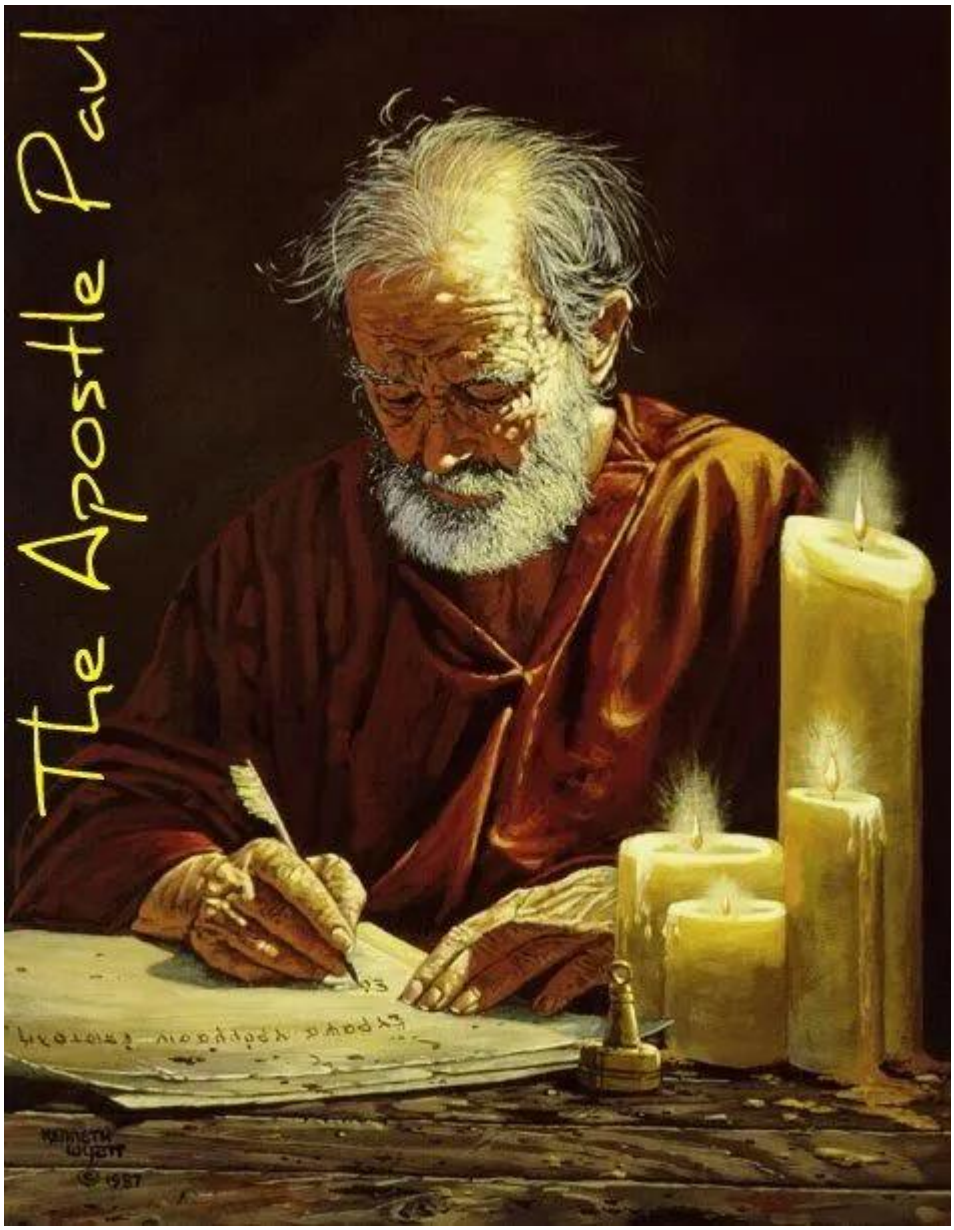


THE FIRST CHURCH

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

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 26, 2022 9:00 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 "If the biggest sinner you know isn't you, then you don't know yourself very well." Pastor Jean F. Larroux III

