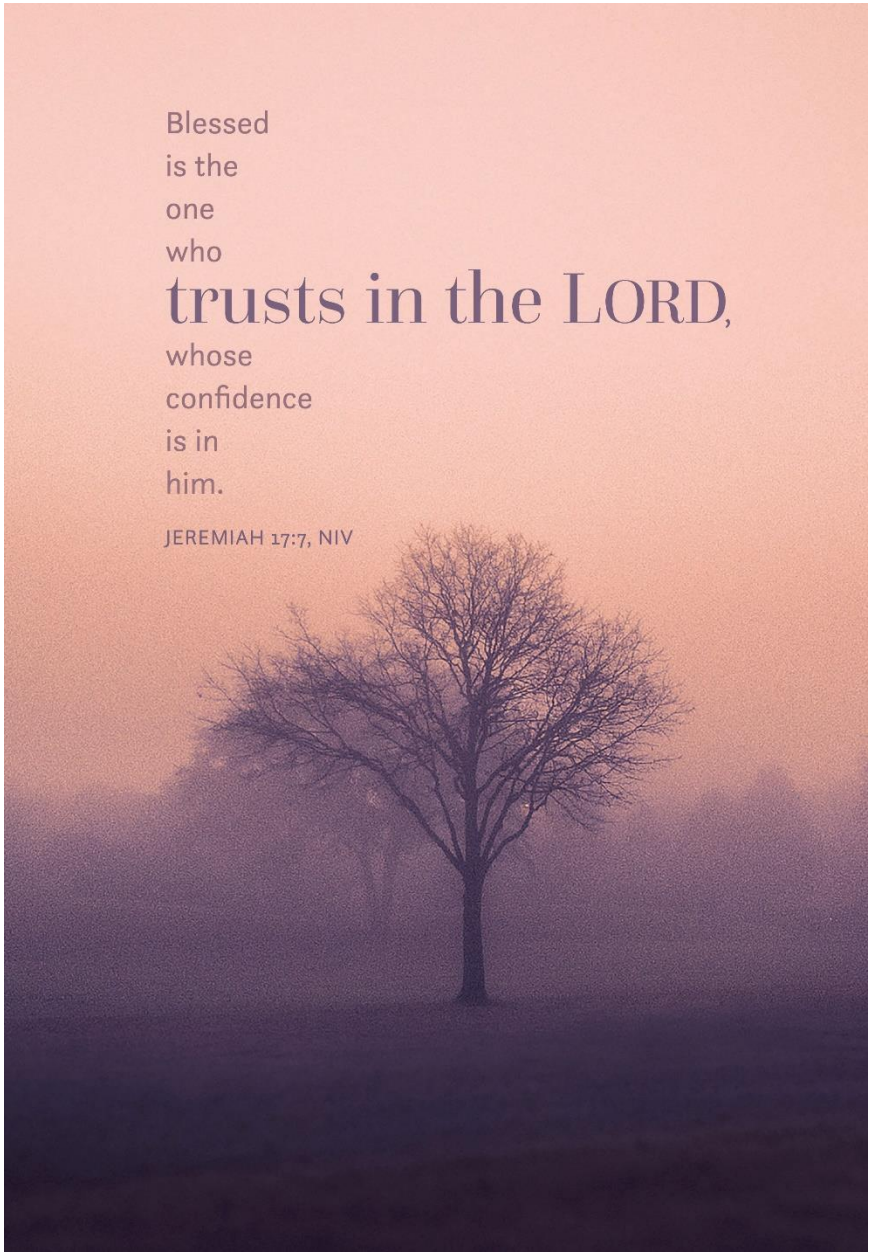


THE FIRST CHURCH

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

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 20, 2022 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.

