Hope

THE PEOPLE WALKING IN DARKNESS
HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT;
ON THOSE LIVING IN THE LAND
OF DEEP DARKNESS A LIGHT HAS DAWNED.

ISAIAH 9:2 (NIV®)

Morning Worship

First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 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

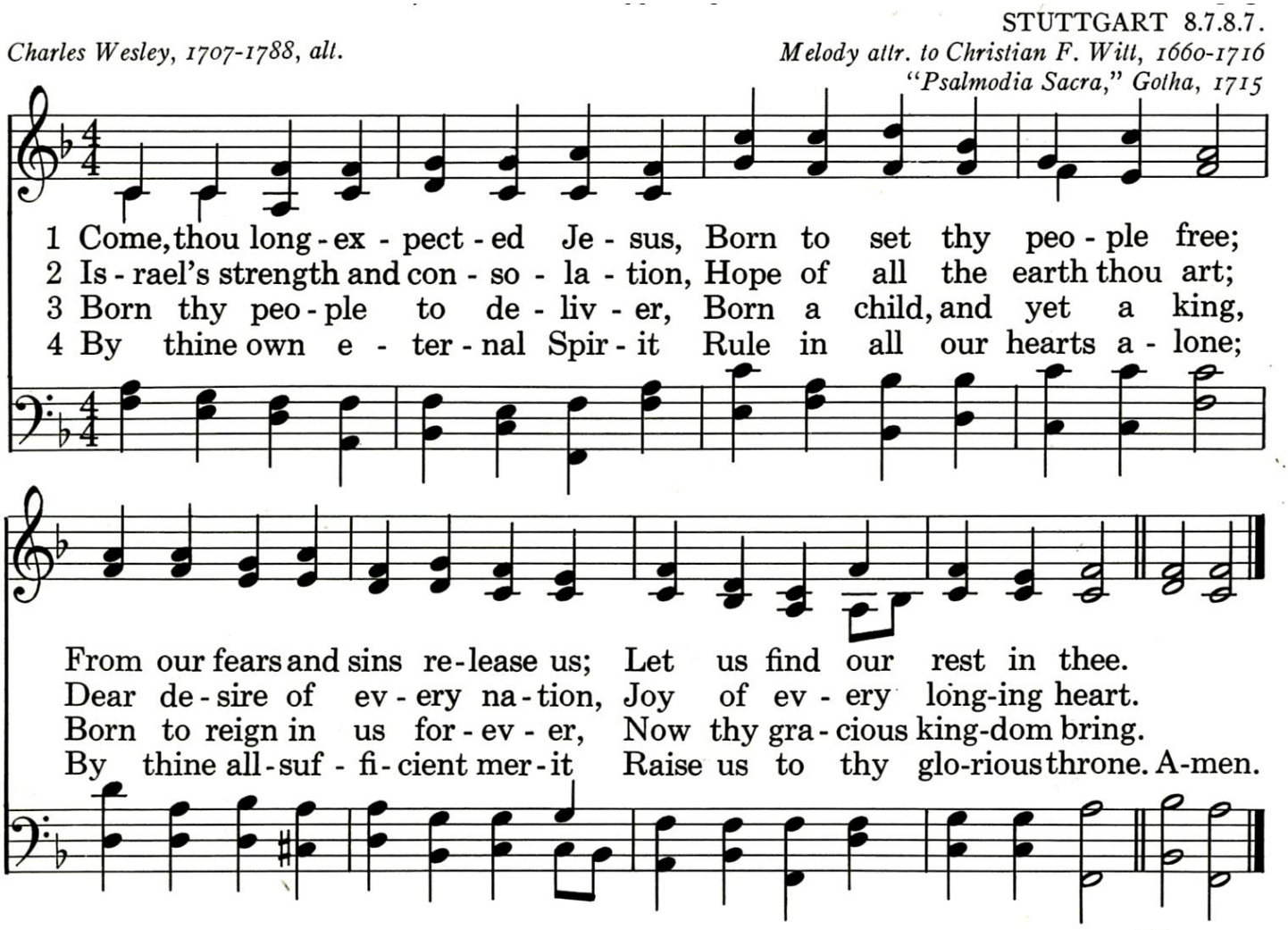
MEDITATION

"For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone and the day is at hand. Let us cast of the works of darkness and put on the armor of light…" (Romans 13:11-12)