PRELUDE *Verbum Supernum Prodiens* G. Oldroyd
from *Three Liturgical Improvisations* *(1886 – 1951)*

Pour light upon us from above
And fire our hearts with Thy strong love

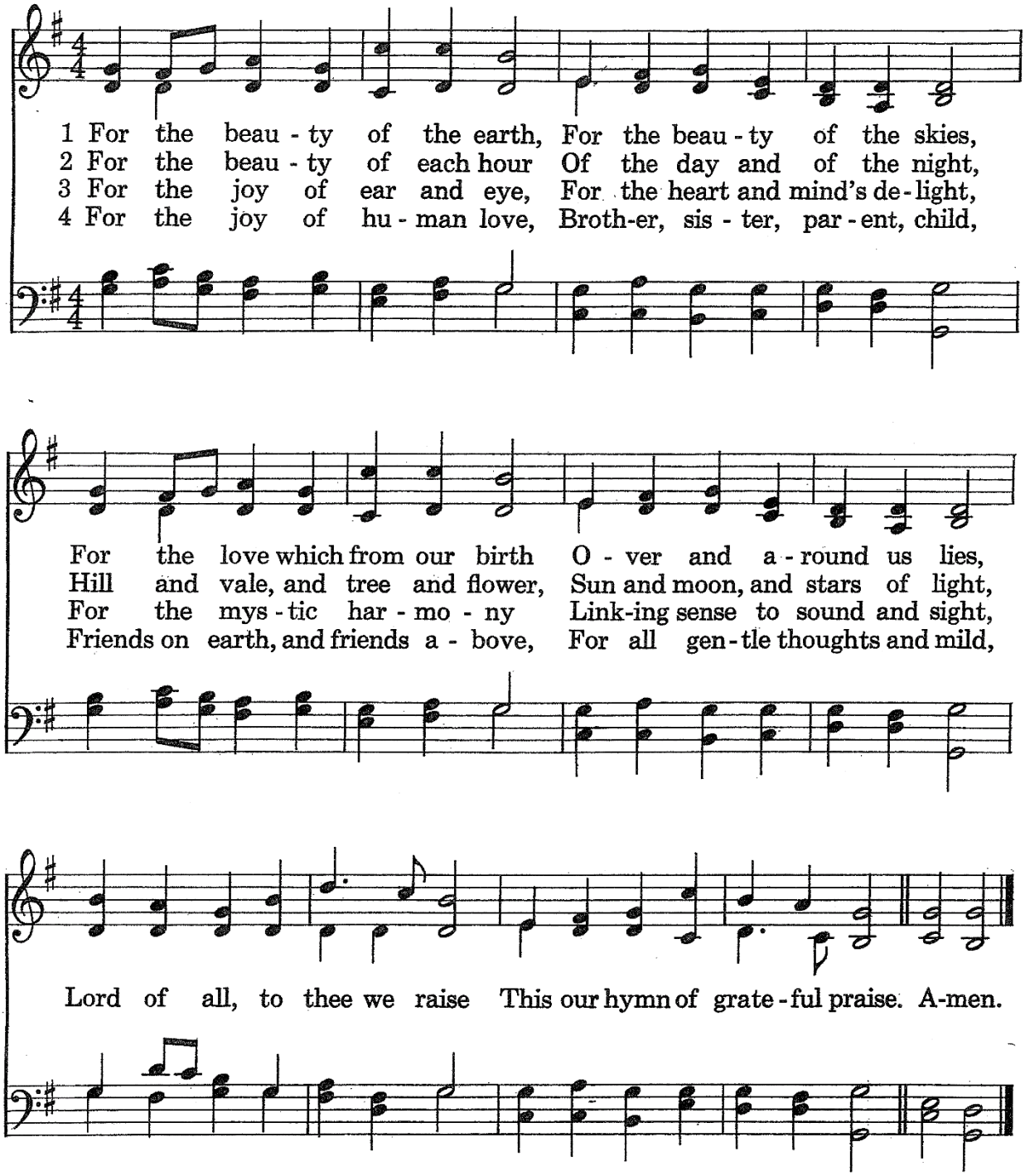
Praise to the Father, and the Son
Through All the Ages as they run;
And to the Holy Paraclete
Be praise with them and worship meet

