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
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 5, 2023 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.

MEDITATION "Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time, and always start with the person nearest you." Mother Theresa

PRELUDE *Méditation* G. E. X. Dupont
(1878 – 1914)

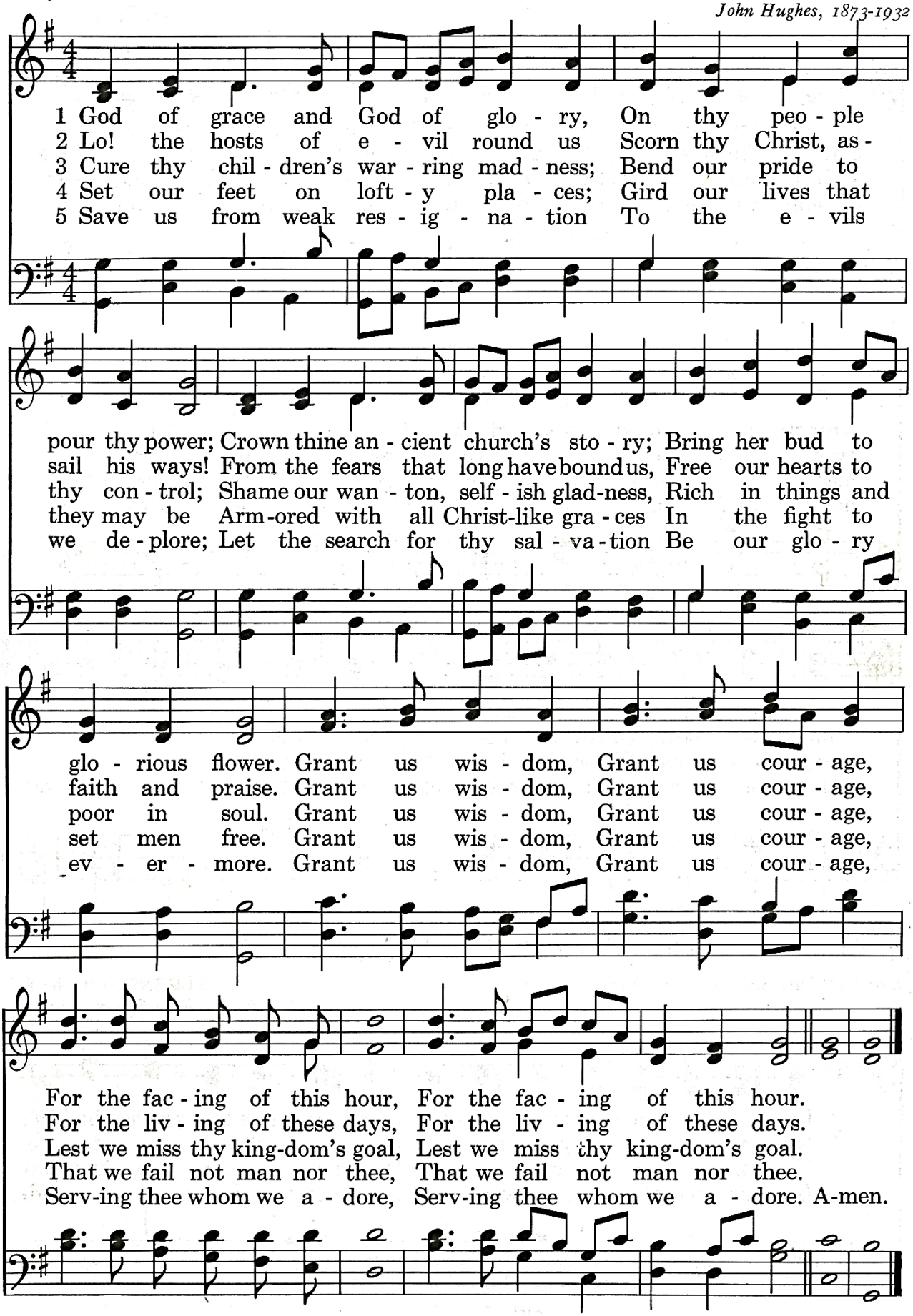
INTROIT *The Lord Is In His Holy Temple* F. R. Lund
(10:00) **CHANCEL CHOIR** *(*1938)*
Composer-In-Residence

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The New Dawn will arise upon you.
People: You shall see and be radiant.
Leader: The New Dawn will arise upon you.
People: The Lord will bless the people with peace.
Leader: The New Dawn will arise upon you.
People: The joy of the Lord is my strength.
Leader: The New Dawn will arise upon you.
All: God is here among us. Let us rejoice and be glad in God's presence.
People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***HYMN #366** *God of Grace and God of Glory* CWM RHONDDA

