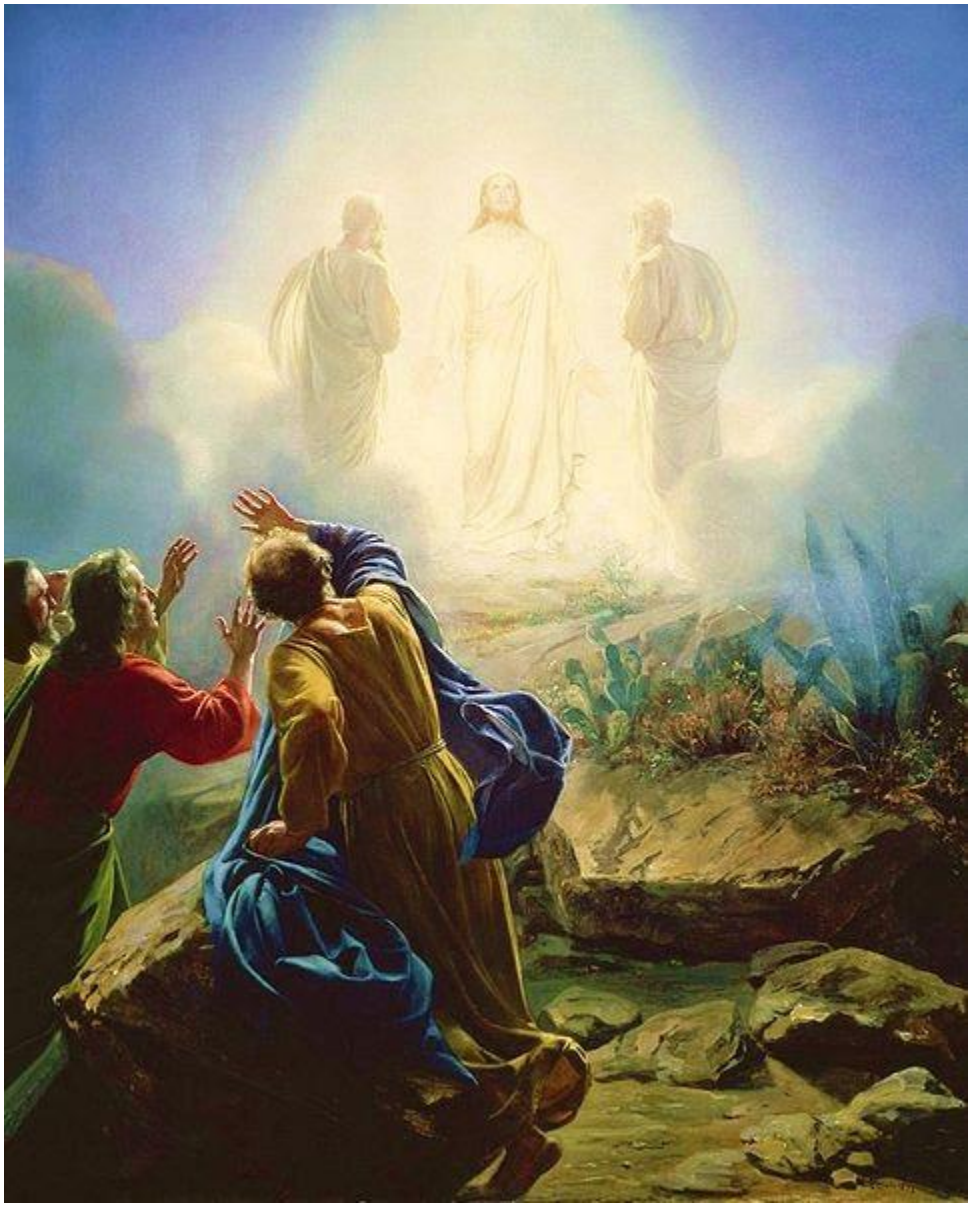


THE FIRST CHURCH

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

Transfiguration

February 27, 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 Dale Neth

MEDITATION This is what differentiates sympathy from empathy. No matter how much I care for you, it's not until I recognize me in you and you in me that the veil of gauze is lifted on the world. - *Jackson Galaxy*

PRELUDE *Andante tranquillo* G. Oldroyd

from *Three Liturgical Improvisations* *(1886 – 1951)*

"My soul hath a desire and longing
To enter the courts of the Lord."