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 146)

Leader: Happy are those whose hope is in God, maker of heaven and earth-
People: for God keeps faith forever!
Leader: God executes justice for the oppressed and gives food for the hungry.
People: God sets the prisoners free and opens the eyes of the blind.
Leader: God lifts up those who are bowed down.
People: God watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow.
Leader: People of God, sing praise to the One who is your help—
People: for God keeps faith forever!

***HYMN #66** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt.

DIX 7.7.7.7.7.7.
Abridged from a chorale by
Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

5 For each perfect gift of thine
Unto us so freely given,
Graces, human and divine,
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven,

6 For thy Church that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love,

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

God of grace and goodness, Your mercy comes to us in ways that continually surprise us, for You appear to offer such mercy with no strings attached which is so different from the way we so often act and live. Forgive us, O God, when we deprive people of the love we owe them as people unconditionally loved by You. Help us to see people with Jesus' eyes and to be moved by His compassion. Empower us with Your Spirit so that nothing can separate us, or others, from Your love. This we pray in Christ's holy name. Amen.

A time of silence for personal confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe and live the good news: In Jesus Christ we are loved, we are cleansed, we are forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God!

GREETINGS

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Luke 9:51-62**

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” But Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” Another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” Jesus said to him, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. Live by the Spirit,

I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

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

SOLO *Give Ear, O Lord, To My Prayer* (2022) F. R. Lund
JOSEPH R. OLEFIROWICZ, baritone *(*1938)*
(Premiere) *Composer-In-Residence*

SERMON "I'm a Bigger Sinner Than I Thought I Was" Gary Lambert

HYMN *It is Well, with My Soul* VILLE DU HAVRE
(See next page)

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

***CENTERING PRAYER** (Unison)

Faithful God, You draw near to us in our joy and in our grief, in our hope and in our despair. When we are bowed down, You raise us anew. We turn to You now in search of your healing touch. God of compassion and love, move among us this hour. Open our eyes, dispel our fears, and show us the real life You have to offer. We pray this in the name of the Risen One, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

