Christ

THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND MADE HIS DWELLING
AMONG US. WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY,
THE GLORY OF THE ONE AND ONLY SON,
WHO CAME FROM THE FATHER.

JOHN 1:14 (NIV®)

Morning Worship

Christmas Day

December 25, 2022 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 CHIME Norma MacKinley-Smith

MEDITATION

One never reaches home, but wherever friendly paths intersect the whole world looks like home for a time. - Herman Hesse

PRELUDE *Of the Father's Love Begotten* W. C. Held
DIVINUM MYSTERIUM *(1914 – 2015)*

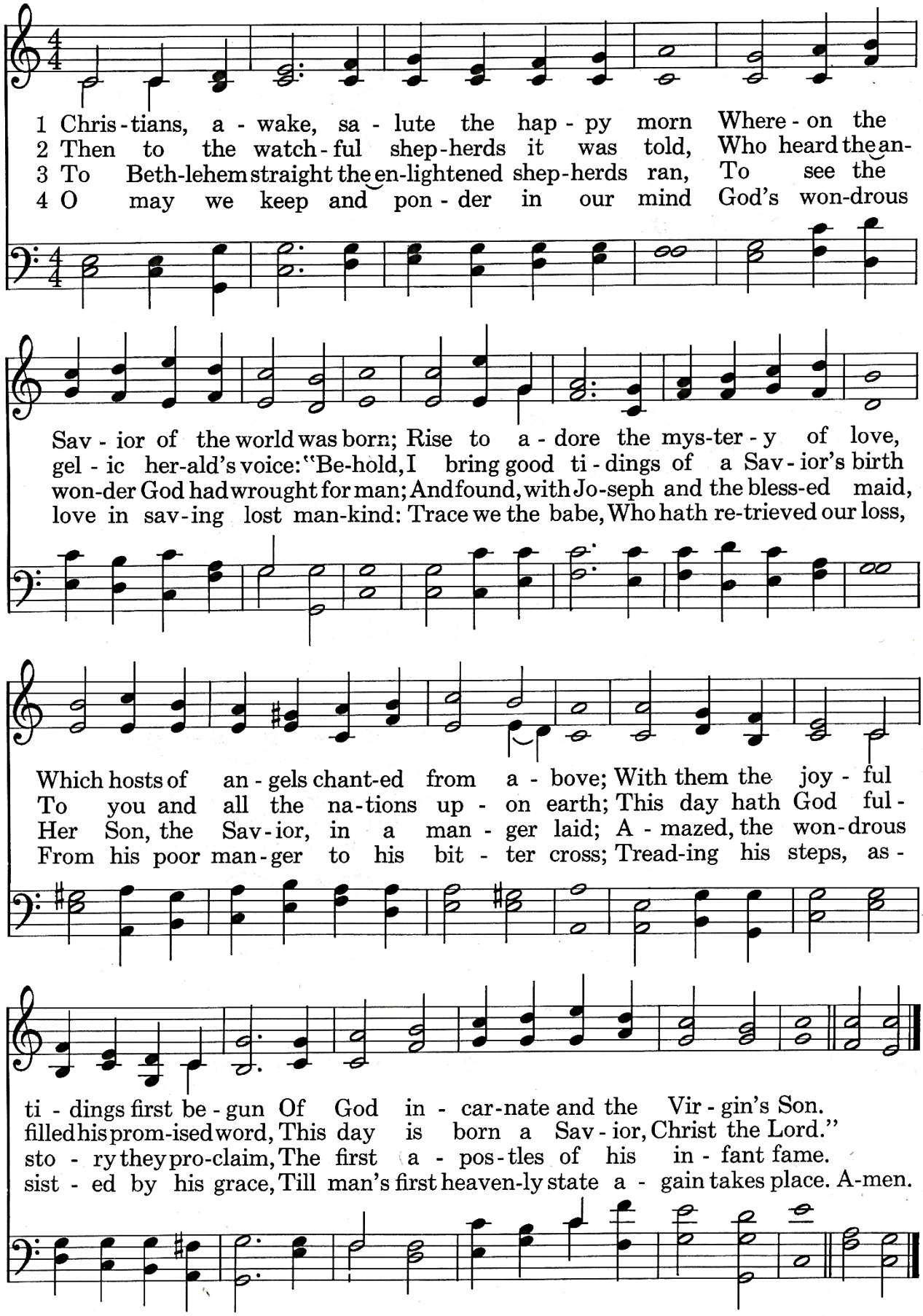
CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Isaiah 9)

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
Those who lived in a land of deep darkness –
on them light has shined.
People: We long for a light to guide us.
Leader: You have multiplied the nation,
You have increased its joy.
People: We long for God's joy in our lives.
Leader: For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
You have broken as on the day of Midian.
People: We long to be relieved of all that we carry.
Leader: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
All: He is named Emmanuel: God with us. In the child born to Mary, we find our light, our joy, our comfort. Joy to the World! The Lord is come!

*HYMN #127 *Christians, Awake, Salute the Happy Morn*

John Byrom, 1692-1763

YORKSHIRE 10.10.10.10.10.10.
John Wainwright, c.1723-1768



***OPENING PRAYER** (Unison)

Loving and Holy God, in this holy season, we praise You for the great wonders You have sent us:for prophecies of a coming Savior, Angelic visitations, A Shining Star, and a child lying in a manger. We praise You for the Word made flesh. Be with us as we sing the carols of Christmas, the poetry made hard fact. As we humble ourselves before You like shepherds, innkeepers, wise men; help us to rise bigger than we are in the name of Christ. Amen.

