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

Communion Sunday
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

August 7, 2022 9:00 AM

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*If it is comfortable for you to do so, please stand

APPROACH TO GOD

Let us keep silence as we prepare for worship.

TOWER CHIME Jessica Price

MEDITATION "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." *Corrie ten Boom, 20th century*

PRELUDE *Communion, Opus 8* Louis Vierne *(1870-1937)*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 33: 18, 20-22)

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: The eyes of the Lord are on those who fear Him, on those whose hope is in His unfailing love.

People: We wait in hope for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy name.

Leader: May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, for we put our trust in You.

***HYMN** *How Great Thou Art* (next page) O STORE GUD

***OPENING PRAYER** (Unison)

Lord Jesus, a simple preacher was overheard in Your Holy Book telling the church that faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. We come convinced of many things but trusting very few. Holy God, source of limitless surprises, meet us here in this place as we touch what we cannot see and are moved by what we dare to hope. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Holy Word and our God. Amen.

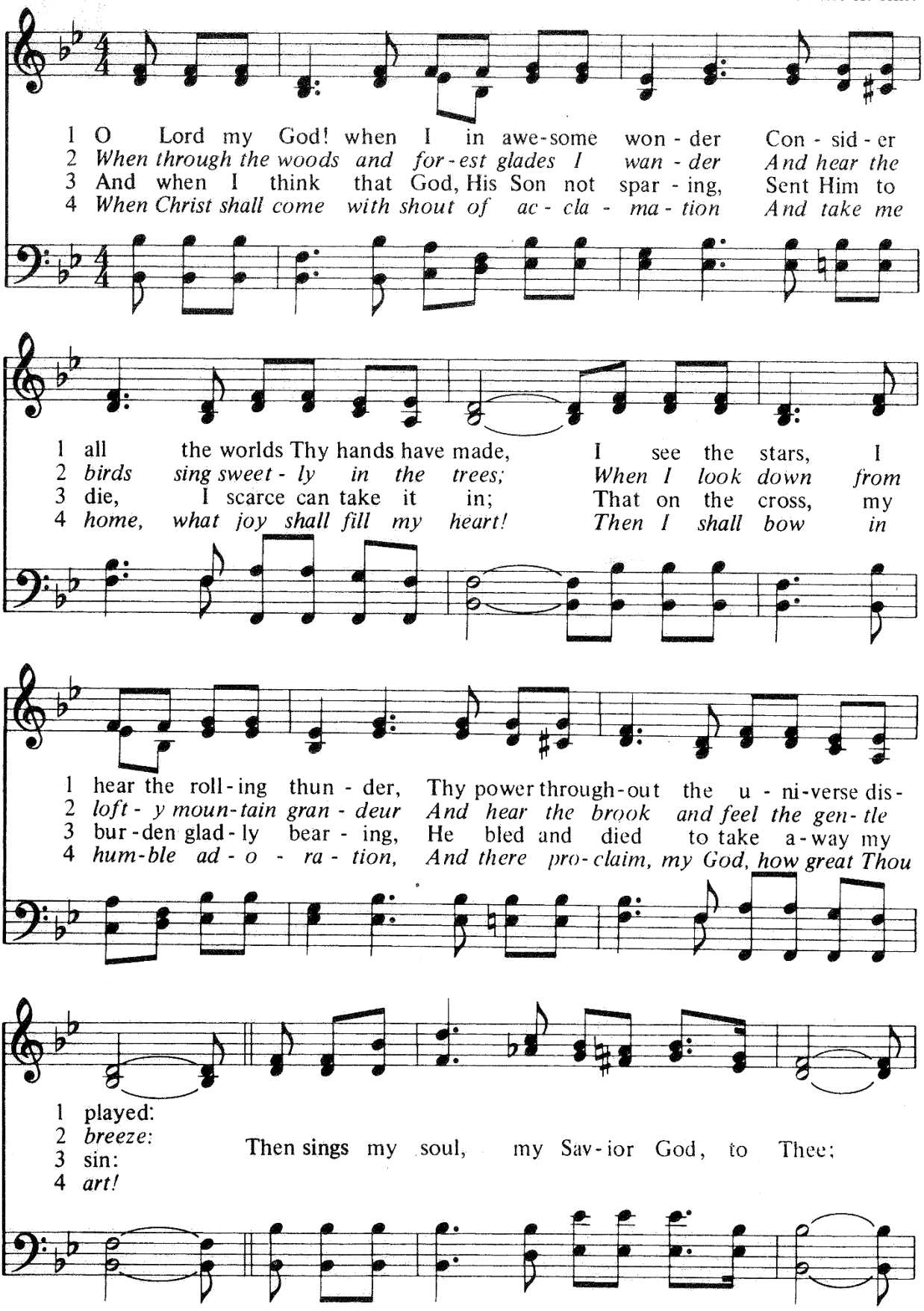
***GLORIA PATRI #513**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end, A-men, A-men.