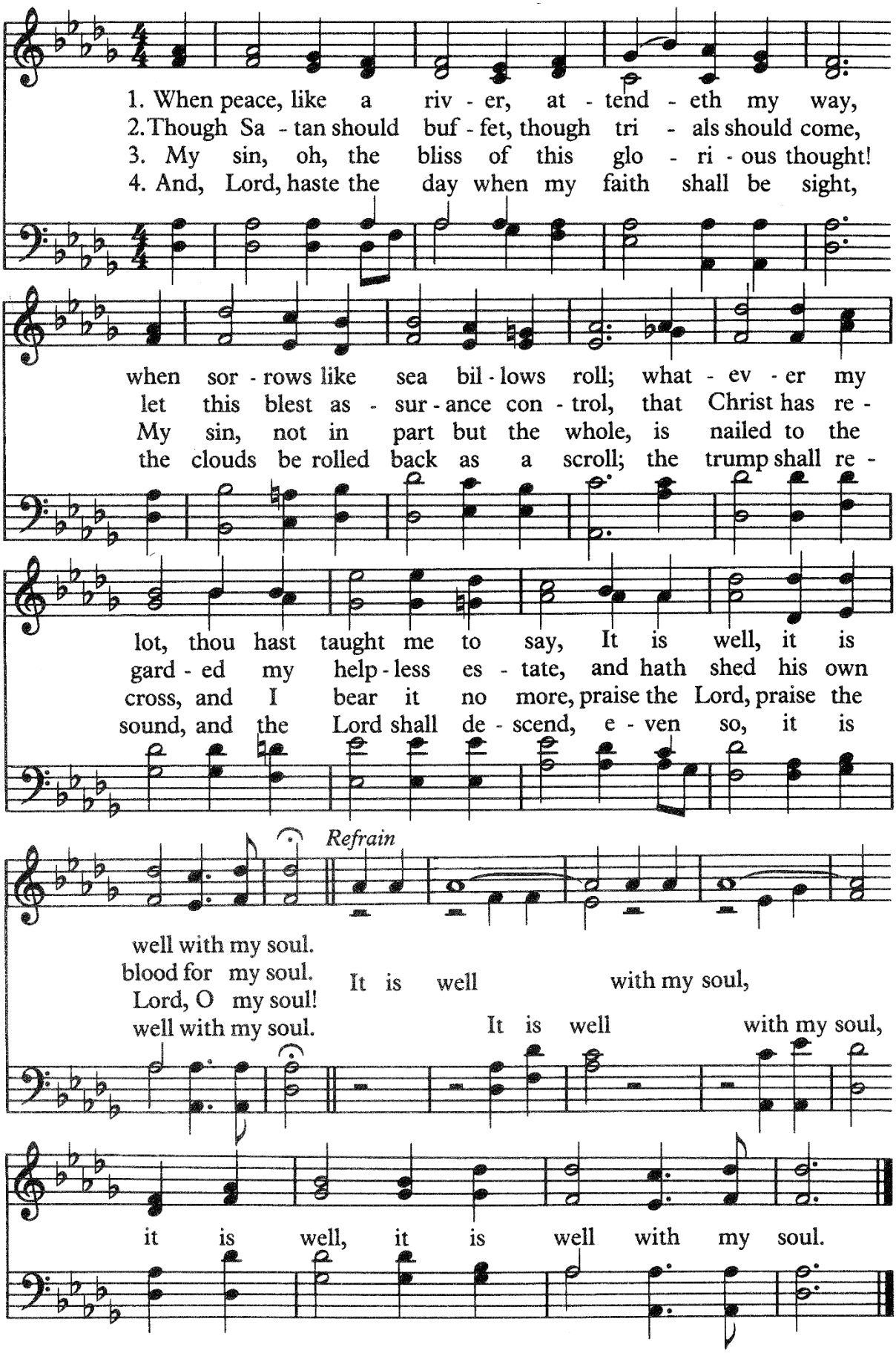
PRAYER CONCERNS

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.

It is Well, with My Soul



WORDS: Horatio G. Spafford, 1873
MUSIC: Philip P. Bliss, 1876

VILLE DU HAVRE
11 8.11 9 with Refrain

OFFERTORY *The Old Rugged Cross* (1913) G. Bennard
(1873 – 1958)

***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)

You are never far from your children, Gracious God. Whenever we call You are there. As we offer our gifts to You, may we remember those who are forgotten by us too many times – the hungry, the lonely, the homeless, the vulnerable – for they too are important citizens in Your kingdom of grace, justice, and hope. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN** *Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us* EBENEZER
(See next page)

***BENEDICTION**

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

POSTLUDE *Nine Hymn Preludes* G. Young
vii. Postlude on EBENEZER *(1919 – 1998)*

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: The Apostle Paul, Kenneth Wyatt, 1987 - Used with permission.
DEACON OF THE DAY: Rich Smigliani
LICENSING: CCLI (print) 3034682; CCLI (streaming) 20119862; CCS 12820; OneLicense A-736284

****

The flowers in the pulpit are given in celebration of Connor and Gillian's birthdays, by Kimberly and Eric Lynch.

****

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.

