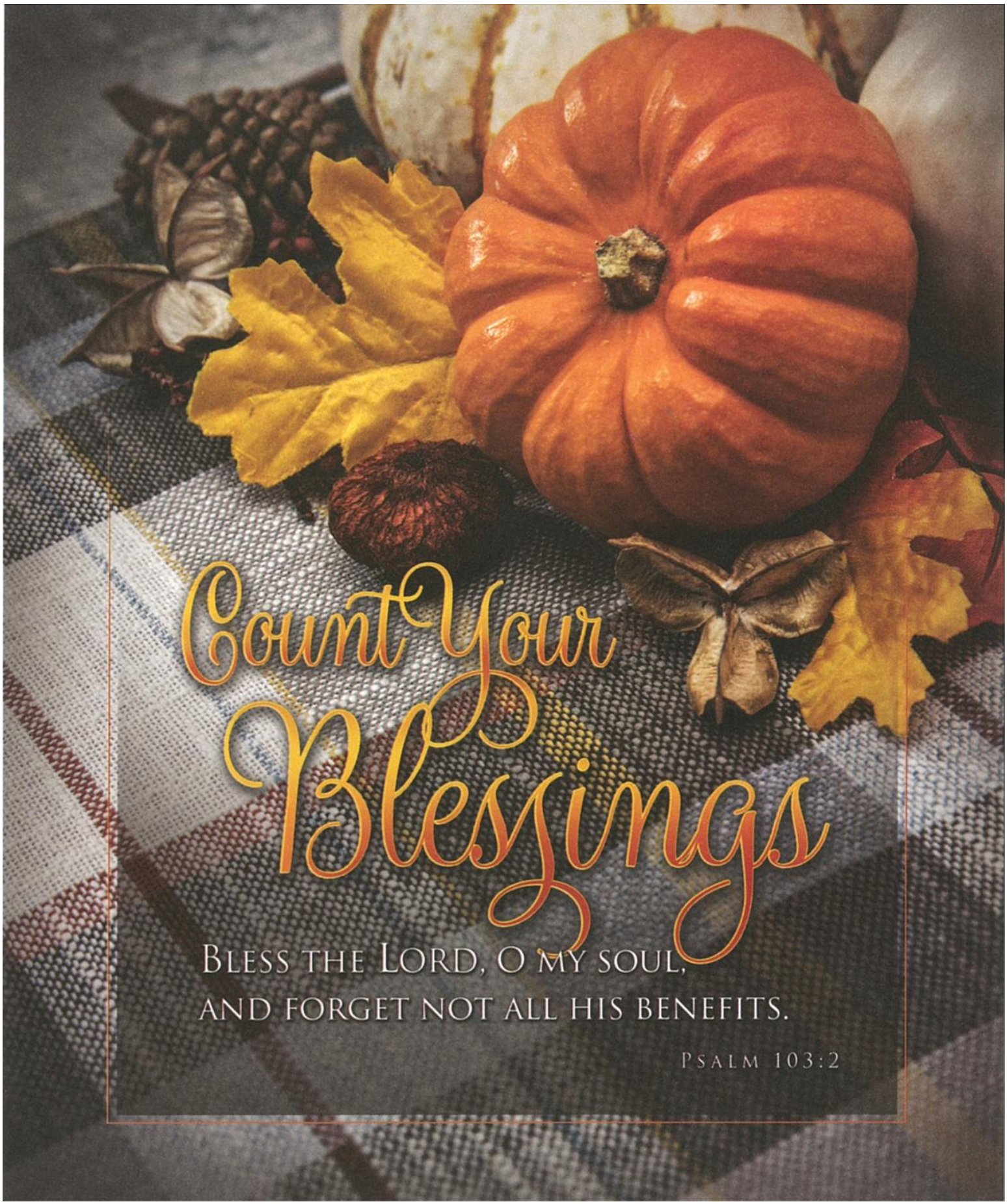

Count Your Blessings
BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL,
AND FORGET NOT ALL HIS BENEFITS.
PSALM 103:2

Reign of Christ

Thanksgiving Sunday

November 20, 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) Dale Neth

MEDITATION "You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late." Ralph Waldo Emerson

PRELUDE *Canon in D Major* J. Pachelbel *(1653 – 1706)*

INTROITUS *Peal of Praise* J. Olefirowicz
(10:00) **JUBELLATION** *(*1972)*

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 100)*

Leader: Today is Christ the King Sunday and we celebrate that Jesus, friend of the poor, the meek and the merciful, has been enthroned above all authority and power in this world and in the world that is to come.

