale Neth
Jim O'Hare, Dawn O'Hare and Tessa Creamer, by Tom O'Hare
Allison Tucker, by The Plummer Family
My husband, Leon and son, David, by Suzanne Shattuck
Our grandmas- Ruby, Peggy, Olive and Edna,
by Grant and Rebecca Small and family
Fred Spaney and Lucille Spaney, by Lucinda Spaney
Ken McVicar, by Lucinda Spaney
Pete and Allison, by Beverly Tucker
Our parents, by Beverly Tucker
My parents, Alfred and Lillian Washburn, by Jane Washburn
Elizabeth Webster, by Dennis Webster
May J. Leach, by Dennis Webster

# *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
Interim Associate Minister, *Rev. Dr. Andrew Gilman*, agilman@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 and 1:00-4:00pm
Visit our web site at www.tfcucc.org


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