

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 15, 2022

8:30 & 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 (10:00)

Jim Stone

MEDITATION

Love your neighbor as yourself - still the most transformational ethic in history. Jim Wallis

PRELUDE

Mariales

N. Hakim

i. Incantation (*Mater amarabilis*)

(*1955)

ii. Pastorate (*Regina coeli*)

iii. Antienne (*Salve Regina*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

People: Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

Leader: We testify to God's love shown perfectly in Christ.

People: We recommit ourselves to love one another as the church of Jesus Christ.

Leader: Listen, follow and be changed.

People: Come, let us worship the Lord!

*HYMN #15

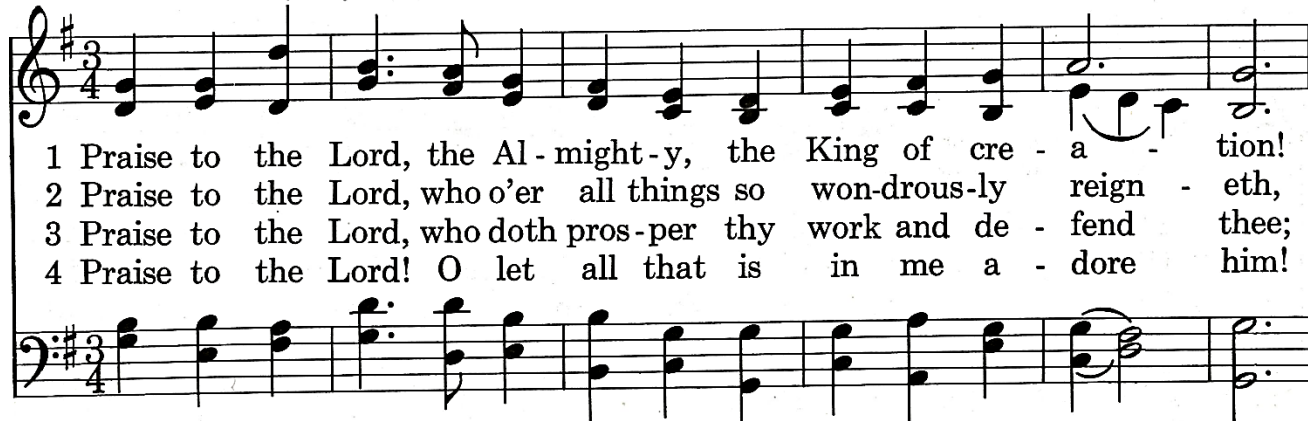
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Joachim Neander, 1650-1680

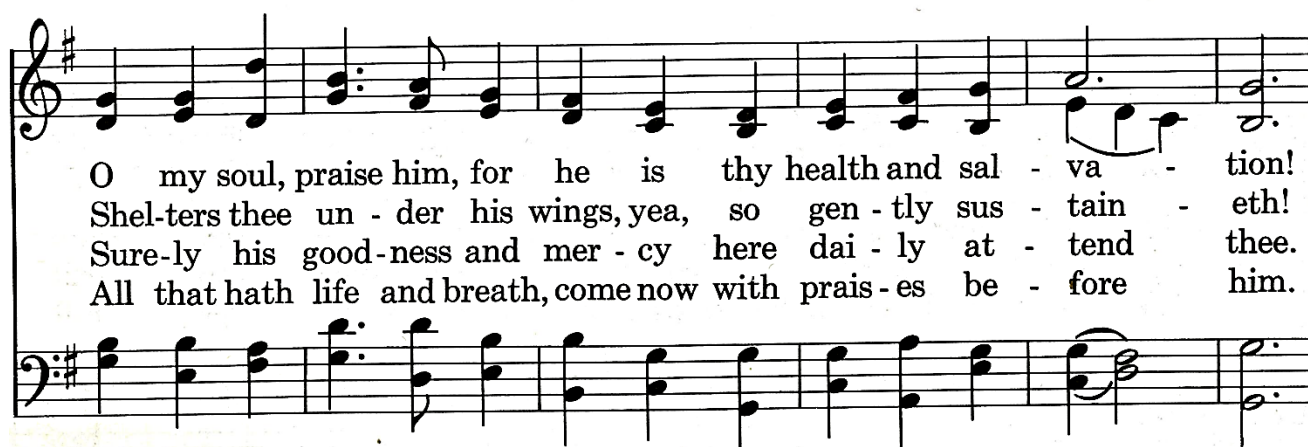
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8.