People: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth, serve the Lord with gladness come into His presence with singing.

Leader: God has placed everything under Christ's wounded feet, appointed the One who wore a crown of thorns as the supreme head of the church, His body.

People: Enter His gates with thanksgiving; come into His courts with praise. Give thanks and praise His loving name!

***HYMN #21** *We Gather Together* (next page) KRESMER

***OPENING PRAYER** (Unison)

Almighty God, for everything there is a time and season. Time is our most precious commodity and our clocks are always running. From birth to death; during times of joy and sorrow; work and play; business and pleasure; speech and silence; worship and service; time rolls along. Slow us down Lord, that we be still before You and know that You are God. Amen.

GREETINGS

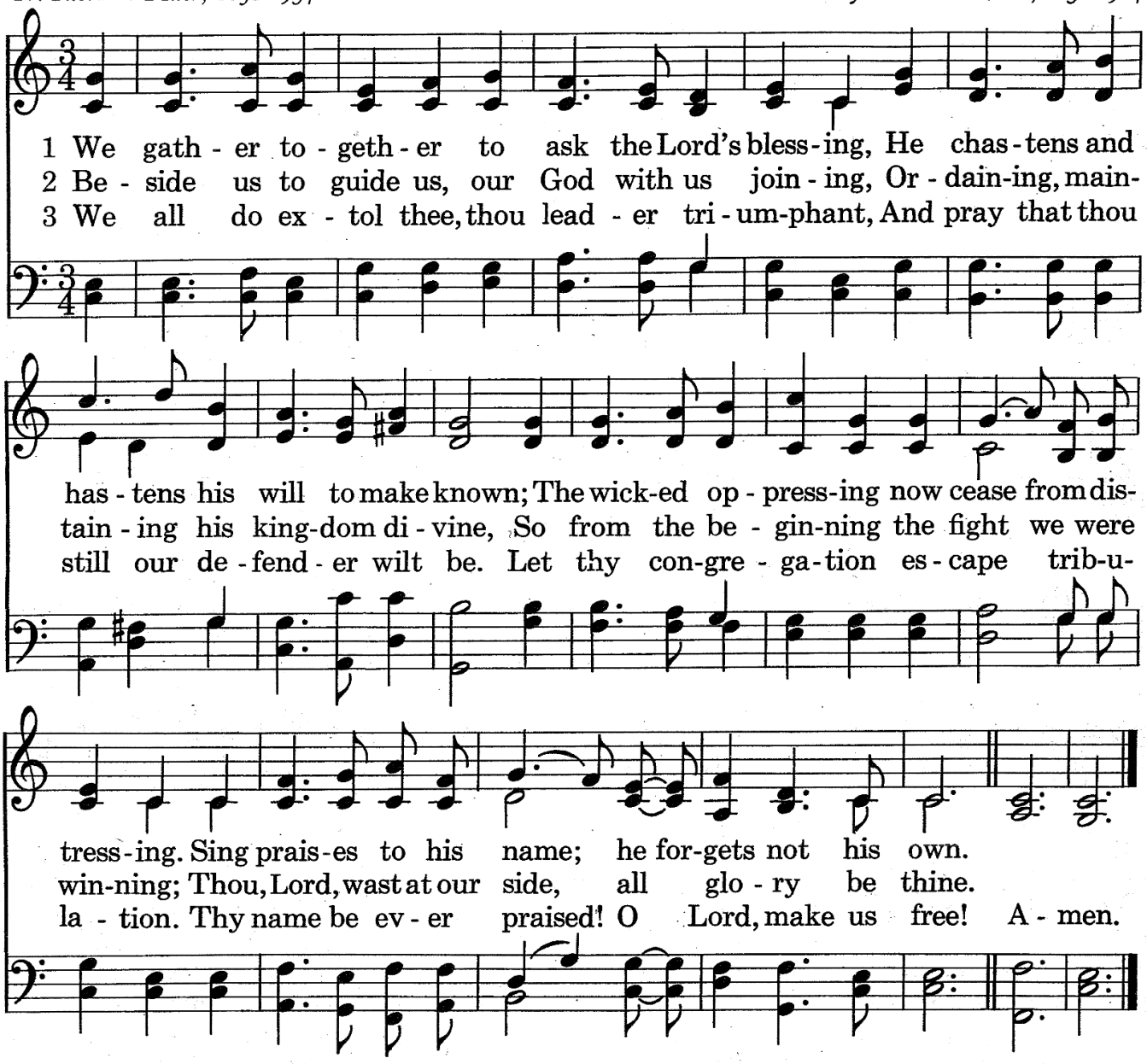
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10:00)