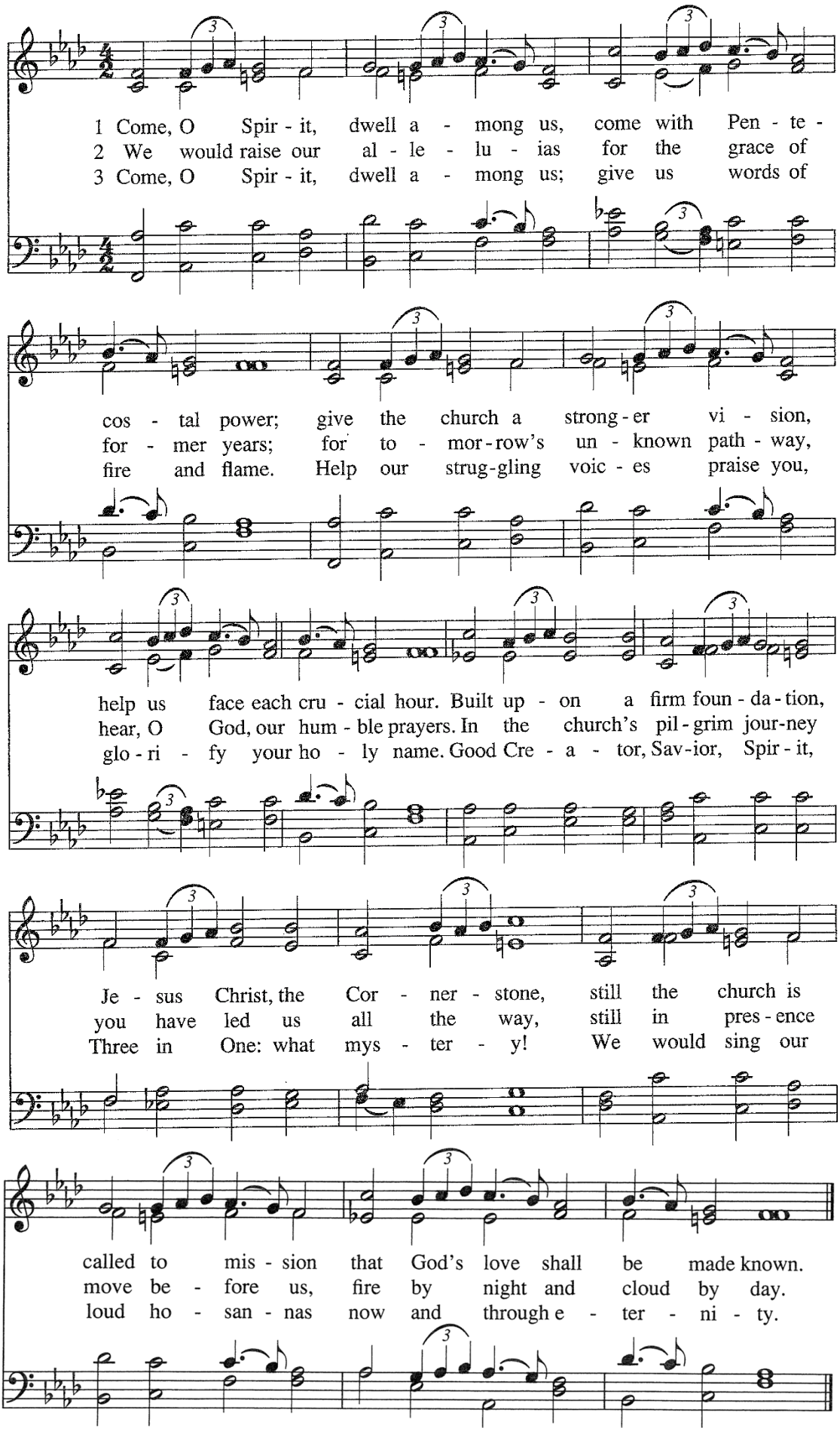
****

Have you remembered First Church in your will?

HYMN *Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us* EBENEZER

Words Copyright © 1979 by Hope Publishing Company

Janie Alford, 1979; alt.