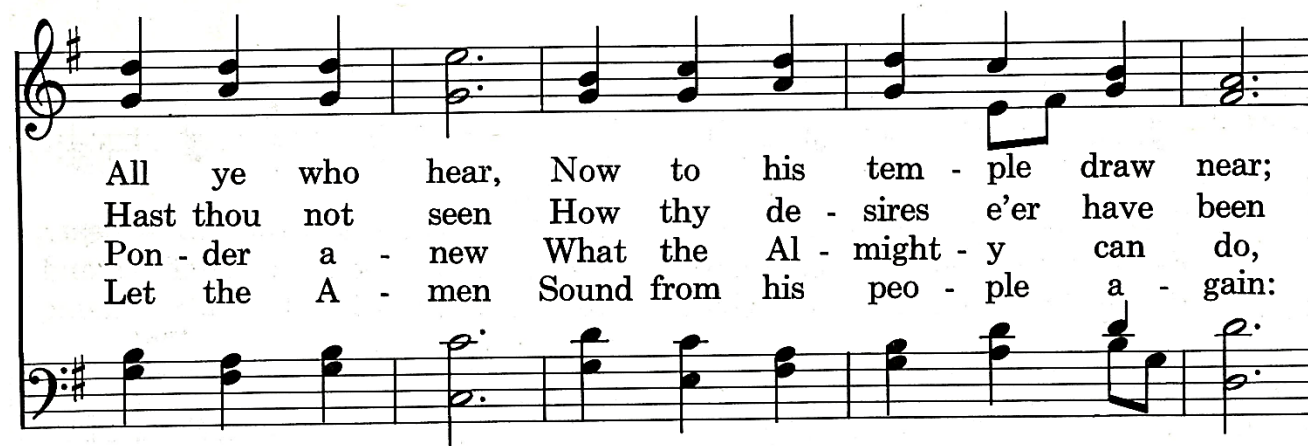
"Stralsund Gesangbuch," 1665



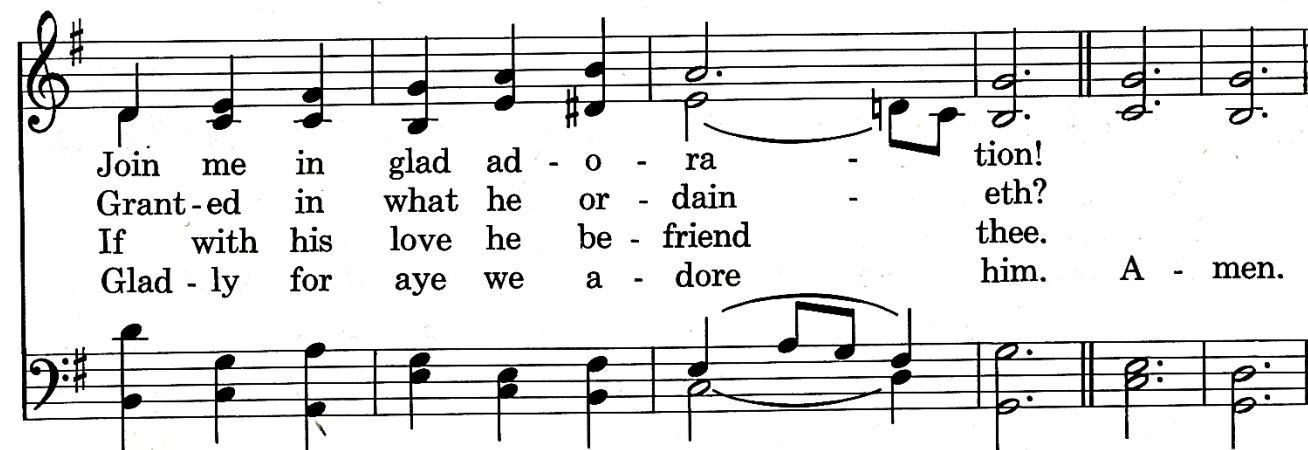
1 Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre-a-tion!
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign-eth,
 3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy work and de-fend thee;
 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a-dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal-va-tion!
 Shel-ters thee un-der his wings, yea, so gen-tly sus-tain-eth!
 Sure-ly his good-ness and mer-cy here dai-ly at-tend thee.
 All that hath life and breath, come now with prais-es be-fore him.