We Gather Together

KREMSER 12.11.12.11.

Netherlands Folk Song
Tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934

Netherlands Folk Song, 1626
Arr. by Edward Kremser, 1838-1914



PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING **Matthew 25: 31-46**

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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

GRATIA TIBI *Thanks Be to Thee* T. Tallis
(10:00) **CHANCEL CHOIR** *(1505 – 1585)*

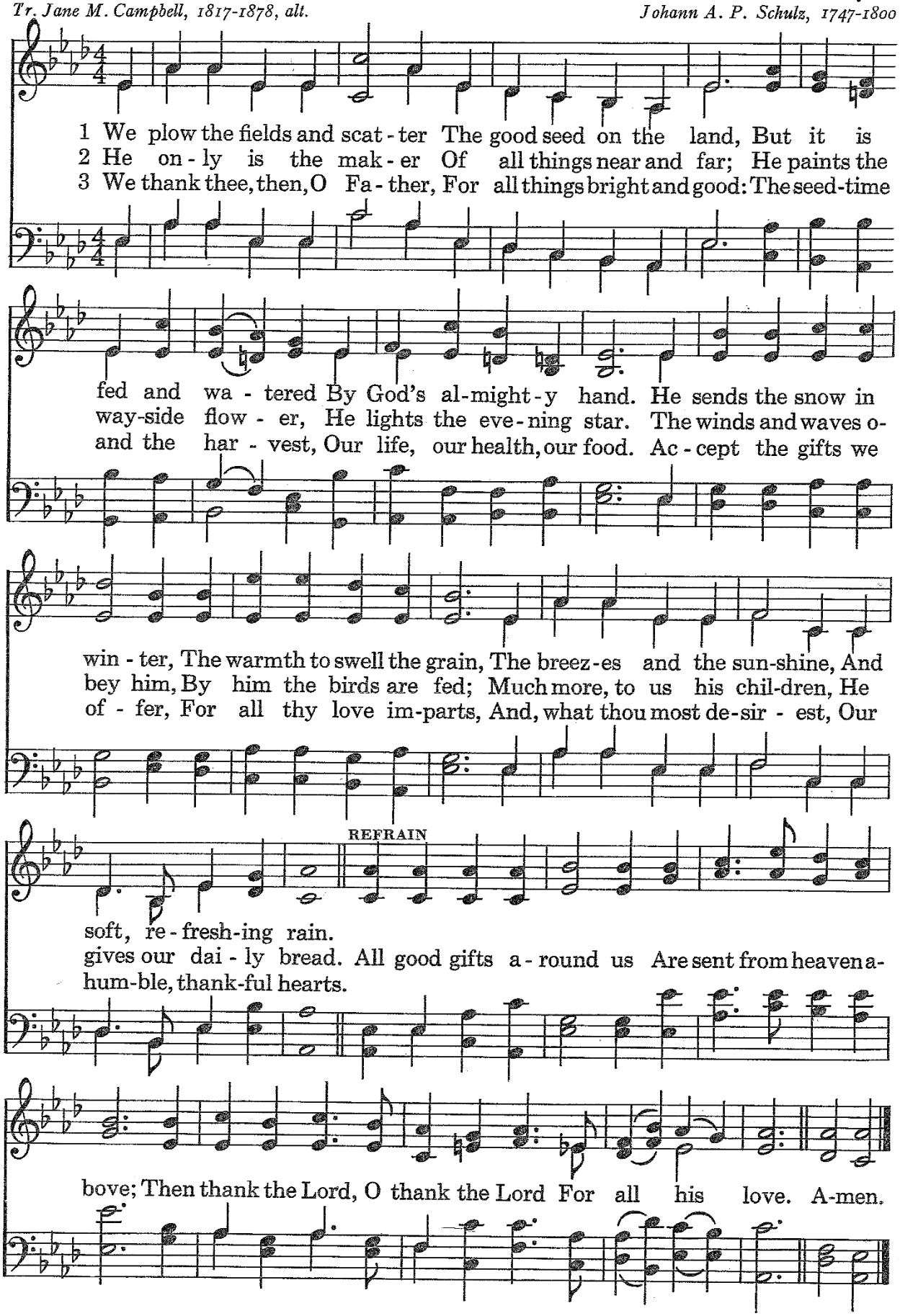
VOLUNTARY *Medley for Thanksgiving* S. K. Tucker
(10:00) **DECIBELLS** *(*1957)*