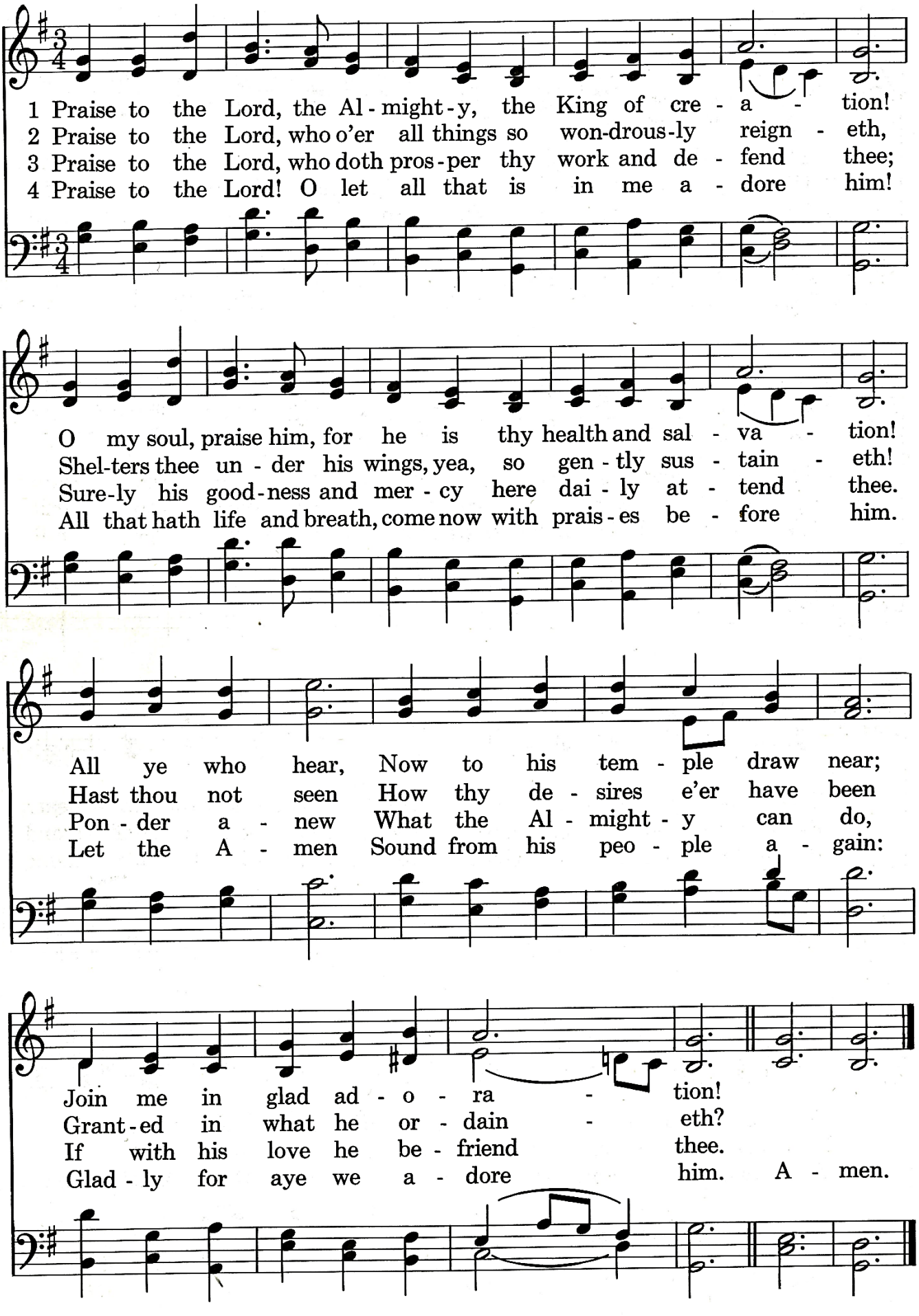
TOWER CHIMES Jessica Price

MEDITATION "Faith is trust in ultimate meaning." Viktor E. Frankl

PRELUDE *Canzonetta,* Op. 71 – No. 4 A. Foote
(1853 – 1937)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, lift up your hearts to the Lord!
People: To You, O Lord, we lift up our hearts. In You we trust! Do not let us be put to shame.
Leader: Our God is full of compassionate love. He brings sinners back to His way, and teaches the humble the way they should go.
People: Show us the right path, O Lord; point out the way for us to follow. Lead us by Your truth, and teach us, for You are the God who saves.
All: We put our hope in You!

