# 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

Third Sunday of Easter

April 23, 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** "To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible." Thomas Aquinas

**PRELUDE** *Adagio in D-flat Major* F. Liszt
*(1811 – 1866)*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus tells us that "where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them."
People: We need Your presence on the long road, Lord.
Leader: Like the disciples walking the road to Emmaus, we are in need of Your company!
People: Jesus, stand among us, in Your risen power.
All: May our hearts warm knowing that You are here.

## *HYMN #187 *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

*Latin: 14th century*
*English translation, "New Version," 1698*
*Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, St. 4*

LLANFAIR 7.7.7.7. *with Alleluias*
*Melody by Robert Williams, c.1781-1821*
*Harm. by John Roberts, 1822-1877*

***OPENING PRAYER** (Unison)

As we travel our own roads, Lord, meet us as You did those disciples on the Emmaus road. Guide us on the path toward our destination, and renew our strength as we continue to walk and commune with You. Open our eyes so we see the signs of Your presence around us. Open our hearts, so we may receive Your peace and love; and empower us to pass on to others the grace You have shared with us so freely. Amen.

**GREETINGS**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

(10:00)

## PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** **1 Peter 1:17-23**

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

**Luke 24:13-35**

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it

not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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)*

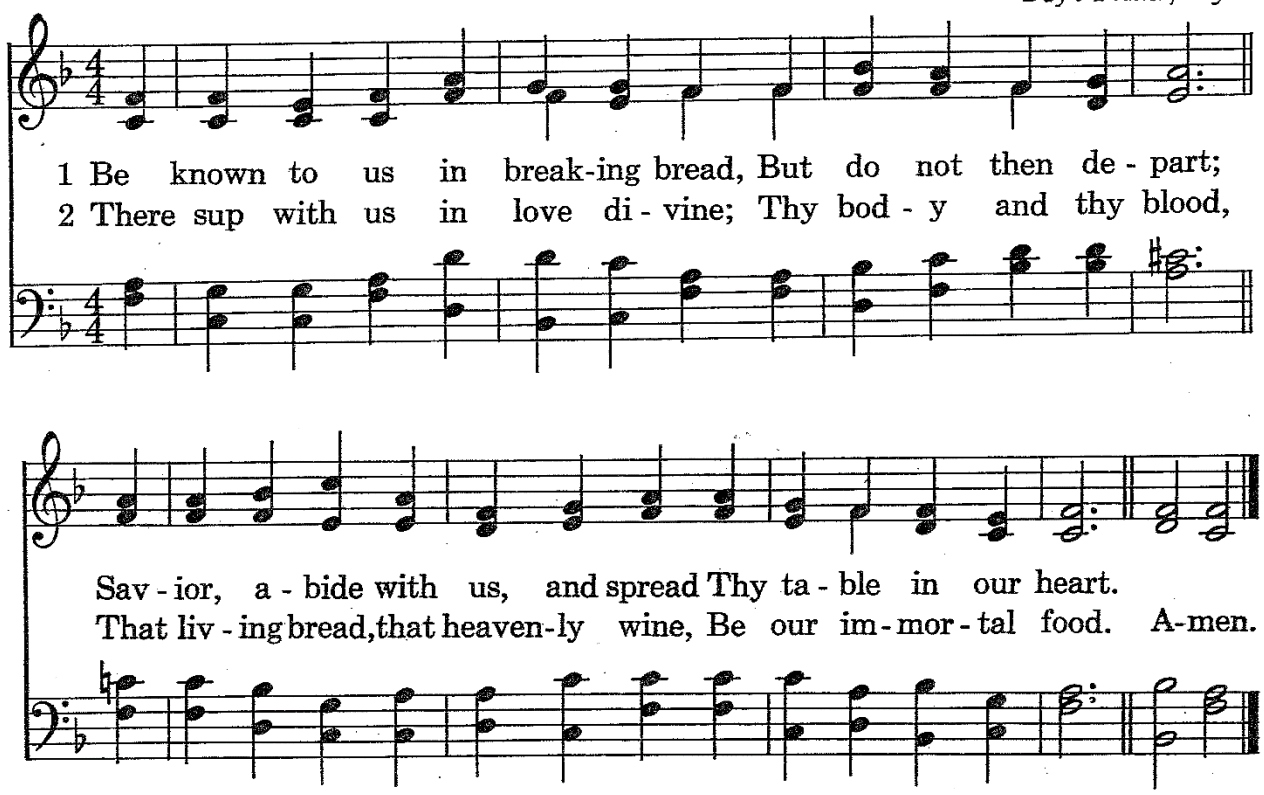
**VOLUNTARY** *Song of Assurance* A. Sherman
(10:00) **DECIBELLS** *(*1948)*