All ye who hear, Now to his tem-ple draw near;
 Hast thou not seen How thy de-sires e'er have been
 Pon-der a-new What the Al-might-y can do,
 Let the A-men Sound from his peo-ple a-gain:



Join me in glad ad-o-ra-tion!
 Grant-ed in what he or-dain-eth?
 If with his love he be-friend thee.
 Glad-ly for aye we a-dore him. A-men.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

Almighty God, You love us, but we have not loved You; You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped up in our own concerns. We have gone along with evil, pride, quarrelling, and divisiveness. Holy God, help us to face up to ourselves, so that, as You move toward us in mercy, we may repent, turn to You, and receive mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

A time of silence for personal confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Rejoice and be glad! God is gracious and God offers blessings. God calls us to life in the world,
God offers us the chance to explore how to live out God's vision. We are called, we are forgiven, we are blessed.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

GREETINGS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10:00)

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had

upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

John 13:31-35

When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRATIA TIBI

(10:00)

Thanks Be to Thee

CHANCEL CHOIR

T. Tallis

(1505 – 1585)

ANTHEM

(10:00)

Our God

FIRST FOLK

C. D. Tomlin

(*1972)

SERMON

“God is Making Something New”

Rev. Nancy Haynes

***HYMN #184**

(10:00)

Good Christian Men, Rejoice and Sing

GELOBT SEI GOTT

Cyril A. Alington, 1872-

GELOBT SEI GOTT 8.8.8. *with Alleluias*
Melody by Melchior Vulpius, c.1560-1616

1 Good Chris-tian men re-joice and sing! Now is the
2 The Lord of life is risen for aye; Bring flowers of
3 Praise we in songs of vic-to-ry That love, that
4 Thy name we bless, O ris-en Lord, And sing to-

tri-umph of our King! To all the world glad
song to strew his way; Let all man-kind re-
life which can-not die, And sing with hearts up-
day with one ac-cord The life laid down, the

REFRAIN

news we bring:
joice and say: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
lift-ed high:
life re-stored:

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader: Love can transform the world into a realm of peace and joy.

People: We were given the great commandment to love one another the way You, the Christ, the Spirit loves us. And yet, the way we love becomes conditional. Guide us to a simple but radical way of loving. The Spirit of God heals and transforms our hearts as we work to understand one another, creating an earth which reflects God's heaven.

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 *O Thou Who Hearest Prayer*

Welsh Melody

(10:00)

(1704)

OFFERTORY (8:30)

Our God

C. D. Tomlin

(*1972)

(10:00)

The Holy City

S. Adams

And the city has no need
of sun or moon to shine on it,
for the glory of God is its light,
and its lamp is the Lamb.

(1841 – 1913)

arr. Foster

(Revelation 21:23)

*DOXOLOGY #515

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)

O God, accept and bless these gifts which we offer in response to the gracious gift of Your life-giving Spirit to us. May these gifts and our lives be used to flesh out Your love and justice, mercy and peace as they are revealed in and through Jesus, Your Son and our Savior. Amen.