GREETINGS

How Great Thou Art

Stuart K. Hine

O STORE GUD
Stuart K. Hine

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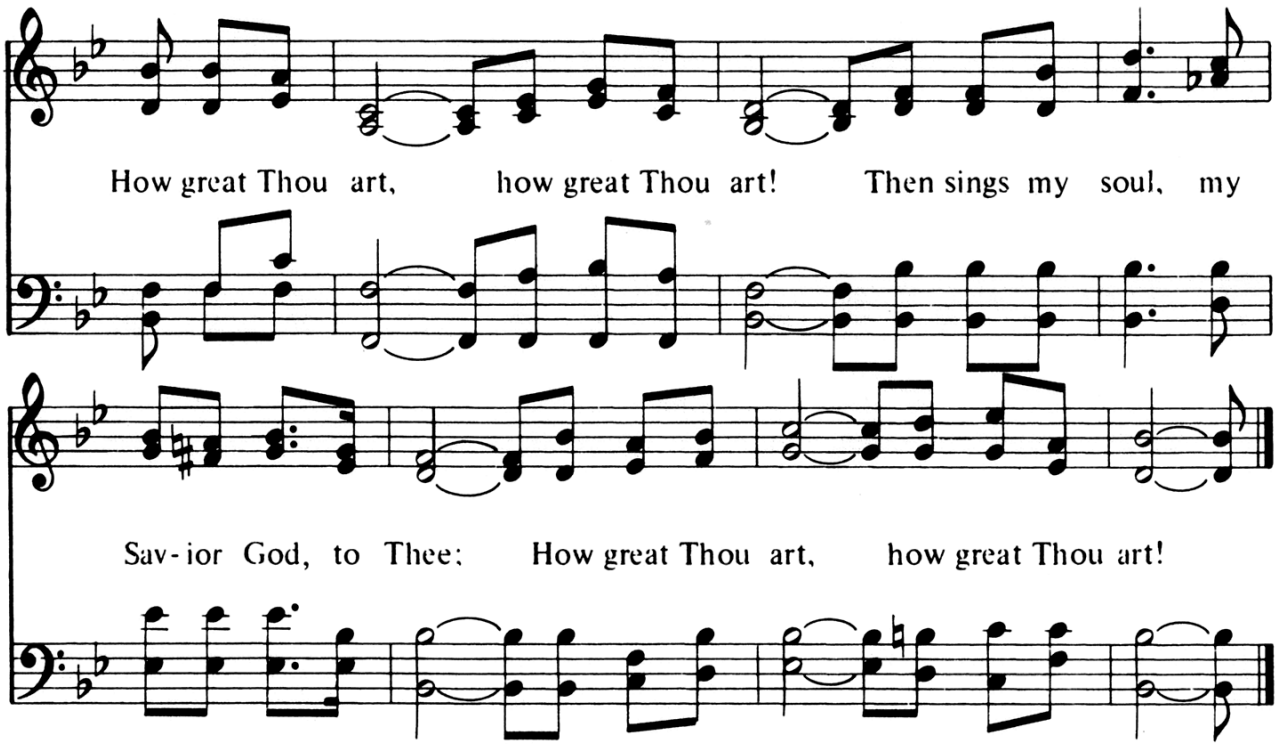


PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Genesis 15:1-6**

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”
But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Luke 12:32-40

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he

comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Pastor: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON “Do Not Be Afraid” Rev. Nancy Haynes & Rev. Jami D. Boyle

HYMN #215 *Lead, Kindly Light* (next page) LUX BENIGNA

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison) A New Creed

We are not alone, we live in God’s world.
We believe in God:
Who has created and is creating,
Who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
Who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God’s presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