Summer Worship Schedule
June 19 - September 4, 2022
One Service at 9:00 AM: In person Worship & Livestream
Radio Broadcast on WSMN: 12:00 PM
The nursery will be closed during the summer months.

Summer Office Hours
Monday-Friday: 9:00 AM-Noon and 12:30-3:00 PM
Closed on Sunday

Notes from the Chancel

Our **PRELUDE** this morning, borrows a 13th century tune from Thomas Aquinas. This organ work of note has accompanied many significant worship services at The First Church during my tenure. Mostly used on the Sundays we engage in the Rite of Confirmation, its beckoning of the Holy Spirit and praise to the Trinity centers our hearts and minds for the worship to come, and also gives us the power of full organ towards the end to celebrate the joy of our church community on this summer day. From the "*Word descending from above*," to the "*sempiternal glory of life without end*" – this 800-year old tune links the modern to the ancient church, and within its rich text, tells of the grace we experience in reflecting on the life of our Savior:

By his birth he gave himself as our company
At the Last Supper he gave himself as our food;
Dying on the cross He gave Himself as our ransom;
Reigning in heaven He gives Himself as our reward.

Penned as a hymn of joy and thanksgiving, Folliott Sandford Pierpont *(1835 – 1917)* set the 19th century German hymn tune by Conrad Kocher *(1786 – 1872)* to a text, which has become the beloved **HYMN OF PRAISE** that opens our worship this morning. The original eight-verse version, originally called *"The Sacrifice of Praise"* was shortened to the hymn we know in our modern hymnody. The common *"Lord of all to Thee we raise"* refrain closing each verse was originally penned as *"Christ, our God, to Thee we raise, this our sacrifice of praise"* – Whether through sacrifice, or gratefulness, let us raise our voices as one to the Lord, our God!

Our **MIDDLE HYMN** this morning, prepares our minds for the coming message of the day. Its striking text is taken from the rather tragic life of its author Horatio Spafford *(1828 – 1888),* who not only lost his 2-year old son in the Great Chicago Fire in 1871, but his remaining four daughters in the 1873 sinking of the *SS Ville du Havre*, from which the hymn tune receives its name. Due to business needs in Chicago, he sent his family ahead onto this fateful cruise, of only which his wife survived. Upon traveling to meet his wife after this tragedy, he was inspired to pen this text, with broad references to both **Psalm 146** and portions of the book of Colossians and Gospel of John. Enclosed here are the two verses "not" found in this morning's hymn offering:

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live: if Jordan above me shall roll.
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life, Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

But Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait, The sky, not the grave, is our goal:
Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord! Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul.

Our **CLOSING HYMN** is a bold beckoning to the Spirit of God to flow among us. With strong references from Acts 2, Exodus 13 and Psalm 118, we ask the "Pentecostal" power of the Spirit *(as in the flames of Pentecost where the Spirit's presence came onto the Apostles)* to guide and strengthen the vision of our church, with guidance for "*tomorrow's unknown pathway".*

Our **POSTLUDE** carries on the strength of melody and message of our departing hymn, to reinforce the message brought to the congregation through Janie Alford's text *(lovingly called the "Grandma Moses of hymnody")* and the beckoning of the Spirit prayed for through congregational song.

Select sources this week: ***Guide to the Pilgrim Hymnal****, Ronander & Porter (United Church Press, 1966) &* ***Wikipedia***

Christian Formation: Family Life

Summer Childcare –*The nursery is closed for the summer.* Please be sure to thank our dedicated nursery staff for their ministry and encourage them to rest, restore and rejuvenate during this time.

Worship bags - Please find worship bags at the welcome center to enrich your worship experience with coloring, Wikki Sticks and some *warm fuzzies. *Warm fuzzies are a day-brightener to give and receive. Please take some and keep one in your pocket to remember that God loves you or give one to someone special so they know that you love them or God loves them.
***Please* DO RETURN THIS WORSHIP BAG** so we can restock it with fresh supplies for the next worshipper.