PRELUDE *Magnificat Quarti Toni* A. de Cabezón
as seven meditations *(1500 – 1566)*

CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

Leader: May the joy of the advent season and hope in our Lord be with you!
People: And also with you!
Leader: Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God.
People: We light this candle in hope.
Leader: Hear God's promise of hope from The Prophet Isaiah: In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

***HYMN #103** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

God of light and life, You ask us to put aside the works of darkness by putting on the light of Christ. You ask us to be watchful and prepared for Your coming. Forgive us when people do not see any evidence of Your life in us. In this season of Advent, remind us that our lives can be a sign of hope to those in the gloom of despair and suffering. (Isaiah 2:2-4)

A time of silence for personal confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Merciful God, the One for whom we wait, is the very same who forgives us with His healing Word. In Jesus Christ, our hearts and minds are cleansed from all that hinders us from loving God and loving our neighbor. In His name we are forgiven!

People: Praise be to the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

GREETINGS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10:00)

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Matthew 24:36-44**

"But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Romans 13:11-14

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

SOLO *Agnus Dei* W. A. Mozart
from *"Krönungsmesse,* KV 317*"* *(1756 – 1791)*

JANET POISSON, soprano

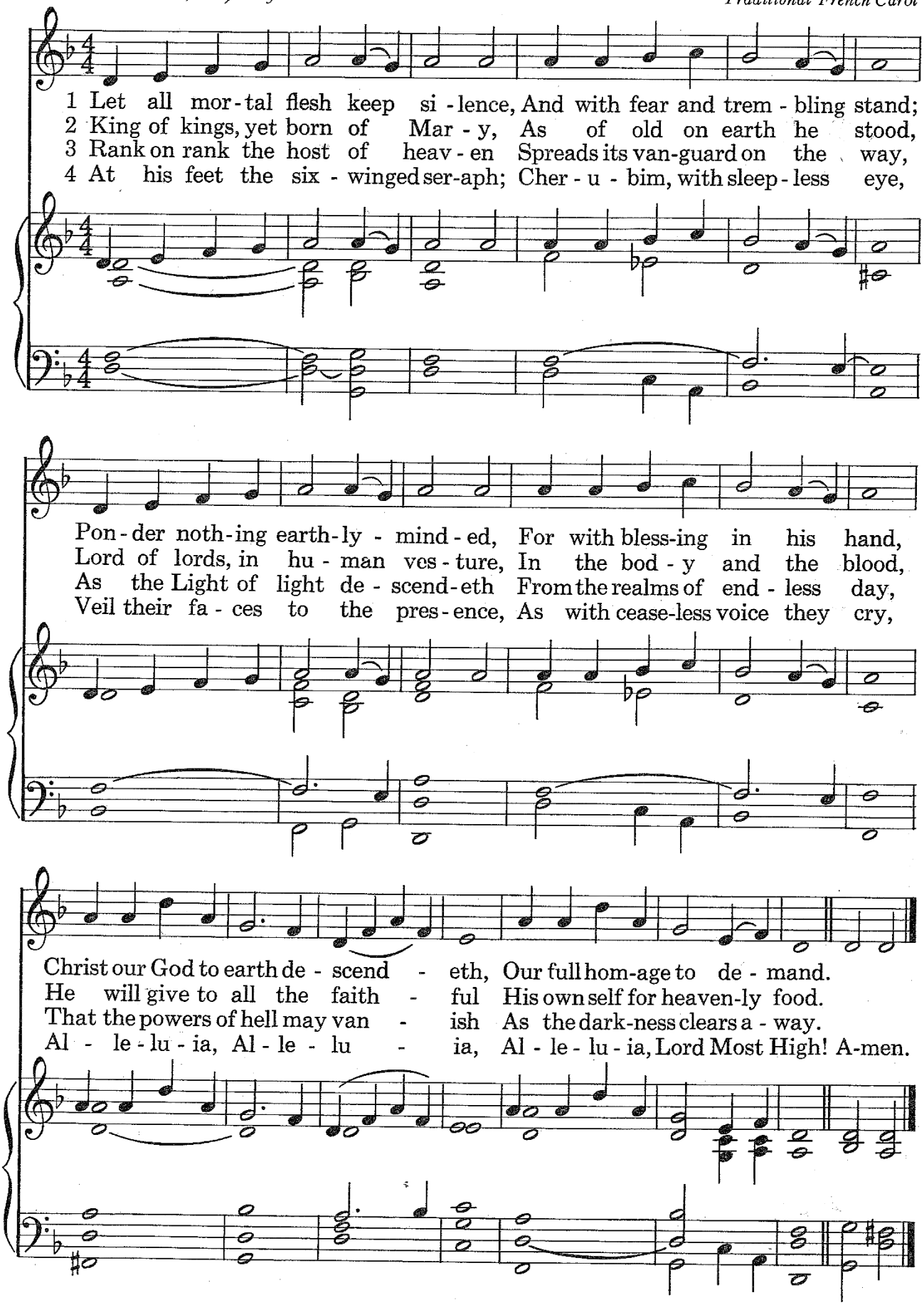
Agnus Dei	Lamb of God,
qui tollis peccata mundi	who takes away the sins of the world
miserere nobis	have mercy on us