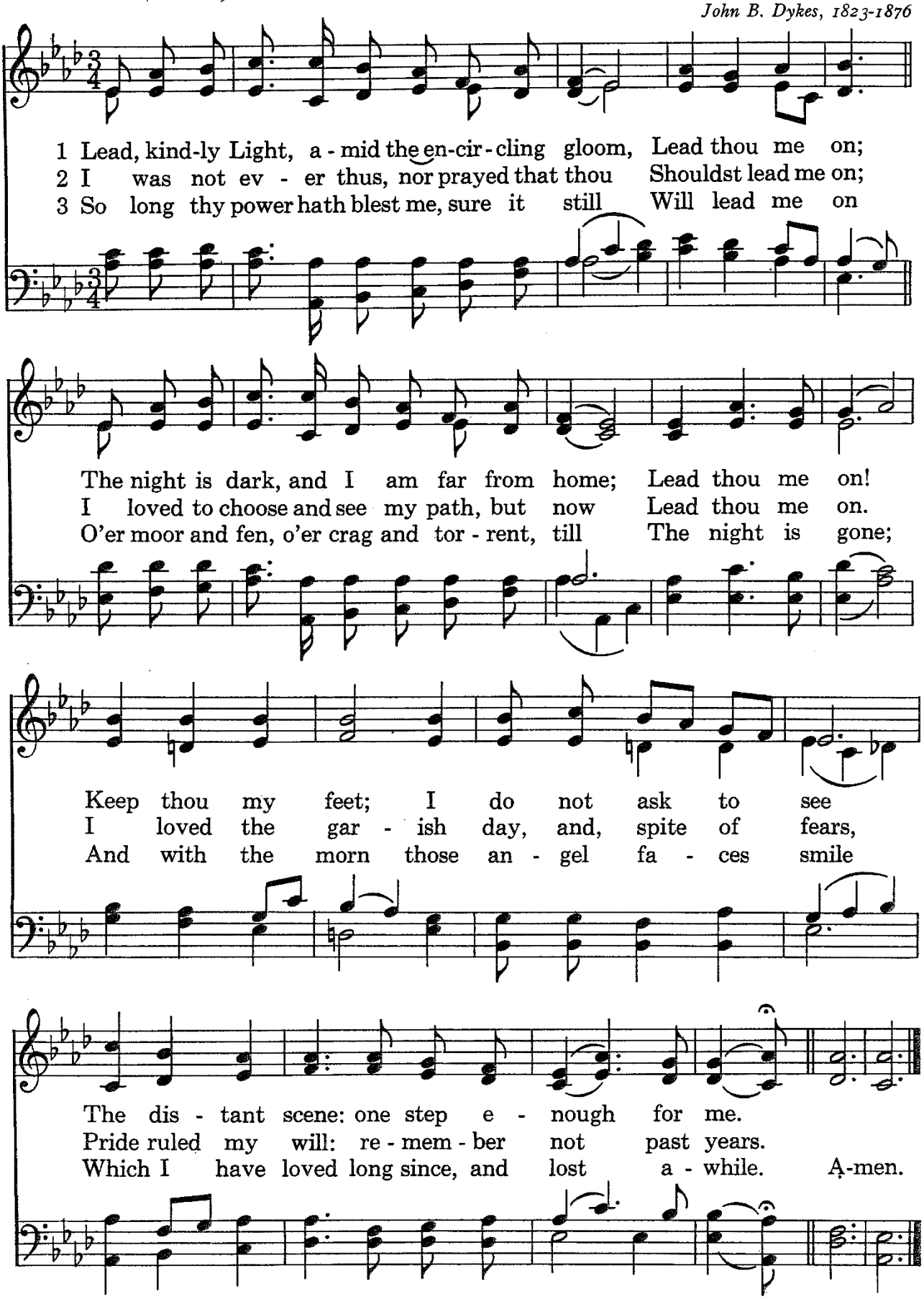
PRAYER CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYERS and PASTORAL PRAYER

Lead, Kindly Light

First Tune

John H. Newman, 1801-1890

LUX BENIGNA 10.4.10.4.10.10.
John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: When we do not listen to Your voice in the depths of our own hearts, calling us to love and forgive:
People: Lord have mercy.
Leader: When we do not listen to Your voice in our common life, calling us to welcome the stranger and create community:
People: Christ have mercy.
Leader: When we do not listen to Your voice in our world, calling us to work for justice and to make peace:
People: Lord have mercy.