Pray: Do you have a prayer request? Use the prayer paper provided. Whew! Say that 5 times fast! It's a lot like Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers. Oh, how we love to play with sound. Please place it in the offering plate with "Attention LeeAnne".

Vacation Bible School VBS: Doing something NEW!
WHO DO YOU SAY I AM? Investigating the Mystery of Jesus
A Vacation Bible School Curriculum, This Little Light Ministries, Copyright 2021
Calling all questers and questioners to help with DETECTIVE WORK for VBS at First Church Nashua. Come explore 5 of Jesus' "I am" statements from the Gospel of John. Curious to learn more about Jesus? Let's gather clues and decipher the words and phrases Jesus offers to describe himself. These program activities are STREAM-based (Science, Technology, wRiting, Engineering, Art, and Math), mission projects, and movement. Each day we'll begin and end at AGENCY HEADQUARTERS to receive your Top Secret file folder as well as your I.D. badge. Find the registration form at:
https://tfcucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/VBS-2022-Registration.pdf
Fill out the form and forward it to LeeAnne with Vacation Bible School in the subject line. Forms are also available in the church office and at the welcome center.
VBS is open to children who are enrolled in the Sunday School program at First Church Nashua.

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

Congratulations and best wishes to Peter and Janet Conrad on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary on June 24!

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First Church Cyclists – Join the group for fun, fresh air, fellowship and ice cream. New cyclists are always welcome. The next ride is **TODAY** on the Derry/Windham/ Salem trail, Manning St. Derry, NH. A complete schedule is posted on various bulletin boards around the church and is also available in the June newsletter. Contact Ray Baldwin with any questions. His contact information can be found in the church directory or by calling the church office.

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Tower to Tower Bike Ride and Fundraising – *New!* We finally had good weather this week and Viking Roofing was able to replace the broken slates on the tower roof. As of printing time of this bulletin, 40 slates were replace on the south side of the tower, which had the most damage.

We are excited that Rev. Andy has completed his 2,000 mile ride. Visit our website, Facebook Page or your weekly e-News for more information and pictures of his experience. Rev. Andy rode in support the restoration of the 118-foot bell tower constructed in 1893 that houses bells exhibited and played at the Chicago World's Exhibition in 1893 and need repair after 100+ years.

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

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

Another way to support Rev. Andy is to join the "Dollar per Mile Club".

- Any amount per mile
- Dollar per mile each day
- Dollar per mile for the week
- Dollar per mile for the entire trip

Mileage is available on the website.

Nashua's Goodale's Bike Shop supported Rev. Andy's cycling needs on his trip.

++++

Horton Center Family Weekend: August 26-28 - Register today! Have you worshiped on Chapel Rock or caught a falling star on Pinkham Ledge? God's children of all ages are welcome! Some of our tightest bonds of Christian Fellowship are formed in outdoor ministry. Creation is God's first Bible-let's explore together. Hiking, campfire story-telling and singing are all punctuated by guided devotion opportunities and Sunday morning worship with Communion. Cost is $75/per person for food and rustic lodging with a cap of $200 per family. Scholarships are available. Please reach out to LeeAnne for details.

The Holiday Fair Craft Group needs Classico spaghetti sauce jars. Please leave them on the windowsill near the elevator.
The craft group meets on the third Wednesday of the month through October to prepare for the November Holiday Fair. If you would like to participate in the crafting or have ideas to share, please contact Jocelyn Henning or Sandy Gribbin. The group will meet on **July 20, at 4:00 PM** in the dining room. Save the dates for the fair: November 4-6, 2022.

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Silent Auction - Rebecca Small will be organizing the Silent Auction at the Holiday Craft Fair this year. Please reach out to her if you have any handmade items, baskets, gift cards or anything else you'd like to donate. If you'd like to donate an item and need suggestions, please contact Rebecca. Her contact information is in the church directory or you may call the church office.