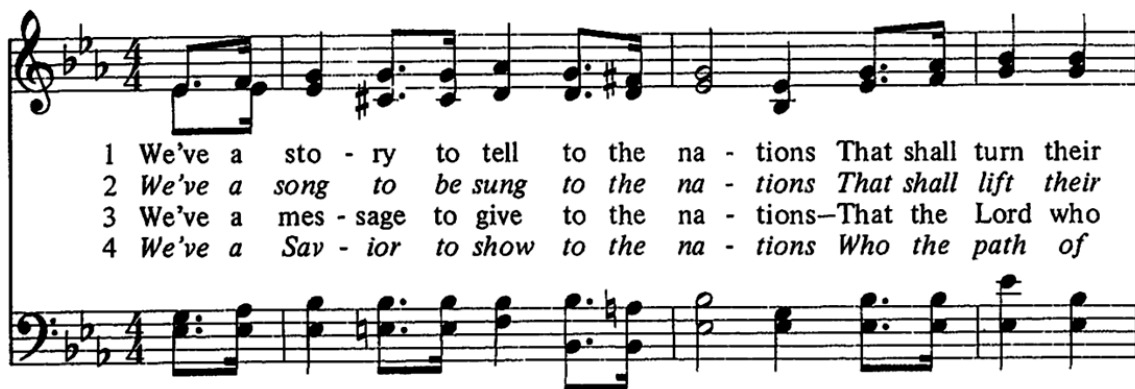
*HYMN

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

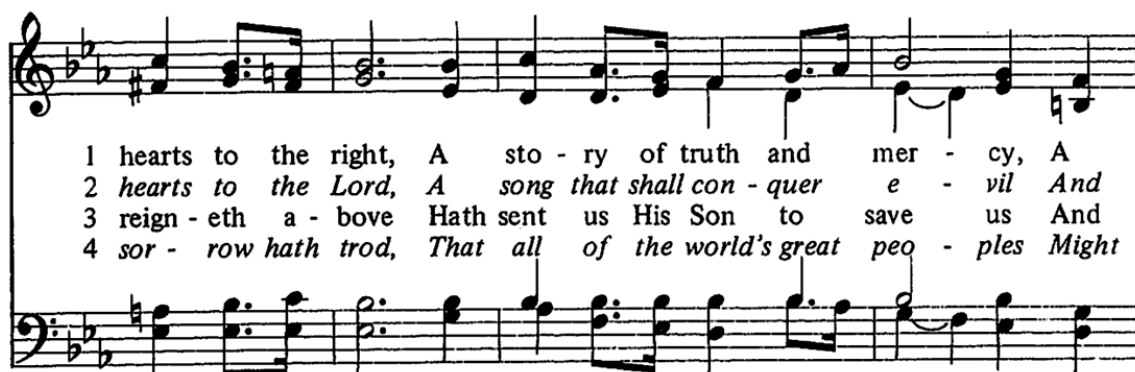
MESSAGE

H. Ernest Nichol

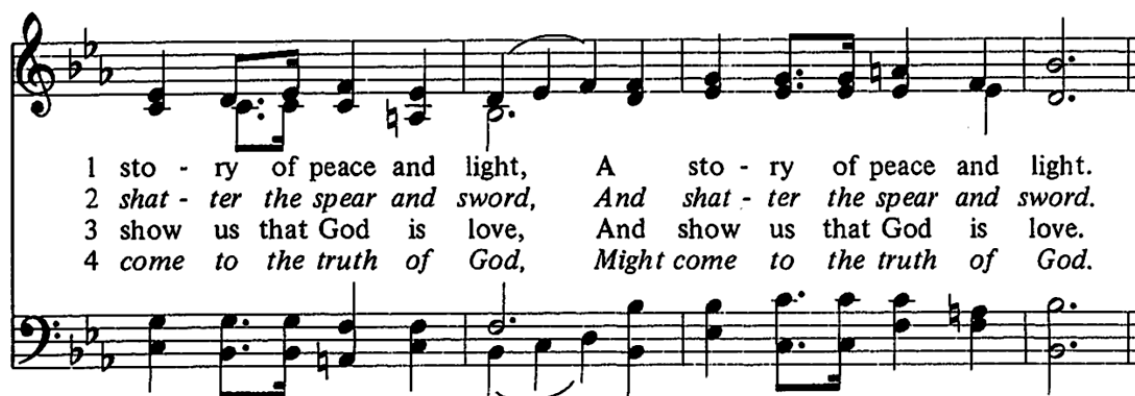
H. Ernest Nichol



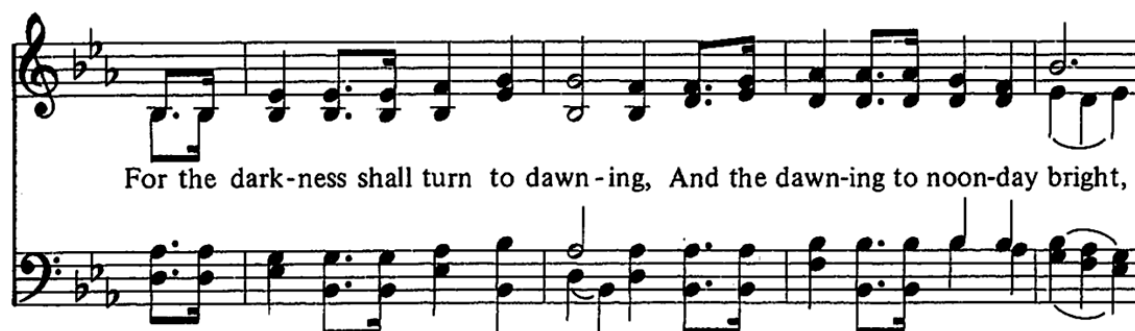
1 We've a sto - ry to tell to the na - tions That shall turn their
 2 We've a song to be sung to the na - tions That shall lift their
 3 We've a mes - sage to give to the na - tions—That the Lord who
 4 We've a Sav - ior to show to the na - tions Who the path of



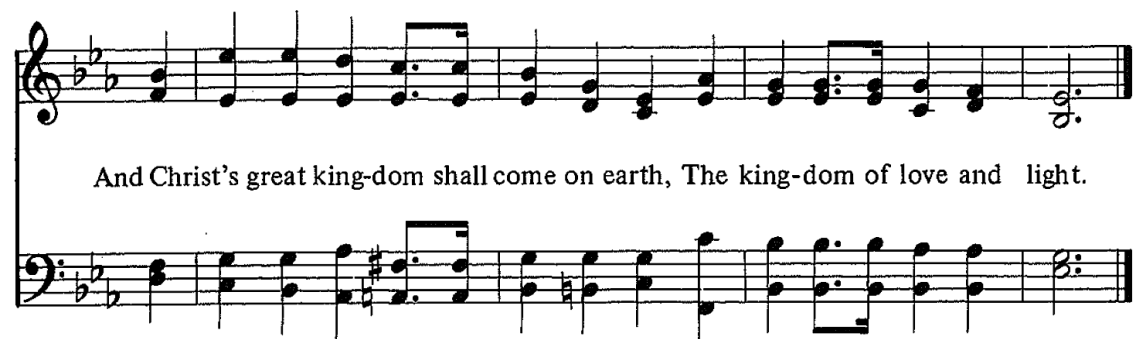
1 hearts to the right, A sto - ry of truth and mer - cy, A
 2 hearts to the Lord, A song that shall con - quer e - vil And
 3 reign - eth a - bove Hath sent us His Son to save us And
 4 sor - row hath trod, That all of the world's great peo - ples Might



1 sto - ry of peace and light, A sto - ry of peace and light.
 2 shat - ter the spear and sword, And shat - ter the spear and sword.
 3 show us that God is love, And show us that God is love.
 4 come to the truth of God, Might come to the truth of God.



For the dark-ness shall turn to dawn-ing, And the dawn-ing to noon-day bright,



And Christ's great king-dom shall come on earth, The king-dom of love and light.

*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTUS

Go Now in Peace

D. Besig
(*1936)

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

POSTLUDE *Lobe den Herr'n den mächtigen König der Ehren* J. G. Walther
Praise the Lord, the mighty King of Heaven (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: Peter's Vision, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the
Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54209> [retrieved May 11, 2022].