SERMON "A Sign of Things to Come" Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong

***HYMN #107** *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

(10:00)

Liturgy of St. James
Tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829-1885

PICARDY 8.7.8.7.8.7.
Traditional French Carol

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

***ADVENT LITANY**

Leader: O Morning Star, Light from Light and bright Sun of righteousness: come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the shadow.

People: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Leader: O King of the nations, You alone can fulfill their desires. You are Cornerstone, You make opposing nations one: come and save those who call upon Your Holy Name.

People: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Leader: O Emmanuel, hope of the nations and their Savior: come and save us, Lord our God.

People: Lord Jesus, come soon!

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.

OFFERTORY *Rejoice Greatly, o Daughter of Zion* G. F. Händel
from *"The Messiah"* *(1685 – 1759)*

***ADVENT DOXOLOGY #515** OLD HUNDRETH LM

All praise, eternal Christ to Thee,
Whose Advent sets Thy people free;
once more upon Thy people shine,
and fill the world with love divine. Amen.

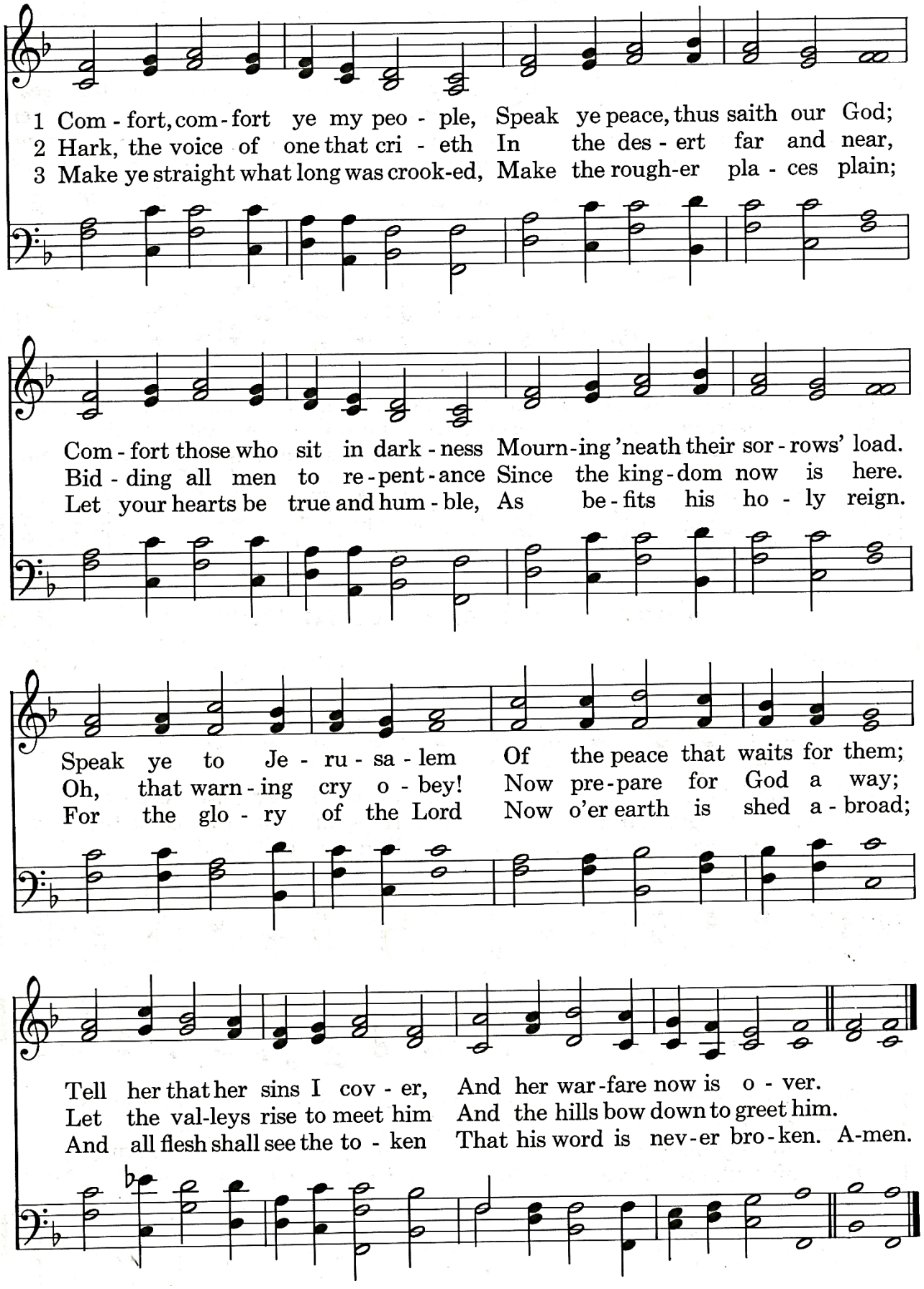