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1878-

CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.
John Hughes, 1873-1932

***OPENING PRAYER** (Unison)

Gracious and all loving God, You call to us across deep waters and dark places. Yours is the light which guides us and the voice which we follow. We pray that You would reveal Yourself to us as we worship You. May those without hope be encouraged; those who are sad, cheered; those who are seeking, find You; and may all things be according to Your will. In the name of Your beloved Son we pray. 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

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Isaiah 58:1-9**

Shout out, do not hold back!
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.
Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgements,
they delight to draw near to God.
'Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?'
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day,
and oppress all your workers.
Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.
Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard.
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

Matthew 5:13-20

‘You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

‘You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

‘Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

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

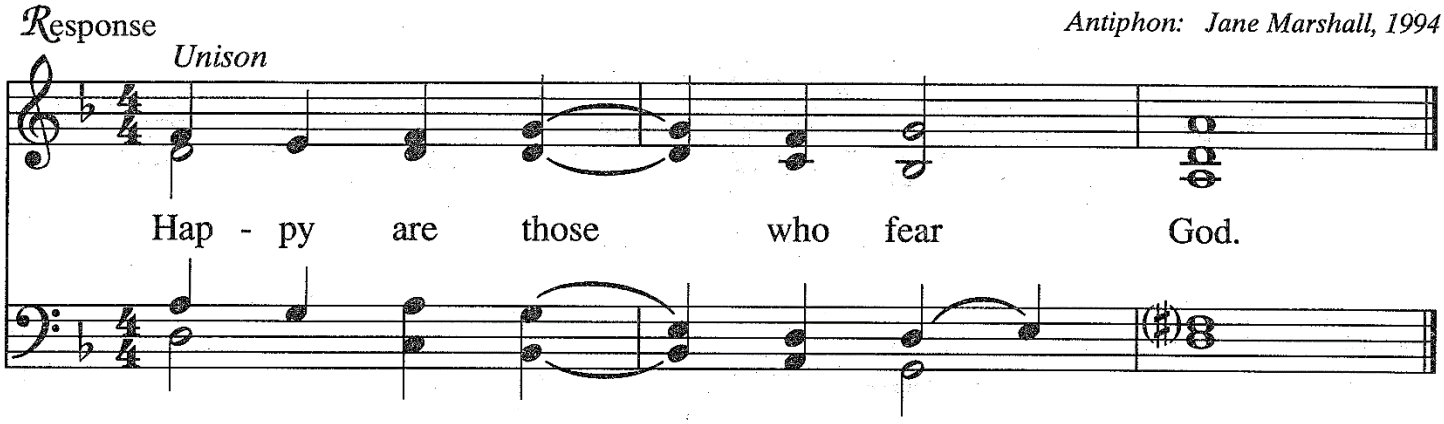
GRATIA TIBI *Thanks Be to Thee* T. Tallis
(10:00) *(1505 – 1585)*

SERMON “The Gospel for You” Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong

RESPONSIVE PSALM 112

(10:00) **ZOE HARPER, psalmist**

The Psalm will be intoned once: The Congregation sings the same Response, and then again at the "℟" indication below.



℟

[1]Praise be to God!
Happy are those who fear God, who greatly delight in God's commandments.

[2]Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

[3]Wealth and riches are in their houses,
and their righteousness endures forever.

[4]They rise in the night as a light for the upright;
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous. ℟

[5]It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
who conduct their affairs with justice.

[6]For the righteous will never be moved;
they will be remembered forever.

[7]They are not afraid of evil tidings;
their hearts are firm, secure in God. ℟

[8]Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid;
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.

[9]They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever;
their horn is exalted in honor.

[10]The wicked see it and are angry; they gnash their teeth and melt away;
the desire of the wicked comes to nothing. ℟

Epiphany 5 [5] A vs. 1–9, (10).

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of glory, You sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal Your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of Your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. Forgive us, God. In Your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and baptize us once again with Your Spirit, so that, as forgiven and renewed people, we may reflect the love and life of Jesus Christ into our world.