A time of silence for personal confession

KYRIE #545 *Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us* J. Merbecke
CONGREGATION JOINS IN SINGING *(1510 – 1585)*

Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The Word is very near to us, in our hearts and on our lips. In Christ, we are forgiven; our lives are made new, and our future of hope is restored.
People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

OFFERTORY *I've Got That Old Time Religion In My Heart* Hurdist Milsap
DEBBIE NORDYKE, mezzo soprano (1912-1975)
HARRY NORDYKE, tenor & guitar

***DOXOLOGY #515** OLD HUNDRETH LM

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)

Faithful Father, You ask us to place You first in all that we do. You call us to surrender completely to Your will and to be obedient to Your word. However, letting go is such a great barrier to overcome. We fool ourselves believing we are in control. Lift this barrier! Increase our hearts desire to freely provide for others in our giving and our serving. In the name of Your servant son, Jesus, the Christ, we bless these offerings to Your glory. Amen.

The Communion

It is a tradition at First Church that we eat the bread and drink the cup together as the people of God renewing our covenant. We serve grape juice, bread and gluten free bread.

Invitation, Sursum Corda and Communion Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to God.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
Leader: Holy God, as disciples of Jesus have always done, we bring gifts of bread and the fruit of the vine to grace Your table.
In them, we remember every promise You have made for our salvation.
In the life, death and resurrection of Jesus,
You fulfilled Your Word and are with us by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Here at the table of Your kingdom, You instruct us in the way
of mercy and forgiveness. With the faithful in every time and place, we joyfully praise Your name:

SANCTUS #550 S. Wesley
(1766 – 1837)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory:
Glory be to Thee, O Lord most high. A-men.

Leader: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread and having blessed it, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, “This is My body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.” In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is of the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” By eating of this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ’s death, celebrate Christ’s resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Sharing of the Bread

Leaning On The Everlasting Arms Anthony J Showalter
(1858-1924)

Sharing of the Cup

Near The Cross Fanny Crosby
(1820-1915)

Prayer of Thanksgiving and 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.

***HYMN #317** *I love to Tell the Story* (next page) HANKEY

***BENEDICTION**

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

POSTLUDE *Grand Choeur in G* Théodore Salomé
(1834-1896)

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: Sunset, 1913, by Schiele, Egon, 1890-1918
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Egon_Schiele_093.jpg
DEACON OF THE DAY: Rich Smigliani
GUEST ORGANIST: Richard Benefield
LICENSING: CCLI (print) 3034682; CCLI (streaming) 20119862; CCS 12820; OneLicense A-736284

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The flowers in the pulpit are given in celebration of their 29th wedding anniversary, by Ken and Tasha Drew.