***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Unison

God of the Advent, as we joyfully enter this time of waiting, we long for the that great day when everyone will know Your everlasting peace. We wait hushed in anticipation of the coming of Your Son. He serves as the guide of our lives and the shepherd of our souls. We hope to emulate His generosity and compassion as we share these gifts. Use these gifts so others can be blanketed with the warmth of Your unconditional love. Amen.

***HYMN #104** *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

Based on Isaiah 40:1-8
Johann Olearius, 1611-1684
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

PSALM 42 8.7.8.7.7.7.8.8.
"Genevan Psalter," 1551



***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* J. Pachelbel
VENI REDEMPTOR GENIUM *(1653 – 1706)*
Now come, Savior of the heathen

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

****

AV TEAM: Doug Brenner, Joe Glajch, Lee Hauenstein, Craig Neth, Roy Rumbaugh, Don Smith-Weiss and Dennis Webster
DEACON OF THE DAY: Dale Neth
LICENSING: CCLI (print) 3034682; CCLI (streaming) 20119862; CCS 12820; OneLicense A-736284

****

The flowers in the pulpit this morning are given in loving memory of Peter Testa and Donna Phillips, by Susan Testa.

****

The flowers in the pulpit last week were given, by Bev Spencer, in honor of Darrell and their 62nd wedding anniversary on November 24 (actually married on Thanksgiving Day!).

****

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?

****

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.