***HYMN #15** *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* LOBE DEN HERREN

***OPENING PRAYER** (Unison)

Holy God, this is the day that You have made! This is the day you have called Holy: A Sabbath day, a rest day, a time to breathe; a timeout from the world and into Your presence. Fill our souls to full and brimming over with the joy of the Lord. We are glad to be together in the House of the Lord! May our worship help us transcend time and prepare us for eternity as we love you and serve one another. We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

***PRAISE 66/6** *For Thy Church That Evermore* DIX

For thy church that evermore lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love.
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

GREETINGS

COMMISSIONING SERVICE Rev. Nancy Haynes
Beth Raymond

Question: Will you depend upon the Holy Spirit who has led you to this moment to guide you in this mission to La Romana, DR?
Response: "I will with God's Help."
Question: Will you serve this mission, not only with intelligence, but imagination, enthusiasm and holy love?
Response: "I will with God's Help"
Question to missionaries and congregation:
Will you hold each other in prayer trusting God to hold our faith and hope together in each other's absence?
Response: "We will with God's Help"

Blessing

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Genesis 45:1-11,15**

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or

angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Luke 6:27-38

"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

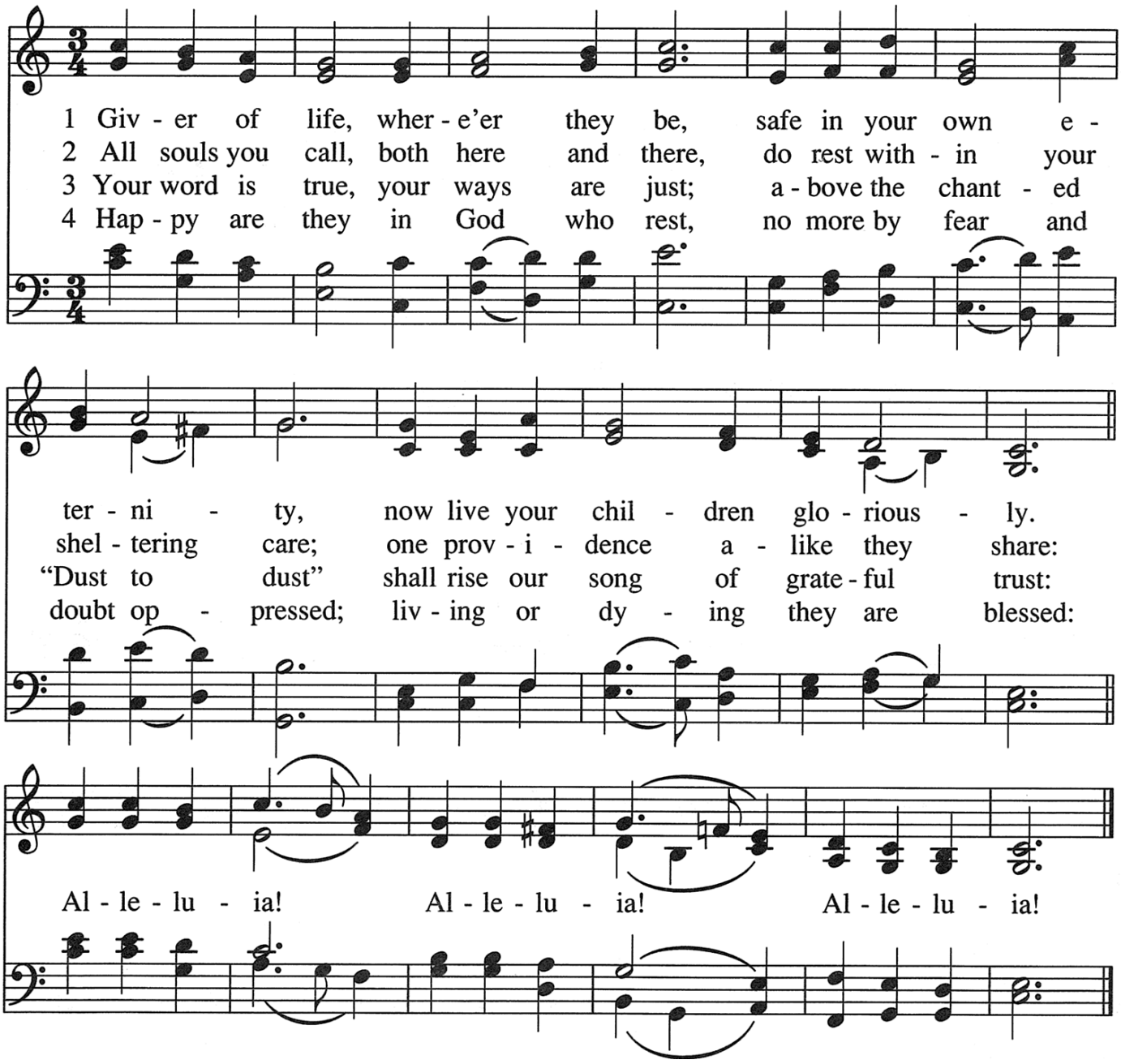
"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