SERMON "The Bucket List" Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong

***HYMN #460** *We Plow the Fields and Scatter*
(10:00)

Matthias Claudias, 1740-1815
Tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817-1878, alt.

WIR PFLÜGEN 7.6.7.6.D. *with Refrain*
Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747-1800



RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

***LITANY** (Inspired by Psalm 46, Colossians 1, and 1 Corinthians 12)**

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.

People: We give thanks for God's presence, the Sovereign who dwells with us in humility, accepting our pain and our weakness in love.

Leader: So we will not fear, even if earthquakes come, and the mountains crumble into the sea.

People: We give thanks for God's promises, that allow us to let go of the fears and anxiety that keep us paralyzed, that give the darkness such power over us.

Leader: Let the oceans roar and foam. Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge!

People: We give thanks that we can grieve the losses, we can mourn the destruction, but they shall not consume us. God is with us, in grief as in love, and our hearts shall be open to grace.

Leader: The Lord Almighty is here among us; the God of Israel is our fortress.

People: We give thanks that the Body of Christ is present: the hands of God offering comfort, the eyes of God weeping with us, the feet of God walking alongside us, the strength of God helping us to rebuild. The Lord Almighty is here among us; we are the Body of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God!

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

(10:00) *O Go Your Way into His Gates with Thanksgiving* H. Aldrich *(1647 – 1710)*

OFFERTORY

(8:30) *Medley for Thanksgiving* Tucker

(10:00) *Let All things Now Living* K. K. Davis *(1892 – 1980)*

***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) (adapted Prayer of Saint Boniface)

Eternal God, the refuge and help of all your children, we praise You for all You have given us, for all You have done for us, for all that You are to us. In our weakness, You are strength, in our darkness, You are light, in our sorrow, You are comfort and peace. For all Your blessings we bless You. May we live knowing that we are in Your presence, and love the things that You love, and serve You in our daily lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN #461** *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTUS** *Praise God, Our maker, and Our Friend* J. H. Schein
(10:00) *(1586 – 1630)*

POSTLUDE *Nun Danket alle Gott* S. Karg-Elert
Now Thank We All Our God *(1877 – 1933)*

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

****

AV TEAM CAMERA CREW: Doug Brenner, Joe Glajch, Lee Hauenstein, Craig Neth, Roy Rumbaugh, Don Smith-Weiss and Dennis Webster
CALL TO WORSHIP: *written by and posted on Bruce Prewer's Homepage.
DEACON OF THE DAY: Bill McIntyre
JUBELLATION: Rhonda O'Keefe, director
LICENSING: CCLI (print) 3034682; CCLI (streaming) 20119862; CCS 12820; OneLicense A-736284
LITANY: **written by Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy, Pastor at First Church Congregational, Rochester, NH. www.sermonizing.wordpress.com/
STAFF SINGERS: Janet Poisson, soprano - Brianne Biastoff, alto
Zoe Harper, tenor - Joshua L. Gore, bass

****

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

****

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

****

Have you remembered First Church in your will?

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Henry Alford, 1810-1871

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR 7.7.7.7.D.
George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

Christian Formation Corner

Today in the Sunday School November 20, 2022

Today is the Reign of Christ and the liturgical color is green.

NURSERY CARE - The church nursery opens at 9:45 AM to care for children under the age of 3 during the 10 AM worship service. Nursery coordinators are on hand to greet parents and explain the procedure for checking in and picking up your child.

CHURCH SCHOOL - All children (3 years-8th grade) start in the sanctuary with their parents. After the children's message, students leave for their classes. The Ushers will be happy to direct newcomers to childcare and classrooms.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Students in grades 9-12 are invited to join the group. The group is meeting TODAY to go to an escape room. Contact Holly Columbus or the church office for more information.