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 (inspired by Colossians 3:1)

Leader: Our God is a God of grace and mercy and love; know that our sins have been forgiven. May we be strengthened in all goodness. Since we have been raised with Christ, let us seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

OFFERTORY *Gloria* from "*Missa Sancti Ioannis"* L. Ciampa *(*1971)*

***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)

Gracious Giver of all gifts, in this holy moment make us aware, not so much of what we have given as of all we have received and so have yet to share. Let Your generosity so flow through us, that our lives will be gifts given freely and abundantly in joy and thanksgiving. 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: Almighty God, in this season of anticipation we remember and rejoice in promises foretold. The words of the prophets have been fulfilled in the child born to Mary who is Christ the Lord. Through His witness and word He gives us these gifts to know His presence and peace as one people. With the faithful of 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

Kyrie from “*Missa Sancti Ioannis”* L. Ciampa

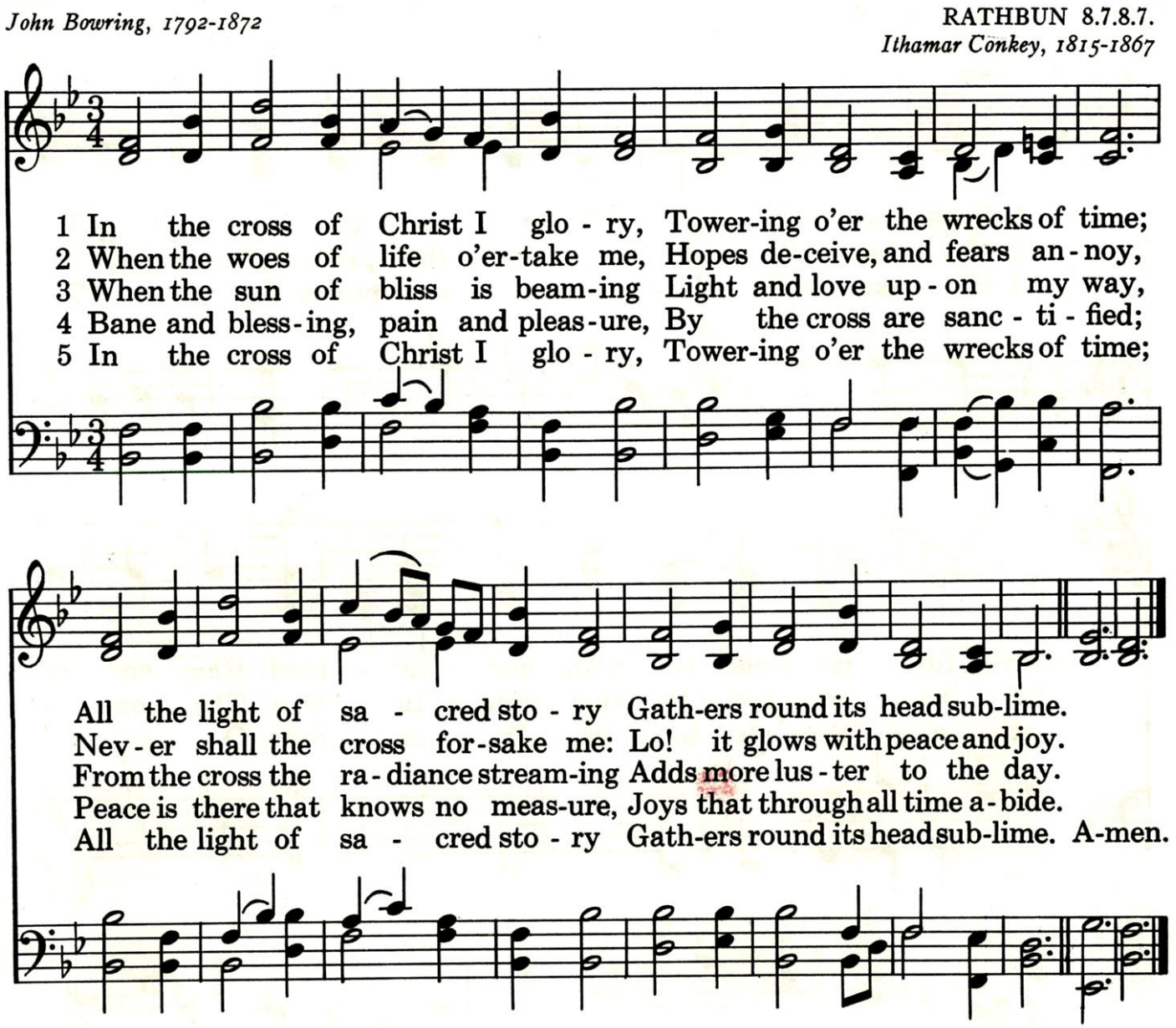
Sharing of the Cup

Sanctus & Agnus Dei from “*Missa Sancti Ioannis*“ L. Ciampa

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 #157** *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* RATHBUN