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

GRATIA TIBI *Thanks Be to Thee* T. Tallis
STAFF SINGER QUARTET *(1505 – 1585)*

VOLUNTARY *All Things Bright and Beautiful* W. H. Monk
DECIBELLS *(1823 – 1889)*
arr. McFadden

SERMON "The Ministry of Tears" Rev. Dr. Andrew Armstrong

***HYMN** *Giver of Life, Where'er They Be* GELOBT SEI GOTT

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

***CENTERING PRAYER** (inspired by Matthew 5: 43-48, Luke 6: 27-38)

O God, Lord of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth: deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. ~ from the Book of Common Prayer

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE *Almighty Father, Hear Our Prayer* F. Mendelssohn
(1809 – 1847)

OFFERTORY *Still, Still With Thee* A. Foote

This anthem was written in the year this Sanctuary was constructed, 1893, and is typical of the kind of anthem a Solo Quartet would have sung here in worship services of that era. The First Church initially had such a vocal quartet "from Boston" as its core choral music for Sunday mornings, before the establishment of larger vocal choirs a few decades later.

(Alto)
Still, still with Thee, when purple morning breaketh
When the bird waketh and the shadows fells;
Fairer than morning, lovelier than daylight,
Dawns the sweet consciousness, I am with Thee!

(Bass)
Alone with Thee, amid the mystic shadows,
The solemn hush of nature newly born;
Alone with Thee in breathless adoration,
In the calm dew and freshness of the morn.

(Quartet)
As in the dawning o'er the waveless ocean,
The image of the morning star doth rest,
So in, so in this stillness Thou beholdest only
Thine image, in the waters of my breast.

(Soprano & Tenor)
Still, still with thee! As to each newborn morning,
A fresh and solemn splendor still is given,
So doth this blessed consciousness awaking,
Breathe, each day, nearness unto Thee and heaven. (2x)

(Quartet)
When sinks the soul, subdued by toil, to slumber,
Its closing eye looks up to thee in prayer,
Sweet the repose beneath the wings o'ershading
But sweeter still to wake and find Thee there.

So shall it be at last, at last in that bright morning,
When the soul waketh, and life's shadows' flee;
Oh, in that hour, fairer than daylight dawning,
Shall rise glorious thought, I am with Thee! (2x)
I am with Thee! (2x)