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Today we remember the bright and brilliant moment of Jesus' transfiguration on the mountaintop.

People: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

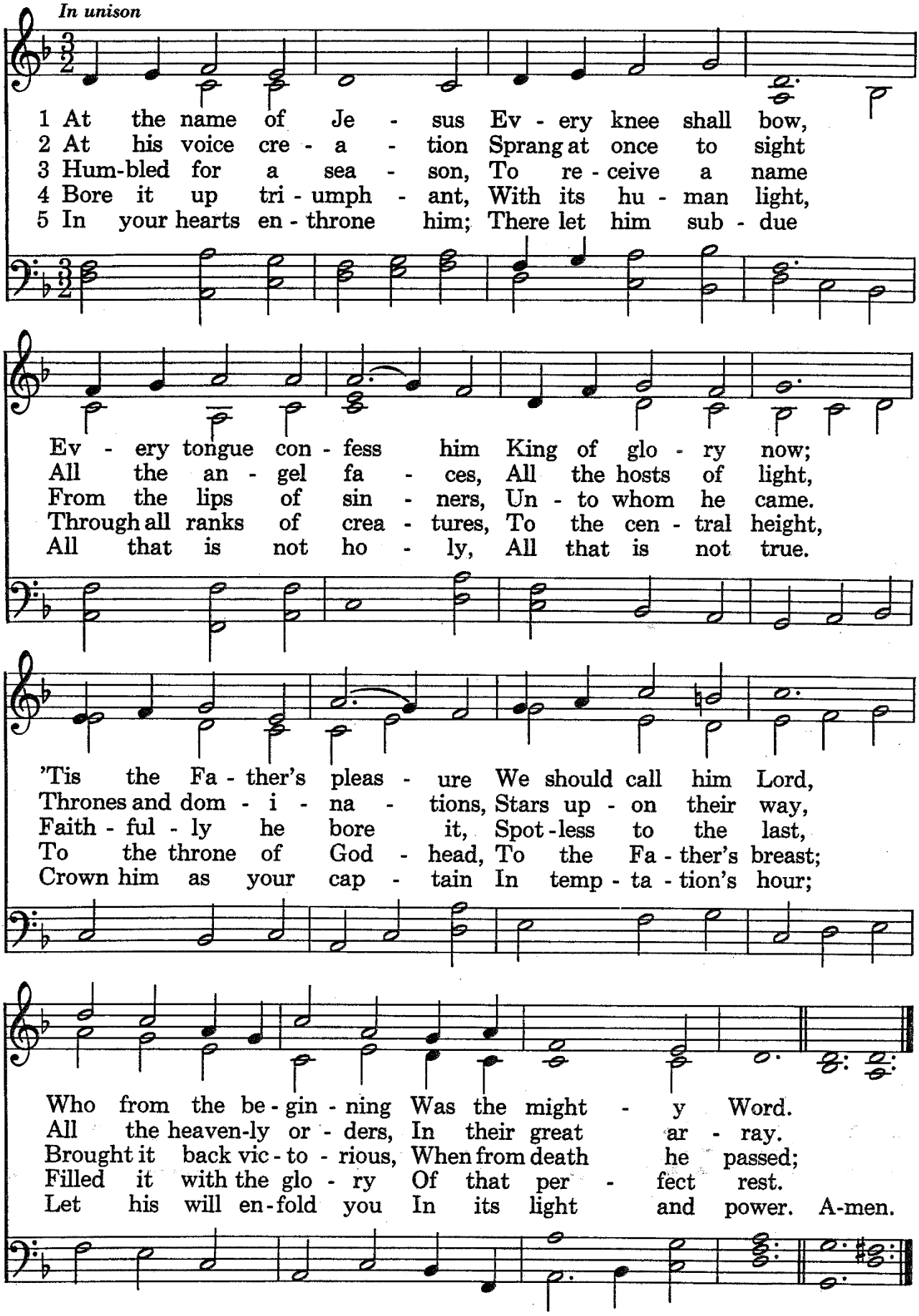
Leader: God said "Let there be light" and now that light shines in our hearts in the face of Jesus Christ.