**SERMON** "Four Words" Rev. Andrew W. Armstrong

***HYMN #280** *Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread*
(10:00)

*James Montgomery, 1771-1854*

ST. FLAVIAN C.M.
*"Day's Psalter," 1562*



## RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Unison) Colossians 1:15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

**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** *Teach Us to Build* FINLANDIA
(10:00)

**OFFERTORY** *Song of Assurance* A. Sherman
(8:30) *(*1948))*

(10:00) *Alleluia! Alleluia!* L. V. Beethoven
*(1770 – 1827)*
*arr. Hart*

***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)

Lord Jesus, like the disciples at Emmaus, we offer what we have. They offered their company, their table, their bread. We invite You to be with us as we offer You our love, our devotion, these gifts. May our eyes be opened to Your holy presence, now and always. Amen.

## *HYMN #192 *The Day of Resurrection*

*John of Damascus, c.696-c.754*
*Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.*

LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6.D.
*Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879*

***BENEDICTION**

**BENEDICTUS** *O Keep Us Building, Master* FINLANDIA
(10:00)

**POSTLUDE** *Christ lag in Todesbanden,* BWV 625 J . S. Bach
*Christ lay in the bonds of death* *(1685 – 1750)*

**OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS**

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**AV TEAM:** Craig Neth & Roy Rumbaugh
**COVER ART:** The Road to Emmaus #2 by Daniel Bonnell, used by permission.
**LICENSING:** CCLI (print) 3034682; CCLI (streaming) 20119862; CCS 12820; OneLicense A-736284
**SCRIPTURE:** NRSV reprinted by permission of the National Council of the Churches of Christ
**STAFF SINGERS:** Janet Poisson, soprano - Brianne Biastoff, alto
Zoe Harper, tenor - Joshua L. Gore, bass

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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. 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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Have you remembered First Church in your will?

# Christian Formation Corner

**Sunday, April 23, 2023** - Today is the Third Sunday of Easter and the liturgical color is white.

**Nursery Care -** The routine for nursery care has changed 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 –** During the month of April students are studying the Seasons of the Church Year. On April 16 they will learn about Advent and Lent; April 23- Christmas, Epiphany & Easter; April 30- Pentecost; May 7- Season after Pentecost.

**Confirmation 2023-24 -** There will be a confirmation kick-off meeting on **Sunday, May 7, 2023** at 11:30 AM in the dining room. Informational letters will be going out this week. If you have a student who will be in grades 9 and 10 next year, contact Rev. Nancy or Fred Daniels for more information.

**Fill a Wheelbarrow continues through May 28 -** The Jr. High students of Make A Difference are doing a fund raising project "Fill a Wheelbarrow" for the Animal Rescue farm Live and Let Live of Chichester, NH. They are celebrating their 25th year of rescue and rehabilitation for the largest to the smallest animals. Our students look forward to working with you to help Make A Difference! Look for our M.A.D. Wheelbarrow (generously donated) in Fellowship hall. Don't want to shop? Our students are happy to shop for you! Monetary donations may be left in the church office.

Thank you in advance for helping our students learn how to put the Word into action!

Below is the wish list of much needed items:

- Paper towels, baby wipes, latex gloves (all sizes), heavy-duty trash bags, bleach
- Black oil sunflower seeds, apple cider vinegar, corn oil, grain store certificates
- A new or used heavy-duty vehicle for towing a large horse trailer
- A large horse or stock trailer
- Metal round pen panels and gates
- Land, old farm or other property for future expansion and pasturing of sanctuary animals
- Tractor/any farm equipment
- Wheelbarrows, shovels, pitchforks
- Pickup truck: must run; doesn't need to be inspected; onsite rescue use only

## *Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current*

**Spring Clean-up: Saturday, April 29 2023 – 9:00 AM -** Property Management is looking for volunteers to help. Bring your tools and gloves. This is a great way to get some exercise, socialize, and help with the clean-up of our church grounds. Coffee and donuts will be served!
Contact Doug Brenner or the church office with any questions.

**++++**

**Join us for a celebration of Rev. Jami's ministry** following the 10:00 service next Sunday, April 30th. If you would like to make a financial contribution as a parting gift, please make a check out to First Church Nashua with "Rev. Jami Gift" in the memo line and send it to the church office.