GREETINGS

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Isaiah 52:7-10**

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

SOLO *The Birthday of a King* W. H. Neidlinger
CATHERINE KONDI, soprano *(1892 – 1980)*

SERMON "Home for the Holy Days" Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong

CAROL SING

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

***CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION ~**

Leader: Let the love that shaped earth and heaven
People: Dwell within us this Christmas.
Leader: Let the love that created humanity
People: dwell within us this Christmas.
Leader: Let the love that overcomes suffering and hatred
People: dwell within us this Christmas.
Leader: Let the love that causes us to rejoice with loved ones
People: Dwell within us this Christmas.
Leader: Let the love that forgives and renews
People: Dwell within us this Christmas.
Leader: Let the love that brings reconciliation after separation
People: dwell within us this Christmas.
Leader: Let the love that brings the blessing of peace
People: Dwell within us this Christmas.
All: And may we share that peace with all people near and far. 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.

OFFERTORY *O Holy Night* A. Adam
(1803 – 1856)
arr. DeFord

***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)

Loving God, Emmanuel, Word made Flesh, You give, give then give all the more. What more can we ask or hope than to dwell with You through all eternity through the mercy and merits of our Emmanuel. Bless these gifts and help us remember our destiny, then live for it as we follow in the way of Christ and make our own lives a gift for Your sake in service of others. Amen.

***HYMN #136** *On This Day Earth Shall Ring* PERSONENT HODIE

Finnish, 16th century

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *In Dulci Jubilo,* BWV 729 J. S. Bach

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

AV TEAM: Joe Glajch & Lee Hauenstein

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

CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION: ~ in Prayers for Christmas, http://www.christianaid.org.uk/

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The flowers in the pulpit this morning are given in loving memory of Paul Sipe, by the Sipe and Champigny Families.

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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 your will?

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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.

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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!

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Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day

10:00 AM, only: Worship, Livestream,
Radio broadcast on WSMN AM 1590 & FM 95.3
No Sunday School/ No Childcare

Sunday, January 1 - New Year's Day

10:00 AM, only: Worship, Livestream,
Radio broadcast on WSMN AM 1590 & FM 95.3
No Sunday School/ No Childcare

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

Sunday school is on break through January 1, 2023. Classes and nursery care will resume on Sunday, January 8, 2023.

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Come gather for fellowship and French Toast Casserole (GF available) on ***Sunday, January 15*** *at 11:30 AM in the dining room*. Please sign-up at the welcome center or by calling the church office. Last day to sign up is Sunday January 8. Your Stewardship Committee is sponsoring this brunch. We hope to see you there as we gather with gratitude!

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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. There is a list of needed items and a donation basket at the table each Sunday. And if you like to donate online, the LA Romana Trip does have a Go Fund Me page: La Romana Mission Trip 2023. You may also scan this QR code which will take you to the go fund me page. Find more information in the December Messenger. Thank you for all of your support and encouragement.

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First Church to Host Active Shooter Training: Prevention, Preparedness, and Response **–** Hosted by The Safe Church Team on **Sunday, January 22**, from 11:30 AM-1:00 PM in the dining room. This will be held in cooperation with the NH Department of Security and Emergency Management. During this 90-minute session, Steven Cooper and Tayla Jacques will be talking with us about practical things you can do should you find yourself in an active shooter situation as well as useful suggestions for staying safe.

They will have walked through our church in advance to help with exit strategies as well as ideas for the Church as a whole to tighten up our buildings. All this information will be shared with you. Please sign up at the welcome center. Seating is limited, so sign up early. We also encourage you to bring your family as well as your friends from outside our church. This could well be a life-saving 90 minutes you will always remember.

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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.

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If you would like offering envelopes, please sign up at the welcome center.

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/

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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.

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St. Joseph Mobile Health Clinic is adding First Church to its schedule. They offer non-urgent, walk-in nurse visits, including flu and Covid vaccinations. The RV van will park in the lot near the thrift shop and the music school from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM on Thursdays December 29 and January 5 and 26.

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The First Church Thrift Shop is open on **Thursdays, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM.** The shop will be closed on the first Saturday in January and February. Items needed: *WINTER CLOTHING* - Boys' and girls' clothing up to size 14, baby clothes, women's clothing (all sizes), costume jewelry, pocket books and accessories, small knickknacks. Leave donations - *clean and in good repair* - in the marked bin in the courtyard lobby. Contact Gale Cummings, Beth Bartlett or the church office with any questions.

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Annual Mitten Tree Drive - At the start of the new year we will be collecting mittens to benefit the children at three of our neighborhood schools: Mt. Pleasant Elementary, Broad St. Elementary and Adult Learning Center Day Care. All children sizes are needed. Mittens may be handmade or purchased. Contact Susan Testa or the church office for more information.

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Choirs in Worship Next Sunday
Sunday, January 1, 2023
10:00 Chancel Choir

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THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

SUN DEC 25	10:00am	In-person Worship, Livestream, Radio Broadcast
MON DEC 26		Church Office Closed
THU DEC 29	9:00am	Mobile Health Clinic
	10:00am	Thrift Shop
SAT DEC 30	11:00am	Sisters in Sobriety, Dining room

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.