People: The mightiest One of all, God the Eternal, speaks and summons the whole earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Leader: From God's holy mountain, God's light, the perfection of beauty, shines out.

People: And the darkness has not overcome it!

***HYMN # 197** *At the Name of Jesus* KING'S WESTON



***OPENING PRAYER** (Unison)

You are God's chosen Son, O Lord. Please help us listen to You. Help us open our hearts to your grace. Help us believe, help us love. We are weak in faith and we become afraid. Show us Your dazzling glory hidden in our everyday lives. Though we are sinners, make us one with You, and let us bring Your life, death and resurrection to all people. Amen.

***PRAISE #29/3** *All Praise and Thanks to God* NUN DANKET

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

GREETINGS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2**

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

Luke 9:28-36

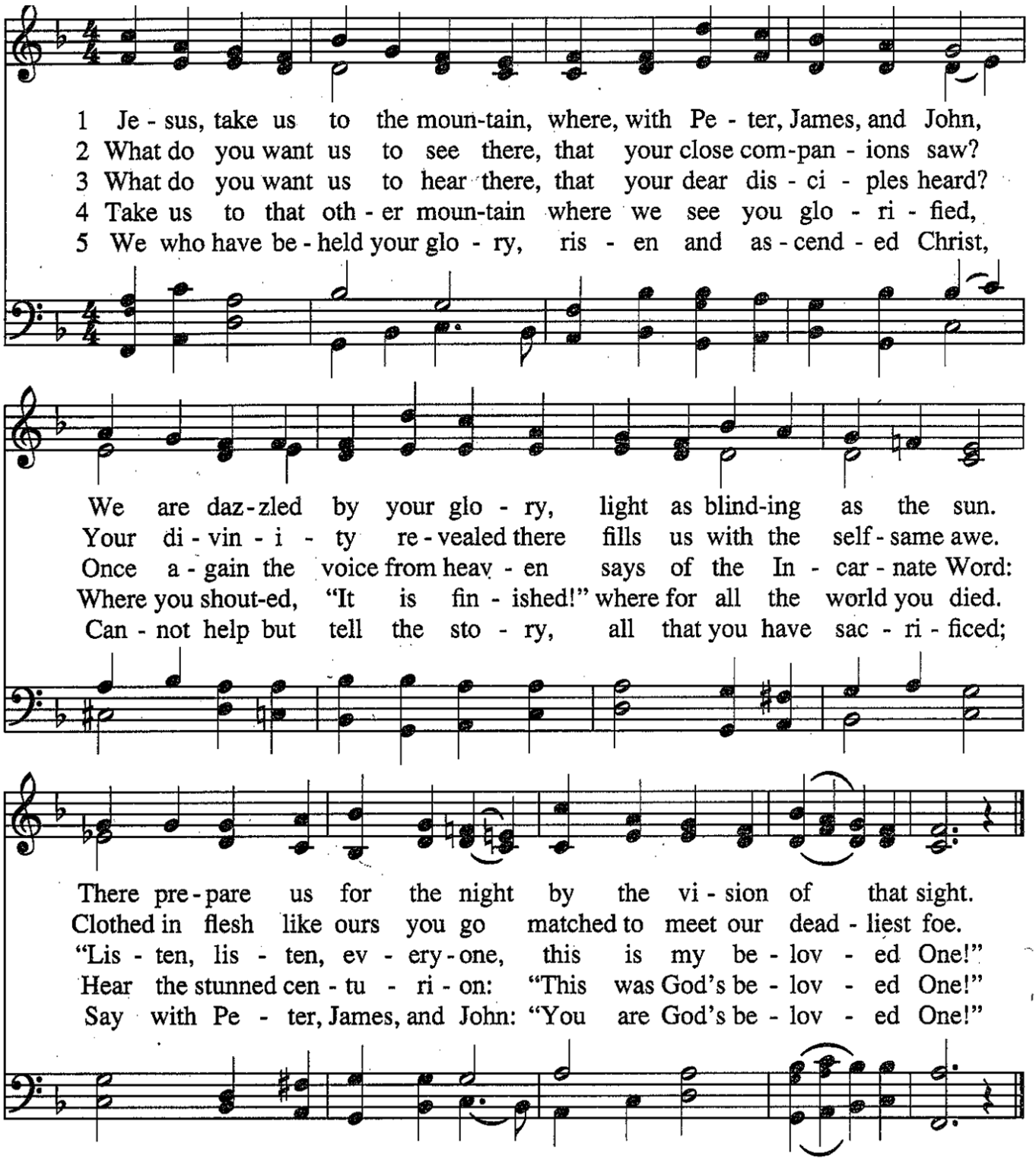
Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" —not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen

to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

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)*

SERMON "Lifting the Veil" Rev. Jami D. Boyle

***HYMN** *Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain* SILVER SPRING

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

***CENTERING PRAYER** (Unison)

Holy God, by the grace of Jesus Christ, You know the tests and trials we face. Walk with us through this wilderness. Come to us with ministers of healing and visit us with messengers of hope, so that we may return to You in faith, believing the good news of the gospel; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

PRAYER CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYERS and PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done,
On earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day, our daily bread
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

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

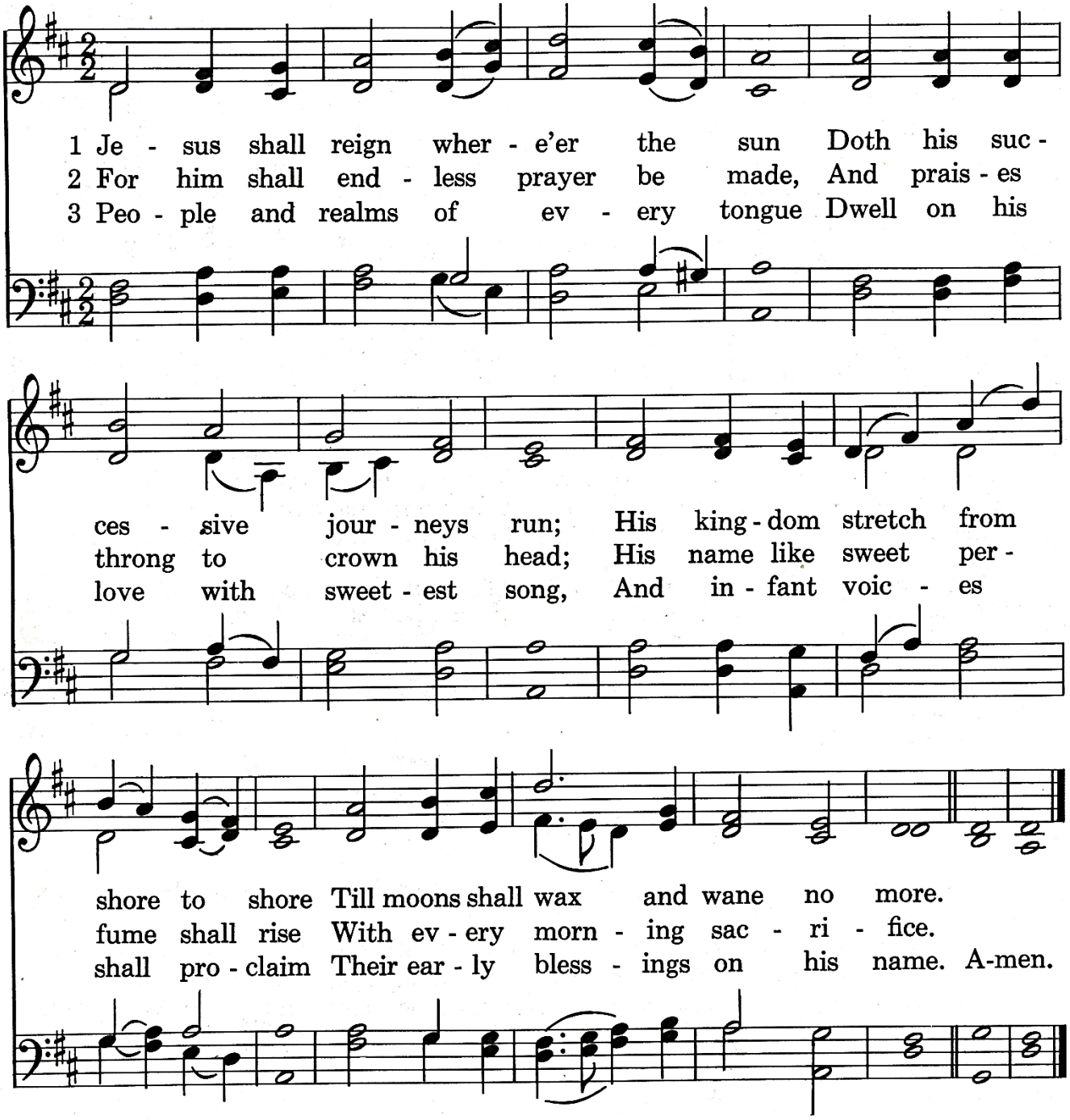
OFFERTORY *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies* H. Willan
(1880 – 1968)