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Nashua Soup Kitchen Backpack Program – Monetary donations are now being accepted through July 24 for the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter's backpack annual program for new school supplies. The Outreach Committee's goal is to receive $2,600 to use to fill 70 new backpacks on August 4th. Send in a check to the church office with "NSKS Backpacks" in the memo line. If you would like to help, contact Jocelyn Henning. Thanks for your ongoing support of the NSKS!

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There's No Place Like Home Charity Golf Tournament" 2022 - The First Church is hosting the upcoming Charity Golf Tournament, On Monday October 17 at the Nashua Country Club. This year's tournament benefits Family Promise of Southern NH and the Front Door Agency! See the Tournament Flyer, Facebook Page Event, or the First Church Website event calendar for all the details.

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The First Church Thrift Shop is closed for the season. Thank you for your support this year. Please save your donations until further notice.

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Ukraine Assistance – The United Church of Christ is appealing for support of the folks in the Ukraine. Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need.
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.

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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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. Help yourself to one or more of the brochures, which are displayed on the windowsill near the Welcome Center.

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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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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. This vital ministry is looking for more knitters and crocheters. For more information, speak with Rev. Jami.

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This Week at First Church

SUN JUN 26	9:00am	Worship & Livestream
	12:00pm	Radio Broadcast
TUE JUN 28	2:00pm	Huntington Service
SAT JUL 02	10:00am	Organ Rehearsal, sanctuary
	11:00am	Sisters in Sobriety, dining room
SUN JUL 03	9:00am	Worship & Livestream
	12:00pm	Radio Broadcast
MON JUL 04		Indepence Day - Church Office Closed

SUMMER MUSIC SCHEDULE 2022

Each summer, while the music ministry ensembles are on summer break, members of The First Church and the outside community bring their music offerings to our summer worship service at 9am.

The following individuals and seasonal ensembles will enhance our worship services…

June 19	**MEN'S CHOIR (TTBB)**
June 26	**JOSEPH R. OLEFIROWICZ, baritone**
July 3	**ORGAN SUNDAY**
July 10	**NICOLE PAQUETTE, flute**
July 17	**SUMMER CHOIR (SATB)** *(Rehearsal July 13, 6:45-8pm; come one, come all!)*
July 24	**CRAIG PLUMMER, tenor**
July 31	**DALE NETH, solo handbells**
August 7	**DEBBIE NORDYKE, mezzo soprano** **HARRY NORDYKE, tenor & guitar**
August 14	**RICHARD BENEFIELD, organ**
August 21	**CATHERINE CONDI, soprano**
August 28	**WOMEN'S CHOIR (SA)** *(Rehearsal Aug 24, 6:45-8pm; come one, come all!)*
September 4	**MARK A. CLEVELAND, bass-baritone**

First Church Cyclists 2022 Schedule

All Rides Begin at 2PM

The mileage column reflects the total miles, out and back, for each trail.
All rides leave from the trailheads.
Please RSVP by Saturday evening.
Rain Dates are on the following Sunday.

Sunday, June 26	Derry/Windham/Salem	21 miles	Manning St., Derry, NH
Sunday, July 10	Minuteman Bikeway	20.6 miles	Depot Park, Bedford, MA
Sunday, July 24	Nashua River Rail Trail	24 miles	Gilson Rd. at Countryside Drive, Nashua, NH
Sunday, August 7	Common Pathway	13 miles	Peterborough, NH
Sunday, August 21	Clipper City Rail Trail & Harborwalk	11 miles	Newburyport/Rockport line train station
Sunday, September 11	Bruce Freeman Rail Trail	13.6 miles	Cross Point, Chelmsford, MA
Sunday, September 25	Reformatory/Narrow Gauge Trails	14 miles	Depot Park, Bedford, MA
Sunday, October 9	Franconia Notch Recreation Path	17.6 miles	Franconia Notch State Parking Lot

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 12:30-3:00pm
Visit our web site at www.tfcucc.org

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