Poem by Harriet Beecher Stowe *(1811 – 1896)*

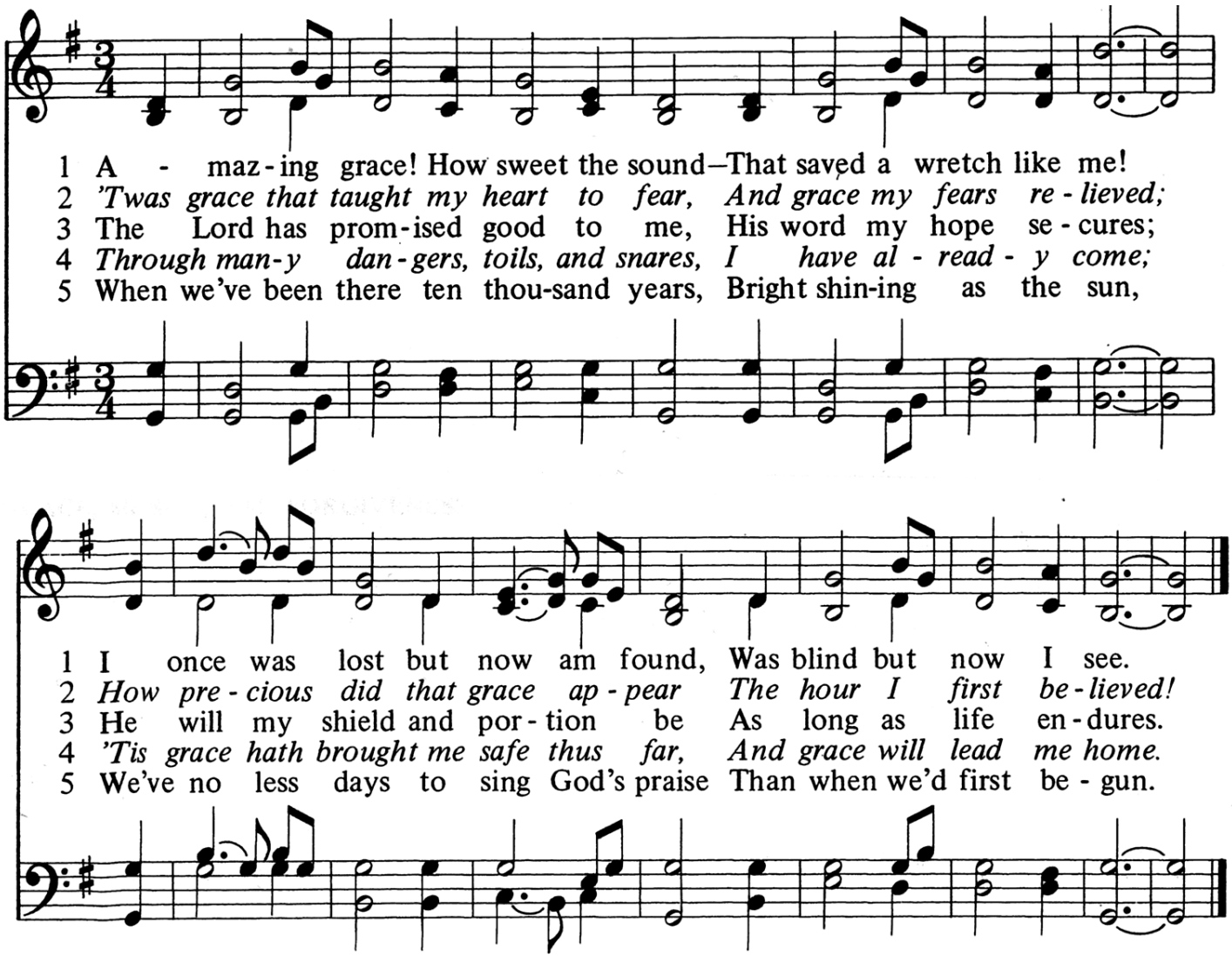
***DOXOLOGY** OLD HUNDRETH L.M.

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)

If faith were easy, Dear God, if faith were easy then how would anyone know the depths of your love and the sincerity of our faith? So we give just as much when our hearts are heavy as when they are light. We love and we share not because it makes us happy, but in response to your divine decree. Think better of us not by the size of our gifts, but our desire for grace upon grace through Christ who we worship and adore. Amen.

***HYMN** *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* NEW BRITAIN



***BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTUS *Sevenfold Amen* J. Stainer
(1840 – 1901)

The congregation is kindly asked to be seated for the POSTLUDE.

POSTLUDE *Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König der Ehren* J. G. Walther
Praise to the Lord, the mighty King of honor *(1684 – 1748)*

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
COVER ART: ChurchArt Online
DEACON OF THE DAY: Jeanne Chaloner
HYMNS: Pilgrim Hymnal, New Century Hymnal, Hymns for the Family of God, #3034682
STAFF SINGER QUARTET: Janet Poisson, soprano; Brianne Biastoff, alto
Ethan Bremner, tenor; Jason Iannuzzi, bass

****

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

****

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

****

Have you remembered First Church in your will?

MASK USE IS REQUIRED INSIDE THE CHURCH BUILDINGS.

Worship Schedule

Temporary Worship Service Time Change through February 27
10:00 AM: In-Person Worship, Livestream,
Sunday School & Nursery Care
Radio broadcast at 10:00 AM on WSMN AM 1590 & FM 95.3

The 8:30 service will return!
Watch for the return date, hopefully during the Lenten Season.

Christian Formation Corner

The Nursery opens for our youngest members (infants through age 2) at 9:45 AM during the 10:00 AM worship service. Nursery coordinators are on hand to greet parents and explain the procedure for checking in and picking up your child.