***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)

Holy Lord, who wouldn't want to live on the mountaintop beyond all the heartaches and headaches of our daily lives. Yet we give You these gifts because You call us to follow You back down into world as it is. We have heard Your Word to serve. Follow us, now, from this sacred space into our secular lives and help us share the blessings that we have received with others. Amen.

***HYMN #202** *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun* DUKE STREET

4 Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
The prisoner leaps to lose his chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all the sons of want are blest.

5 Let every creature rise and bring
Peculiar honors to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTUS *Fourfold Amen* R. G. Barrow
(1911 – 1987)

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

POSTLUDE *Tocata em Ré menor* J. do Sacramento
(1712 – 1780)

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: Transfiguration of Jesus - Carl Bloch *(1834–1890)* Source: Wikimedia
DEACON OF THE DAY: Kimberly Lynch
HYMNS: Pilgrim Hymnal, New Century Hymnal, #3034682
STAFF SINGER QUARTET: Janet Poisson, soprano; Brianne Biastoff, alto
Craig Plummer, tenor; Jason Iannuzzi, bass

****

Have you remembered First Church in your will?

MASK USE IS REQUIRED INSIDE THE CHURCH BUILDINGS.

Worship Schedule

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 on March 6!

Coffee hour will return on March 6, following the 10:00 service.

Ash Wednesday Service
March 2 – 7:30 PM

Come experience this contemplative worship service led by Rev. Jami Boyle and LeeAnne Steenhoek. Music will be provided by Craig Plummer, tenor.

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 continue to study, 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-1:00 PM.

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!

March is Volunteer Appreciation Month. Take a few minutes to thank our teachers, assistants and Office volunteers for all their hard work either in person or in a note. Baskets to collect your thoughtful notes will be at the Welcome Center and Christian Formation Table.

Pretzel Sunday, March 13 - Emily and Mike Adasczik will be teaching the Sunday school about the trinity and prayer with this beloved First Church Tradition.

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

Women's Wisdom and Spiritualty meets today at 12:00 PM on Zoom.