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

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

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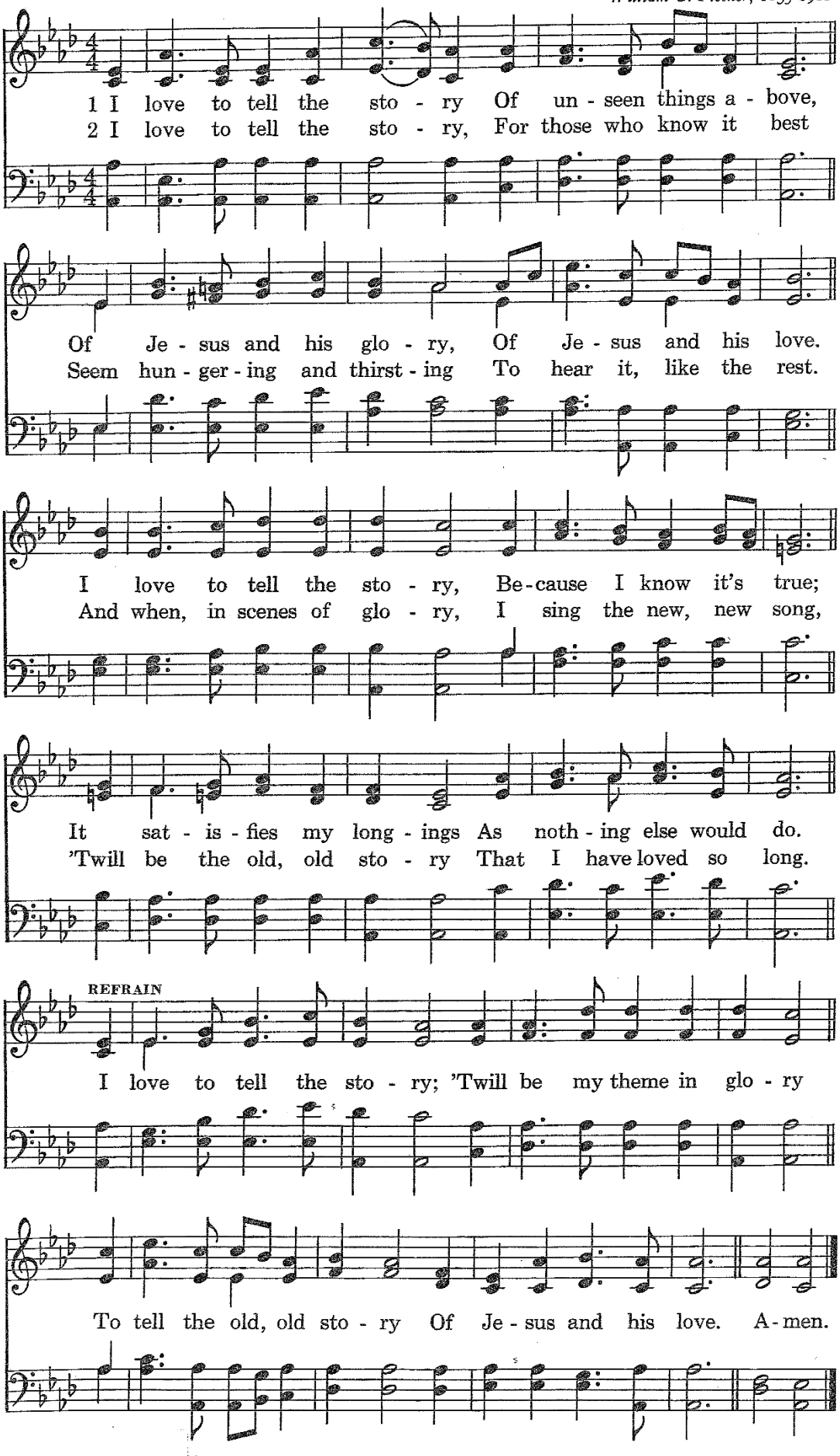
Have you remembered First Church in you will?

I love to Tell the Story

Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911

HANKEY 7.6.7.6.D. *with Refrain*
William G. Fischer, 1835-1912

Join us for a Celebration!

Join us for a Special Worship Service &
Post Worship Celebration as we Welcome
Rev. Andy Home from Sabbatical.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2022
9AM WORSHIP

Reception and Celebration
(with Cake) will follow!

Summer Worship Schedule through September 4, 2022
One Service at 9:00 AM: In person Worship & Livestream
On air on WSMN AM 1590 & FM 95.3 at 10:00 AM (previous week's service)
The nursery is closed during the summer months.

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

Christian Formation Corner

Summer Childcare – The nursery is closed for the summer. Please join us for our 9:00 AM worship service.

Summer Worship for Families - Worship bags containing activities and a children's bulletin are available at the welcome center for children to enjoy while in the sanctuary with their family.

Create a Dream Jar for yourself and your family. What is a Dream Jar? A Dream Jar is a jar (try a cookie jar or mason jar) filled with possibilities made by you, for yourself and your family. Include your favorite things to make, do and share together with God. Write them on pieces of paper and put them in the jar. You may decorate the jar, too.

Directions and a jar sample are available at the welcome center and at the Christian Formation table in Fellowship Hall.

Please send pictures of your adventures in an email to lsteenhoek@tfcucc.org. I'm looking forward to First Family Dream Jar Adventures!!!

Save the date! Rally Sunday, September 11, 2022
Cookout – Music – Ice Cream Truck – Tons of Fun
Come join us as we gather together, again.

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

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 storytelling 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. Sign up at the welcome center or contact LeeAnne at lsteenhoek@tfcucc.org.

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The deadline for the September newsletter is Monday, August 8. Please send your articles to Sue in the church office.

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Kids - Would you like to play handbells? It's a great way to have fun making music as a group, and it's a skill you will keep for life. This fall, members of First Church's Decibells choir will be starting a beginner handbell choir for kids entering grades 4 through 8 - no prior experience or music reading required. Want to learn more? Come to church on Rally Day to try playing some bells or chimes and get your questions answered. Parents can also email Rhonda O'Keefe (email address in the directory or available by calling the church office) or speak to Minister of Music Joseph Olefirowicz.