****

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!

December Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 4 - Second Sunday of Advent
8:30 AM: Worship
10:00 AM: Worship, Livestream,
Sunday School & Nursery Care
Radio broadcast at 10:00 AM on WSMN AM 1590 & FM 95.3

Sunday, December 11 - Third Sunday of Advent
8:30 AM: Worship
10:00 AM: Worship & Christmas Pageant, Livestream,
Sunday School & Nursery Care
Radio broadcast at 10:00 AM on WSMN AM 1590 & FM 95.3

Sunday, December 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Sunday - Christmas at First
9:00 AM: Worship
11:00 AM: Worship, Livestream,
Radio broadcast at 11:00 AM on WSMN AM 1590 & FM 95.3
Childcare Care (infant-age 5) provided at both services

Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve
5:00 PM: Family Service
7:00 PM: Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols
11:00 PM: Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day
10:00 AM, only: Worship, Livestream,
Radio broadcast on WSMN AM 1590 & FM 95.3

Christian Formation Corner

Today in the Sunday School November 27, 2022

Today is the First Sunday of Advent and liturgical color is violet.

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.

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 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

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).

++++

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 – Monday, December 12, 6:00 PM in the dining room. This treasured gathering of church women, features delicious 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. Sign up at the welcome center. Contact Bea Dillaby or Carol Butler with any questions.

++++

White Dove/Silver Dove Christmas Program – Good news! All of the requests have been fulfilled. Thank you to those who are helping to assist these folks. We are so very grateful for your generosity.

++++

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. 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.

++++

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 Church Office - If you donate via ACH-Direct Deposit through the church 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.

++++

Year-End Reminder - All contributions for the 2022 tax year must be in the church office by December 31, 2022 or if mailed, the envelope must be postmarked December 31, 2022. Please contact Dianne Smigliani with any questions.

++++

November Outreach Focus: The Front Door Agency

The Front Door Agency is holding an in-person Open House on Wednesday, November 30, 8:30-9:30am at the Norwell, 12 Concord Street, Nashua. All are welcome!

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/

++++

St. Joseph Mobile Health Clinic is adding First Church to its schedule beginning December 1. The goal of the mobile unit is to provide primary and preventive care to some of the most high-risk and vulnerable populations in the city, along with education to help patients better manage their own health. The RV van will park in the lot near the thrift shop and the music school from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM a couple of times a month on Thursdays. More information will become available when the schedule is published.

++++

Flowers for Sunday, December 18, Fourth Sunday of Advent - If you wish to purchase a red or white poinsettia, forms will be available next Sunday following the worship services. Order forms will also be available in the December newsletter, upcoming bulletins, and on our website at tfcucc.org.

++++

Choirs in Worship Next Sunday

Sunday, December 4, 2022
8:30 Organ & Decibells
10:00 Chancel Choir & Decibells

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.

++++

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 one may take home and keep. Each mini-brochure is based on one particular area of Christian concern, and consists of scripture and other helpful quotes on that topic. The brochures are displayed a few at a time on the windowsill opposite the Welcome Center. Please feel free to take one, and an information sheet about the project. Each brochure has a black and white drawing that you may color if you like.

++++

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

SUN NOV 27	8:30am	Worship
	10:00am	Worship, Livestream, Radio Broadcast, Sunday School, Childcare
	11:30am	Women's Wisdom & Spirituality, room 15
MON NOV 28	4:00pm	Organ rehearsal, sanctuary
TUE NOV 29	10:00am	Staff Meeting
	6:00pm	First Folk
WED NOV 30	9:30am	Newsletter, room 15
	11:45am	BNI, dining room
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir
THU DEC 01	9:00am	St. Joseph Mobile Health Clinic
	10:00am	Thrift Shop
	7:00pm	Decibells
FRI DEC 02	9:00am	Organ rehearsal, sanctuary
SAT DEC 03	9:00am	Thrift Shop
	10:00am	Chancel Choir
	11:00am	Sisters in Sobriety, dining room

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.