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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, is in the DR for their weeklong medical mission. We wish them safe travels and we look forward to hearing about their experience. For updates during the week, visit https://www.facebook.com/CentralMALaRomana/ or https://centralmalaromana.org/.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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Tower to Tower Fundraiser - During his spring sabbatical Rev. Andy will be going on the road for a 2,000 mile Tower to Tower Historical Ride that will take him from Nashua, Iowa to Nashua, NH to raise awareness of The First Church Nashua's profound history and raise $75,000 for our tower renovations. Nashua's Goodale's Bike Shop will support Rev. Andy's cycling needs on this week's long trip.

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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: Monday, March 14, Tuesday, March 29.
Please contact the church office, if you would like to schedule a date.

Lenten Study Series for 2022 for First Church Study Groups - In person study groups are returning to First Church just in time for Lent! In addition to Monday Morning Bible, Coffee and Friends and Wednesday Morning Men, we will be adding a 5-week Tuesday evening Lenten study group. Each group will be exploring Devotional Classics by Richard Foster, which is considered among the finest compilation of Christian spiritual resources available today.

Prepared materials will be available to you at the welcome center.

The Tuesday Lenten Study Group meets in the dining room beginning on Tuesday March 8 at 7 PM and will continue through April 5.

Week 1. Preparing for the Spiritual Life-C.S. Lewis: "Giving All to Christ"
Week 2. The Prayer–Filled Life-Brother Lawrence: "An Habitual Sense of the Presence of God."
Week 3. The Virtuous Life-Richard Rolle: "The Spiritual Flame"
Week 4. The Spirit–Empowered Life-Catherine of Genoa: "Waiting Upon God"
Week 5. The Compassionate Life-Hannah Whitehall Smith: "Recovering the Joy of Service"

*In addition summary to author's thoughts on related subject, each entry includes a related biblical passage, discussion questions, and individual and group exercises.

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The Wednesday Morning Men's Group is on break this week. The group will meet in person beginning March 9 at 8:00 AM in Fellowship Hall.

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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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Upcoming Kitchen Training Session - In order to ensure the kitchen is meeting the commercial kitchen standards and codes, it is expected that prior to a group using the kitchen, at least one member of the group will have completed kitchen training. That person will take responsibility for following the kitchen policy. If you have not yet been trained, or if you would like a refresher, there will be a session on **Wednesday, March 9 at 7:00 PM**. Contact the church office or Erin Almeda to register.

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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.

The 2022 First Church Scholarship application is available for any First Church Seniors who will be graduating in June and plan to continue their education beyond high school.

The 2022 First Church Continuing Education Grant application is available to any member of the church pursuing further training or education. Please contact Scholarships@tfcucc.org with any questions, or to request an application.

Scholarship Applications are due no later than April 15,2022. Late scholarship applications will not be accepted. First Church Scholarships are awarded on Children's Day.

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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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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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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 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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MUSIC IN WORSHIP THIS WEEK

March 2, 2022

Ash Wednesday

7:30pm Craig Plummer, tenor

March 6, 2022

First Sunday in Lent

8:30 Chancel Choir

10:00 Chancel Choir

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.

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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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This Week at First Church

SUN FEB 27	10:00am	Worship, Livestream, Radio Broadcast
	12:00pm	Women's Wisdom & Spirituality, Zoom
MON FEB 28	9:30am	Newsletter Prep, room 15
TUE MAR 01	4:00pm	First Church at NSKS
	6:00pm	First Folk, Sanctuary
	7:00pm	Chancel Choir, sanctuary
WED MAR 02	12:00pm	NAIC, Zoom
	7:30pm	Ash Wednesday Service, sanctuary
THU MAR 03	10:00am	Thrift Shop
	7:00pm	Decibells, Balcom Room
	7:00pm	Kitchen Training, kitchen/dining room
FRI MAR 04	12:15pm	First Fridays at First, sanctuary
	2:00pm	Hunt Community Service
SAT MAR 05	10:00am	Organ rehearsal, sanctuary
	11:00am	Sisters in Sobriety, Nauss Hall

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.