In the Sunday School this month:

- Our youngest students in Preschool, K, 1 & 2 learn about Jesus calling the disciples, the Sermon on the Mount and Lent.
- Older students in grades 3 & 4, 5 & 6 learn about being a disciple, honoring parents and those we love, not hurting others and the importance of Truth.

Make a Difference (MAD) News - Students meet today to learn, rally and respond to help victims of the tornadoes in December of 2021. Our focus is to learn about this specific disaster and tragedy, what victims need and want and how to help.

Look for MAD posters with images of the tornado damage placed around the church to build sensitivity and awareness. Share your time, talents and treasure for those in need. We appreciate the gifts given for this special offering in our Magical, Missional Ministry Bowl, crafted by Steve Buck. Look for MAD teachers and students near the welcome center or leave your checks in the collection plates. Make checks payable to First Church, with MAD Tornados in the memo line. May they receive our tornado of love, light and healing.

High School Youth Group is starting on March 20 in the dining room. Calling all high school students in grades 9-12!!! Are you looking for a safe and welcoming community within First Church to spend some time bonding with friends and having fun? A place where you can feel free to share both your triumphs and concerns? Well, the new senior high youth group is YOUR group!

Holly Columbus-Frye and Shana Dodge are leading this group. It will meet ***every 2 weeks*** after the service from 11:30 AM-1PM.

We would love to see you at the first meeting! We will be playing cornhole, eating pizza, getting to know each other, and deciding on a name for the group!

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

The church office will be closed on Monday, February 21.

++++

Coffee with Rev. Nancy – Join Rev. Nancy at Riverwalk Café, on Tuesdays at 2:00 PM for coffee and conversation. Sign-up is not necessary.

++++

First Folk will begin rehearsals on Tuesday, February 22 at 6:30 PM. The choirs will come into worship in March.

We thank all of our members for their continued diligence to keep each other safe in these times.

++++

Mission Trip to La Romana, DR – The mission team, Rev. Andy, Mike and Anna Fauteux, Chris and Judy Gentile, Kelechi and Adaeze Okorie and Kathy Meighan, leaves this Friday, February 25 for their weeklong medical mission. We wish them safe travels and we look forward to hearing about their experience. They expect to keep us updated on their mission efforts at https://www.facebook.com/CentralMALaRomana/ and other outlets TBD.

++++

Membership Orientations - For anyone wishing to join the church, there will be two orientations on **Sundays, March 20 and 27 at 11:30 AM** in room 15. You only need to attend one session. The joining date will be **Sunday, April 3**, during the 10:00 AM worship service. Please contact Sue in the church office to register.

++++

Soup Kitchen Emergency Shelter Tours – Construction is now well under way on NSKS's Spring Street emergency shelter. Construction is on schedule for completion this fall. Interior demolition is complete, plumbing and electrical work is under way on the first floor, and framing is in progress on the second, third, and fourth floors. They are especially excited about the work under way on the elevator shaft, and that the Spring Street shelter will be accessible to all. They are offering tours in the coming weeks for anyone who would like to see the new shelter in progress. All meet at 35 Spring Street at 4:00 PM. Tours will take place on: Tuesday, February 22, Monday, March 14, Tuesday, March 29. Please contact the church office, if you would like to schedule a date.

++++

Family Forum – Mark Baddeley of the Pastoral Counseling Services will lead another Family Forum with us on **Thursday, March 10**. The theme is "The Importance of Religion and Spirituality". It will be held via zoom from 6:45-8:15 PM. More information will follow. Contact LeeAnne, Sue or Dianne for the link.

Mitten Tree Update - A huge thank you to all those who contributed mittens (and some hats) to this year's Mitten Tree event. We collected a record 226 pairs of mittens/gloves and a few hats which will be distributed to Mt Pleasant Elementary, Amherst St Elementary, and The Adult Learning Center. Your talents and generosity will keep many hands warm this cold winter. Kudos to this wonderful and giving congregation.

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Thank you! On behalf of the children and staff of the Adult Learning Center's Early Childhood Adventures Program, thank you very much to the members of First Church who provided our littles ones with mittens, hats, and booties. After Susan Testa graciously delivered them to me, I took them directly into our childcare facility where I heard: "Oh this is so great. It's that time of year where so many mittens and hats have been lost, or are falling apart, and it's difficult to find them in stores. We can really use these." I think that sums it up well. Thank you again for your kindness and generosity. And, we love all the colors!
Carol Baldwin, Executive Director

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The Wednesday Morning Men's Group meets via zoom at 8:00 AM. Contact the church office for the link. The group will meet in person beginning March 9.