Original source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/paullew/2413614561/>.

DEACON OF THE DAY: Dale Neth

HYMN SOURCES: Pilgrim Hymnal, Hymns for the Family of God

LICENSING: CCLI (print) 3034682; CCLI (streaming) 20119862; CCS 12820;
OneLicense A-736284

STAFF SINGER QUARTET: Janet Poisson, soprano – Brianne Biastoff, alto
Scott Taylor, tenor – Jason Iannuzzi, bass

*The flowers in the pulpit are given in loving memory of Ted,
on his birthday, by Joanne Graves and his children.*

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?

Christian Formation Corner

Nursery Care is available for our youngest members (infants through age 2) during the 10:00 AM worship service. The Nursery opens at 9:45 and 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:

- Pre-K - Grade 2 is learning the Liturgy of Light, Fruits of the Spirit and Pentecost in Sunday school
- Grades 3-6 are learning about Paul and his journey and letters to his churches

Senior High School Youth group meets today in the Fireside Room.

Confirmation Sunday - Our Confirmands will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, June 5th during the 10:00 worship service. Confirmands and mentors will attend breakfast at 8:30 AM, followed by pictures and then the Rite of Confirmation at 10:00.

Children's Day is June 12th - Our youth and children will lead worship. Please stay with us afterwards for food, fun and music at our Christian Formation Cookout.

Summer Childcare and Activity Time – Beginning June 19, we begin our summer worship schedule with one service at 9:00 AM. Nursery care will be available for infants-age 4 in the nursery. Children and teens over age 5 are welcome to join LeeAnne Steenhoek, in room 10 for a lesson, activity and craft during the 9:00 AM worship service. Volunteers are needed. Please let LeeAnne know if you can help.

Vacation Bible School - Big Dreams, Dream Big - July 18-22, 2022 - What are you dreaming about? People dream Big Dreams in the Bible and we have Big Dreams for today. Come vision and dream as we explore the wonder in Creation and the Word as we sing, craft, worship, play and tell stories in VBS at First Church. Volunteers are needed! Please reach out to LeeAnne, lsteenhoek@tfcucc.org, to see how you can help. Register your child today at:

<https://tfcucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/sunday-school-registration-fillable-2021.pdf>.

Use the Sunday School Registration form and forward to LeeAnne with Vacation Bible School in the subject line.

Horton Center Family Weekend: August 26-28 - Save the date! God's children of all ages are welcome! Some of our tightest bonds of Christian Fellowship are formed in outdoor ministry. Enjoy the beauty of the White Mountains in late summer. For more information contact LeeAnne at lsteenhoek@tfcucc.org.

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

New Member Orientation: Today, 11:30 AM – For those wishing to learn more about The First Church and become members of our faith community, please join us for an orientation and informational meeting in room 15 in the Walker Building.

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Bible, Friends, and Coffee meets on Mondays at 9:30 AM in the parlor.

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Join Rev. Nancy at Riverwalk Café, on Tuesdays from 2:00 until 3:00 PM for coffee and conversation. Sign-up is not necessary.

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Preventing Alzheimer's Disease: Yes, you can! Rev. Jami and Jocelyn Henning are hosting six video sessions about the science of preventing Alzheimer's. Rev. Jami will facilitate sessions on Tuesday afternoons from 2:30-4:00 PM on May 17, 24, 31 and June 7. Jocelyn will facilitate the same sessions on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00 PM on May 19, 26, June 2 and 9. Sessions will be held in the dining room, with a couple of exceptions. Come learn about this epidemic and what you can do to avert it.

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Tower to Tower Bike Ride and Fundraising - We are excited to follow Rev. Andy on his 2,000 mile Tower to Tower Historical Bike Ride from Nashua, Iowa to Nashua, NH, supporting the Tower Restoration Fund. The **118-foot bell tower** constructed in 1893 that houses bells exhibited and played at the Chicago World's Exhibition in 1893 is in need of repair after 100+ years.