FIRST CHURCH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT – DECEMBER 11, 2022, 10:00 AM

Students, teachers and assistants are preparing for the Christmas Pageant. Rehearsals are held during class on November 20 and December 4. Attendance is important! Please make every effort to attend Sunday school.

The pageant is under the direction of Rebecca Crivello and Steve Blunt
Costume Director is Karen Hayden.

Following the worship service all are invited for light refreshments in Fellowship Hall.

Also, on December 11, we will be celebrating the ministry of LeeAnne Steenhoek. This is a Sunday not to be missed.

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

Good News! The elevator is working. Thank you for your patience this past week.

++++

The Nashua Area Interfaith Council invites you to a service of Grateful Ingathering on Tuesday, November 22 at 7:00 PM at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Main St. Nashua. The service will be livestreamed at https://www.youtube.come/@CGSNashua. Street parking is free at 7:00. Light refreshments to follow.

++++

The First Church Fall Yard Clean Up - Saturday, December 10 from 8:30 AM to noon. Bring your rakes and yard tools to help the Property Management team rake the fall leaves. Come join in on the fun and enjoy our great selection of donuts and a fresh cup of coffee. Any questions, please contact Doug Brenner (contact information is in the directory or through the church office).

++++

Thankfulness Tree is sponsored this year by Stewardship! What are the God given graces that are filling your heart with gratitude this season? Jot them down on one of our colorful leaves and hang them on our tree (located in Fellowship Hall). Let's create a display of gratitude for the abundance of grace that blesses our church family!

++++

Holiday Fair Update - Thank you to the more than 40 volunteers who helped at the Holiday Fair to plan, create crafts, bake, set up, clean up, make and sell food, lead the bake sale, auction and craft sales, etc. Together we successfully raised over $10,000 for the Ministers Discretionary Fund! A big thank you to Rebecca Small who has led the silent auction for 5 years and will be retiring from that opportunity, as well as Jocelyn Henning who is retiring from being co-chair.

This means **we are in need of a co-chair to help Sandy Gribbin next year and a Silent Auction chair**. New volunteers will receive all of the information and training. We would love some new ideas. We are blessed at First Church with many wonderful volunteers to help to make the fair successful. Please contact Sandy Gribbin if you are interested or have questions.

++++

Bible, Friends and Coffee is on break until January 23, 2023.

++++

Wednesday Morning Men's Study is on break and will resume in January, date TBA.

++++

Coffee & Conversation with Rev. Nancy is on break. Stay tuned for a start-up date in January.

Caregiver Support - Rev. Jami would like to start a small group for anyone who lives with or helps another person who has dementia. The dementia could be the result of aging or of any stage of Alzheimer's disease. Dementia presents caregivers with unique needs. If this is a ministry that might help you, sign up at the welcome center. We'll need a minimum of four people then determine which time of day, and date, will work best. Contact Rev. Jami with any questions.

++++

Women's Association Christmas Potluck and Yankee Swap - The Women's Association is having their Christmas potluck and Yankee swap on Monday, December 12, at 6 PM in the church dining room. This treasured gathering of church women, features good food and a fun-filled good time with our Yankee swap.
Bring a dish to share, and a gift valued at $10 or less for the Yankee swap. A Sign up at the welcome center. Contact Bea Dillaby or Carol Butler with any questions.

++++

White Dove/Silver Dove Christmas Program – We have 28 families for the program and we are looking for folks to help. Many of the families need food only, while others will need gift cards to purchase gifts for their children and themselves. Please contact Carol Butler (her information is in the directory) if you would like to participate and she will walk you through the process. All donations need to be collected by December 8 so the cards may be delivered to the recipients in time for them to shop.

++++

Christmas Cookies and Carols for a Cause - Friday December 16, 6-7:15 PM - Join Rev. Andy for an evening of fun, fellowship and good food. First, we'll enjoy chili. Rev. Andy will make his famous recipe and you too can sign up to bring your chili dish. Then, we'll eat Christmas cookies and have a sing along to our favorite Christmas Carols. Afterwards, we'll gather the cookies into gift baskets to share with two organizations in need of holiday cheer. Mary's House provides housing for women without children who are in need of a safe and supportive living environment. Stepping Stones Inc. offers services to Nashua's nearly 400 homeless and unaccompanied youths. Please sign up online or at the welcome center and please indicate if you will bring chili and/or cookies.