***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTUS** *On Us Bestow Thy Blessing* F. Lund
(10:00) *(1840 – 1901)*

POSTLUDE *Canzona dopo l'Epistola* G. Frescobaldi
(1583 – 1643)

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

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AV TEAM CAMERA CREW: Lee Hauenstein & Don Smith-Weiss
COVER ART: ChurchArt Online A17year 11gc
LICENSING: CCLI (print) 3034682; CCLI (streaming) 20119862;
CCS 12820; OneLicense A-736284
STAFF SINGERS: Janet Poisson, soprano - Brianne Biastoff, alto
Zoe Harper, tenor - Joshua L. Gore, bass

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HEARING AIDS 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. YOU MAY ALSO 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.

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The flowers in the pulpit this morning are given in loving memory of Michael E. O'Keefe from Michael and Rhonda O'Keefe.

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Have you remembered First Church in you will?

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Sunday, February 12, 2023

One Worship Service at 10:00 AM
Livestream, Radio Broadcast,
Sunday School & Nursery Care

Annual Meeting

11:45 AM
In-person in the sanctuary
You must be in person to vote!
Livestream for viewing only.
Register online.

Christian Formation Corner

Sunday, February 5, 2023 - Today is the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany and the liturgical color is green. Students proceed directly to Shaw Chapel.

NEW! Nursery Care - Beginning today, the routine for nursery care will change slightly. Nursery care remains available. Instead of proceeding directly to the nursery, first please check in at the welcome center. A nursery volunteer will be at the desk. Signs to this effect will also be posted.

Sunday School – Steve Blunt returns today to continue "Singing with Mr. Steve". Christian Formation students, when they arrive, will proceed directly to Shaw Chapel.
During the month of February, Christian Formation will be exploring King David. David being anointed, David and Goliath, the friendship of David and Jonathan and David as songwriter.

Care Packages for our college students - The Make a Difference class will be assembling mid-winter care packages for our church students who are away at college. Candy donations (as well as monetary donations to defray the cost of postage) are gratefully accepted. Leave candy donations in the marked buckets at the welcome center, the courtyard entrance, or in the church office by February 12. Let our young people know we care!

Update your student's college address! Parents of College Students, please send your child's name and current address for the Care Packages to Sue in the church office **as soon as possible.** We are generating a new list of labels and will not be using the addresses from the October mailing.

Save the date for Pretzels - March 12, 2023.

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

Communion Cups - Please know the Deacons have heard the congregation's Clarion Call for new Communion packets, ones that work! Today, when you receive the elements, note the top and bottom openings, one for the bread and one for the real Welch's grape juice. Gluten free packets are available too and are distinguished by the blue label "Gluten Free."

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Join us for a Pancake Breakfast! The newly formed Food and Fellowship ministry is planning a Pancake Breakfast (GF available) following worship on *Sunday, February 19th at 11:30 AM*. Please sign up at the welcome center following worship, online or by calling the church office at 603-882-4861. Last day to sign up is Sunday February 12. We hope to see you there to enjoy pancakes and fellowship!

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Last Call for the Kathryn Brigham Service Award - If you have a nomination for this award, fill out the form on the last page of the bulletin and submit it to the church office ASAP. It will be presented at Annual Meeting on February 12.

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La Romana, DR Mission trip - First Church members Tasha Drew, Mary Dopp, Kelechi Okorie and Adaeze Okorie will be joining a New England regional team of missionaries to La Romana, DR from February 24-March 5. Join us on **Sunday, February 19** for commissioning ceremony during the 10:00 service.
For more information about this medical mission and ways you can help, go to https://centralmalaromana.org/.
It's not too late to donate online. Go to the LA Romana Trip 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. Thank you for all of your support and encouragement.

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The Ash Wednesday Service - February 22 at 7:30 PM in the sanctuary. Join us for this contemplative service led by Rev. Andy. Music will provided by Joshua L. Gore, bass.

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Soup and Bread Supper - Tuesday, February 28, 2023
7:00 PM - dining room

Join Rev. Andy for a Contemplative Supper of soup and bread and discussion centered around a Lenten theme. Sign up at the welcome center. Contact the church office with any questions.

Membership – An orientation is scheduled for **Sunday, March 5 at 11:30 AM** in room 15 in the Walker Building for anyone wishing to learn more about our church and becoming a member of First Church. The joining date is Sunday, March 19, during the 10:00 service. Contact the church office to register.