You can follow all the updates from Rev. Andy's ride on our [Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchNashua/), (<https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchNashua/>) the home page of our website ([tfcucc.org](https://www.tfcucc.org)) and in your weekly e-News. If you're not receiving our weekly news, please let Dianne know and she will add you to the list!

To make a donation to the tower fund, go to:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/tower-to-tower-historical-ride/donate>

Nashua's Goodale's Bike Shop will support Rev. Andy's cycling needs on this month long trip.

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The First Church Choral Union, a massed choir of all of our main vocal ensembles from grade 8 through adult, will gather to support the Rite of Confirmation on June 5, 2022. Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, **May 18 at 6:45 PM**. If you are interested in joining this seasonal choir, please contact Joseph Olefirowicz.

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The Holiday Fair Craft Group will meet on Wednesday, May 18, at 4:30 PM in the dining room. If you would like to participate in the crafting or have ideas to share, please contact Jocelyn Henning or Sandy Gribbin. Save the dates for the fair: November 4-6, 2022.

Movie Night at First Church - Friday May 20, 2022 – 7:00 PM - Dining Room

We'll be showing a 2010 American romantic movie drama, starring Julia Roberts as Elizabeth Gilbert and based on Gilbert's 2006 memoir of the same name. Because of copyright laws, we can't share the title of the movie. Contact the church office. Come relax, socialize, eat popcorn and get inspired. We're sure to have a good time.

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Ukraine Assistance – Gifts made to UCC Ukraine Relief Fund will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people. Donate at <https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal> or mail a check made payable to the United Church of Christ PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "Ukraine Relief Fund" on your check in the memo section.

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First Church Thrift Shop Hours: Thursdays, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM through May 26.

They are still 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 the church office with any questions.

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Help Keep our Records Current. If you have a change of name, address, phone number or email address please let the church office know.

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

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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. This vital ministry is looking for more knitters. For more information, speak with Karen Bianchi, Kay Potfora, or Rev. Jami.

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Aspects of Christianity - Small brochures that are based on one particular area of Christian concern, and consist of scripture and other helpful quotes on that topic are displayed on the windowsill opposite the Welcome Center. Feel free to take a brochure, and an information sheet about the project. Each brochure has a black and white drawing that you may color if you like.

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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Music in Worship Next Sunday

May 22, 2022

8:30 Decibells

10:00 Decibells & Chancel Choir

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This Week at First Church

SUN MAY 15	8:30am	In-Person Worship
	9:15am	Chapel Chimers, Shaw Chapel
	10:00am	In-Person Worship & Livestream, Radio Broadcast
	11:20am	Joyful Noise, Shaw Chapel
	11:30am	Sr. High Youth Group, Fireside Room
	3:00pm	First Music Concert
MON MAY 16	9:30am	Bible, Friends & Coffee, parlor
TUE MAY 17	10:00am	Staff Meeting
	2:30pm	Alzheimer's Session, dining room
	4:00pm	First Church at NSKS
WED MAY 18	4:30pm	Craft Group, dining room
	6:45pm	Choral Union
THU MAY 19	10-2pm	Thrift Shop
	12:00pm	Chamber of Commerce, dining room
	6:30pm	Alzheimer's Session, dining room
	7:00pm	Decibells
FRI MAY 20	7:00pm	Movie Night, dining room
SAT MAY 21	10:00am	DAR, room 10
	11:00am	Sisters in Sobriety, dining room
	2:00pm	Community Dinner prep, kitchen, dining room

FIRST MUSIC
F M
CONCERT SERIES 2021 - 22 SEASON

SEASON XIV STAYING ALIVE!

BRINGING the JOY of MUSIC to the GATE CITY

JAZZ MASTERS

THE NEBULA PROJECT
BEN ROSENBLUM SEXTET



SUNDAY
MAY 15

FREE ADMISSION
ALL ARE WELCOME

3:00 PM



THE FIRST CHURCH

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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*, lstenhoek@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 worshipping 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.

All use of the building must be scheduled by the Secretary.



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.*