++++

La Romana, DR Mission trip - First Church members will be joining a New England regional team of missionaries to La Romana, DR this February/March. To learn more about this medical mission and ways you can help go to
https://centralmalaromana.org/.
We are gathering supplies for the trip. Beth Raymond is leading this effort and she has set up a table in Fellowship Hall. Items needed are listed in the November messenger or you may pick up a list at the table. Please place them in the marked bin located in Fellowship Hall.

Winter parking reminder - Use caution when parking along the north side of the church building. Heed the posted signs. Falling snow and ice can cause damage to your cars!

++++

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

++++

Pledge Cards - Please return your pledge card as soon as possible. Cards are available at the back of the sanctuary, at the welcome center, by scanning the QR Code or online at:
https://tfcucc.org/2023-pledge-card/

++++

Direct Pledgers via Main Office - If you donate via ACH-Direct Deposit through the main office, please be sure to submit your 2023 pledge cards to let us know if your transactions remain the same or if there are any changes or updates you wish to make. Contact Dianne Smigliani in the church office if you have any questions.

Thank you for your support of The First Church, our Mission and Ministries.

++++

November Outreach Focus: The Front Door Agency

We are collecting items for the Transformational Housing program residents.
Needed items: Diapers size 4-6, Pull Ups, baby wipes, paper towels, toilet paper, gas cards, Amazon gift cards, hand soap, twin bedding for moms (not sheets but full sets of bedding or just comforters)
Please drop items in the collection bin at First Church in November.

The Agency is currently soliciting support of its Suite Sponsorship program. A donation of $1,000 or $2,500 helps cover a family residing at the Norwell. A complete description of the program and its benefits can be found at https://www.frontdooragency.org/events/suite-sponsorship/

There will be an in-person Open House on Wednesday, November 30, 8:30-9:30am at the Norwell, 12 Concord Street, Nashua. All are welcome!

++++

Choirs in Worship Next Sunday
Sunday, November 27, 2022
1st Sunday of Advent
8:30 & 10:00 AM Janet Poisson, soprano

The First Church Thrift Shop is open on **Thursdays, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM and on the first Saturday of the month, 9:00 AM-Noon.** They are accepting donations of *FALL & WINTER CLOTHING*. Items needed: 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.

++++

Ukraine Assistance – The United Church of Christ is appealing for support of the folks in the Ukraine. 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.

++++

UCC Hurricanes 2022 Emergency Appeal - The United Church of Christ is also appealing for support for families and communities affected by Hurricanes Fiona and Ian. You may mail a check payable to the United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "Hurricanes 2022 Fund" in the memo section or donate online at: https://support.ucc.org/donate---hurricanes-2022

++++

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

SUN NOV 20	8:30am	Worship
	9:15am	Chapel Chimers, Shaw Chapel
	9:30am	Jubellation, Sanctuary
	10:00am	Worship, Livestream, Radio Broadcast, Sunday School, Childcare
	11:30am	Youth Group, offsite
MON NOV 21	4:00pm	Organ Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Property Management, room 15 & dining room
TUE NOV 22	10:00am	Staff Meeting
	2:00pm	Huntington Service
THUR NOV 24		Thanksgiving Day - Church Office Closed
FRI NOV 25		Church Office Closed
SAT NOV 26	9:00am	Soloist & Organ Rehearsal, sanctuary
	11:00am	Sisters in Sobriety, dining room
	5:00pm	Holiday Stroll

FIRST MUSIC

FM

CONCERT SERIES 2022 – 23 SEASON

SEASON XV

CELEBRATING 15 SEASONS of
BRINGING the JOY of MUSIC
to the GATE CITY

4th ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES

CHRISTMAS at FIRST

CHANCEL CHOIR OF THE FIRST CHURCH
MUDDY BROOK CHAMBER STRINGS

POISSON • OGBUANI • PLUMMER • AYRES-KERR • CLEVELAND • OLEFIROWICZ

SUNDAY

DEC 18

OPEN TO THE **PUBLIC**

ALL ARE WELCOME

9 & 11 AM

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
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.