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Outreach Focus of the Month – Stepping Stones

A drop-in center for homeless, unaccompanied youth is currently open Monday through Friday, 8AM - 4PM. They are not yet an emergency shelter. They are working to achieve that status.

Working with three employed staff members and numerous volunteers, they provide a safe place for homeless youth ages 16 - 25 to get off the streets during the day.

There are numerous opportunities to volunteer including: preparing breakfast/ lunch, cleaning and stocking shelves and restrooms, desk attendant, and driving youth to activities and appointments. See the February Messenger for more information or call (603)787-3016. Stepping Stones is located at 3 Pine Street Ext Unit L.

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

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

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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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The First Church Thrift Shop is open on *Thursdays, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM,* weather permitting. They are accepting donations of ***SPRING 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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Choirs in Worship Next Sunday

Sunday, February 12, 2023

10:00 First Folk & Joyful Noise

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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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 the following dates: February 16, March 2, March 16, April 6 and April 20.

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Volunteer Tutors Needed - Do you want to make a significant difference in another person's life? The Nashua Adult Learning Center is seeking Volunteer 1-on-1 Tutors for students in our ESL (English as a Second Language) and ABE (Adult Basic Education) programs. We can match you with a student who will fit your strengths, interests, and schedule. Tutoring can be done in-person or via Zoom. We provide training and materials. Are you a patient, kind individual, who can make a 9-month commitment to tutoring at least once per week? Contact MT Huard at (603) 716-7017, or email mhuard@nashuaalc.org. We'd love to connect you with a student who can benefit from your gifts!

This Week at First Church

SUN FEB 5	8:30am	Worship
	9:15am	Chimers
	10:00am	Worship, Livestream, Radio Broadcast
		Sunday School, Childcare
	11:20am	Jubellation
MON FEB 6	9:30am	Bible, Friends & Coffee (parlor)
	4:00pm	Organ Rehearsal (sanctuary)
	6:00pm	Safe Church (room 11)
	7:00pm	All Boards
TUE FEB 7	1:00pm	Caregivers (room 15)
	2:00pm	Coffee with Rev. Nancy at Riverwalk Café
	6:00pm	First Folk
WED FEB 8	8:00am	Men's Group (Zoom)
	11:45am	BNI (dining room)
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir
THU FEB 9	10:00am	Thrift Shop
	6:30pm	Quilt Guild (dining room)
	7:00pm	Decibells
FRI FEB 10	9:00am	Organ Rehearsal (sanctuary)
	4:00pm	Women's Association (parlor)
SAT FEB 10	11:00am	SIS (dining room)

KATHRYN BRIGHAM SERVICE AWARD
2023 NOMINATION FORM

Nominations are being sought for recipients of the Kathryn Brigham Service Award. Kathryn Brigham served First Church for over half a century. It is in her memory that we wish to acknowledge the unselfish, loving, and committed Christian service of people in First Church. Please enter your suggestions on this form and put it in the offering plate or return it to the church office. The award will be presented at the Annual Meeting on February 12, 2023.

Former recipients include: George Borski, Gene Kusekoski, Kathie McIntyre, Bert Whitney, Diane Matthes, Carol Butler, Kathe Simons, Howard Richards, Hazel Richards, Ray Cannon, Alma Cannon, Dee Raby, Fred Matthes, Betty Lou Shirley, Gale Cummings, Cliff Strand, Bruce MacDonald, Chris Guild, Pauline Clark, Jane Murray, Craig Neth, Tom Richmond, Arlene Richmond, Barbara Pembroke, Dick Palmer, Leslie Van Wagner, John Englander, Jane Salgals, Beth Bartlett, Peter Chaloner, Jean Hollis, Dennis Webster, Darrell Spencer, Bev Spencer, Jay Darrin, Lori Lambert, Jessica Price, Carolyn Mulrooney, Joe Glajch, Jocelyn Henning, Deb Hoyt, Charlie Morris, and Nancy Rottman, Bob Cousens, Beth Raymond, Erin Almeda, Kay Potfora, Curt Potter, Brenda Smith-Weiss, Bernice Barnes, Alan Brown, Wendy Brown, Caryl Sullivan, Mary Dopp, Gary Lambert, Jim Stone, Dave Almeda, Fred Daniels, Kate Steer, Maribeth Stone, Doug Brenner, Norma MacKinley-Smith, Barbara Shannon and Dale Neth.

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 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 & 1:00-4:00pm
Visit our web site at tfcucc.org - Find us on Facebook

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