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Bible, Friends, and Coffee will resume on **Monday, March 7 at 9:30 AM** in Fellowship Hall.

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Pledge Envelopes - If you requested 2022 pledge envelopes, they are available at the Welcome Center. If you would like to have envelopes, sign up at the Welcome Center or contact the church office.

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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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First Church e-News – Stay in touch with what's happening at First Church each week. Contact Dianne Smigliani to sign up.

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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!

Church Cancellation Policy - In the event of inclement weather, a power outage, or severe weather advisory, First Church may cancel Sunday School, and/or the worship 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: Sunday School Cancelled or All Services Cancelled and will be announced by 6am on the Sunday in question.

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Outreach Focus for February – End 68 Hours of Hunger

First Church is continuing our support of this program aimed at providing nourishing food for children who don't have enough food at home to carry them through the weekend. During the school week they have at least two full meals daily, but on the weekends they leave for a period of 68 hours with little to eat.

Carefully planned packs of wholesome food are provided each Friday to 347 elementary school students. We have two ways you can support their efforts:

- The End 68 Hours of Hunger collection bin is located near the Welcome Center. They appreciate donations of any of the following items: Peanut Butter, Saltines, Graham Crackers, Canned Beef Stew, Canned Pasta, Canned Soup, Hormel Complete Meals, Mac & Cheese, Fruit Cups, Juice Boxes, Granola Bars, Canned Tuna or Chicken, Individual Oatmeal packets, Pudding Cups and Instant Rice or Noodles. OR
- Consider sending a check or monetary donation to this worthy charity. Here is the link to the End 68 hours of Hunger website:

https://www.end68hoursofhunger.org/find-your-community/new-hampshire/nashua/

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Assist Folks with filing their taxes - United Way is seeking volunteers to help folks with filing their taxes. For more information, reach out to Sara Ceaser, Director of Volunteer and Community Engagement, United Way of Greater Nashua. 603-438-2173 or sceaser@unitedwaynashua.org. To register, go to: https://www.volunteergreaternashua.org/need/detail/?need_id=656996

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The First Church Thrift Shop is open on **Thursdays, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM.** They are now accepting donations of *SPRING & SUMMER CLOTHING:* 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.

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.

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 and crocheters. For more information, speak with Karen Bianchi, Kay Potfora, or Rev. Jami.

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Music in Worship Next Week

Sunday, February 27, 2022
8th Sunday after Epiphany
10:00 Staff Singer Quartet

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This Week at First Church

SUN FEB 20	9:15am	Chapel Chimers, Shaw Chapel
	10:00am	Worship, Livestream, Radio Broadcast
	11:20am	Joyful Noise, Shaw Chapel
MON FEB 21		Church Office Closed – Presidents' Day
TUE FEB 22	2:00pm	Huntington Service
	4:00pm	First Church at NSKS
	6:30pm	First Folk, Sanctuary
WED FEB 23	8:00am	Wednesday Morning Men's Group, Zoom
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
THU FEB 24	10:00am	Thrift Shop
	7:00pm	Decibells, Fellowship Hall
FRI FEB 25	4:00pm	First Church at NSKS
		Mission Trip to La Romana departs
SAT FEB 26	10:00am	DAR, room 10
	11:00am	Sisters in Sobriety, Nauss Hall
	12:00pm	Memorial Service for Donna Osborne

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

FIRST MUSIC

FM

CONCERT SERIES 2021 – 22 SEASON

SEASON XIV
STAYING ALIVE!

BRINGING the JOY of MUSIC to the GATE CITY

DIVA, DIVA, DIVO!

BRIANNA ROBINSON & **MICHELLE TRAINOR** soprano
DAVID RIVERA BOZÓN tenor
LEONA CHEUNG piano

SUNDAY MAR 13

FREE ADMISSION
ALL ARE WELCOME
3:00 PM

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
Interim Associate Minister, *Rev. Nancy Haynes*, nhaynes@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 with us 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 nametags; 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
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.