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WOMEN'S CHOIR, *a SA two-part ensemble,* will convene on Wednesday **August 24, 6:45-8:00 PM,** and will sing in worship **on Sunday August 28.** This is a chance for those who may not have a schedule amenable to regular participation in the normal choral year. Come join us in this expansion of the music ministry!

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Tower to Tower Bike Ride and Fundraising – It is not too late to donate to the tower restoration work! We are very grateful for your participation.
Donate at: 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.

Tower Work - Viking Roofing recently replaced 60 failing or broken slates on the tower roof. See pictures on Facebook or on our website. We are planning on lighting up the inside of the tower windows. How great it will be to see the tower lighted up from the inside all night long!

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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 **August 7** on the Common Pathway in Peterborough, NH. Find a complete schedule on the website, posted on various bulletin boards around the church and in the June newsletter. Contact Ray Baldwin with any questions. His contact information is in the church directory or you may call the church office.

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The Holiday Fair Craft Group will meet on **August 17, at 4:00 PM** in the dining room 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. 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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Help keep your giving current - Our financial giving remains crucial to maintain our ministry, to support the spiritual health of the church family, and continue our Outreach to mission partners in and around Nashua. Please mail in your offering, set up automatic deposits through the First Church, set up automatic payment with your bank, or consider e-giving though our website at https://tfcucc.org/give/.

The First Church offers convenient e-giving options for pledges and other giving. Scan the QR code on the back cover of this bulletin to view one of the giving options available. Contact Dianne Smigliani with any questions.

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The weekly e-News is on break for the summer. Access livestream and worship details on the worship page on our website or go directly to our YouTube channel.

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

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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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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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Church Directory - Do we have a picture of you and your family in the directory? Is your contact information current? Please call or email Sue in the church office so we can update the directory and our files and assist you with access to the directory. Thank you.

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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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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.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

SUN AUG 07	9:00am 10:00am	Worship & Livestream Radio Broadcast
MON AUG 08		September Newsletter deadline
TUE AUG 09	7:00pm	Thank You Project, room 10
WED AUG 10	11:45am	BNI, dining room
THU AUG 11	6:30pm	Quilt Guild, dining room
SAT AUG 13	11:00am	Sisters in Sobriety, dining room

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First Church Cyclists 2022 Schedule
All Rides Begin at 2:00 PM

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, 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

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Save the date! Rally Sunday, September 11, 2022
Cookout – Music – Ice Cream Truck – Tons of Fun
Come join us as we gather together, again.

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**

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 for the first time. Please sign the guest book in the back of the sanctuary or fill out the **visitor card** found in the pew racks. Fill out the back of the card, and put it in the offering plate or hand it to a minister, Usher or Deacon so we may acknowledge your visit. Join in the time of fellowship, in Chapel Hall, following worship. If you have any questions about the life and ministry of First Church please seek out the individuals wearing colored name tags; they are members of the various boards and committees.

INFORMATION

First Church was gathered on December 16, 1685 as The Church of Christ in Dunstable. On the same day Thomas Weld was ordained and settled as minister of the church. The current building, built in 1894, is the tenth building to house the First Church community. In 1961, the church entered fellowship with the United Church of Christ. We welcome into our membership any who will own the covenant of First Church and seek to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ in the community and world. Those interested in joining the church should contact the church office for information. New members are received during worship in November, February and May. The Sacrament of Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month and the Sacrament of Baptism on the last. First Church is supported almost entirely by pledges. Every member is expected to make a financial pledge according to their ability.

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care is available to all in need. Please keep the ministers informed of occasions of sickness, sorrow, and joy. Let the church office know if you or family member or friend is hospitalized.

COMMUNICATIONS

If you have a change of address, phone number, or email address, please let the church office know so that we may keep our records current.

All information for the weekly bulletin must be in the office by noon on Wednesday. All information for the monthly newsletter must be in the office by 4:30 PM on the second Monday of the month.

<u>All use of the building must be scheduled by the Secretary.</u>

THE FIRST CHURCH
NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

One Concord Street * Nashua, New Hampshire 03064 * 603-882-4861
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00am-noon & 12:30-3:30pm
Visit our web site at tfcucc.org - Find us on Facebook

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