**++++**

**The time has come!** We are excited to announce a change in our worship schedule at First Church. Starting on **Sunday, May 7**, our 8:30 AM service will be transitioning to **8:15 AM in Shaw Chapel**. This service will continue through June 11th, then on June 18th, summer services will begin at 9:00 AM in the sanctuary.

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**9:00 AM Small Group Study Opportunity –** Join Rev. Andy in Nauss Hall for a 4-week study on everything you wanted to know about Heaven, but were afraid to ask. More information to come.

**++++**

**A cyber-security training seminar** is being offered for First Church congregants. Learn about threats to your electronic computers/devices and steps to protect yourselves from electronic attacks and scams. Church staff and committee chairs have already received this valuable training to protect the church and it is now offered to the congregation. Sign up at the welcome center for **Tuesday, May 16, Tuesday, May 30 or Wednesday, June 7** from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in the dining room. Attendance is limited to 20 people for each session. Contact members of the Technology Committee (Joe Glajch, Chris Guild, Craig Neth, Roy Rumbaugh,) with any questions.

**++++**

**Save the Date!** First Church is sponsoring the "No Place Like Home" golf tournament at the Nashua Country Club on August 7, 2023. This is to support our mission to Family Promise, Front Door Agency, and Stepping Stones. More details to come.

**++++**

**Be an Usher!** The Usher Board is looking for volunteer ushers. It's a great way to meet the people of First Church and it doesn't require a big time commitment. For more information, contact Bill Thorp or the church office or speak with any of the ushers wearing white name badges.

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**Choirs in Worship Next Week**

*Sunday, April 30, 2023*

8:30 First Folk
10:00 Chancel Choir & First Folk

**2023 Elevator Appeal –** Our elevator needs refurbishing and the Prudential Committee has decided to take out a loan in order to address this concern immediately. We are seeking gifts or pledges to help support our church being accessible to everyone. Pledge cards are available at the welcome center or you may scan the QR code to donate online. Thank you for your support of this important project.

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**Bible, Friends & Coffee** meets on Mondays at 9:30 AM in the Ladies Parlor. The study will review the lectionary text for the upcoming week.

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**Coffee with Rev. Nancy** meets on Tuesdays, 2:00-3:00 PM at Riverwalk Café.

**++++**

**Wednesday Morning Men's Study** meets at 8:00 AM in the Ladies' Parlor. Contact Rev. Andy for more information.

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**The First Church Thrift Shop** is now accepting *SPRING & SUMMER CLOTHING!!* Needed items: 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 near the stained glass window in the courtyard lobby. Contact Gale Cummings, Beth Bartlett or the church office with any questions. The shop is open 10:00 AM-2:00 PM on Thursdays until June 9 and the first Saturday of the months of May and June.

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**Family Promise Dinner -** First Church would like to expand its dinner meal preparation for Family Promise and is looking for 2-3 people who would like to help. We currently prepare food for the third week of each month. If you care to volunteer or want more information, please contact Beth Raymond. Her number is in the directory, or you may contact the church office.

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**Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal –** If you wish to make a donation to help with recovery efforts go to https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/turkey-syria-emergency-appeal/donate. You may also mail a check made payable to the United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "Turkey and Syria" on your check in the memo section. Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery.

# THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

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|---|---|---|
| SUN APR 23 | 8:30am | Worship Service |
| | 10:00am | Worship Service, Livestream, Radio Broadcast<br>Sunday School, Child Care |
| | 9:15am | Chapel Chimers |
| | 11:20am | Children's Choir |
| | 11:30am | Board Chairs Quarterly (room 15) |
| | 11:30am | Women's Wisdom & Spirituality (Ladies' Parlor) |
| MON APR 24 | 9:30am | Bible, Friends & Coffee (Ladies' Parlor) |
| | 4:00pm | Organ Rehearsal |
| | 7:00pm | Technology Committee (zoom) |
| TUE APR 25 | 10:00am | Staff Meeting |
| | 2:00pm | Huntington |
| | 2:00pm | Visitation (courtyard) |
| | 2:00pm | Coffee with Rev. Nancy (Riverwalk Café) |
| | 4:00pm | Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter |
| | 6:00pm | First Folk |
| WED APR 26 | 8:00am | Men's Group (Ladies Parlor) |
| | 11:45am | BNI (dining room) |
| | 6:45pm | Chancel Choir |
| THU APR 27 | 9:30am | Newsletter (room 15) |
| | 10:00am | Thrift Shop |
| FRI APR 28 | 9:00am | Organ Rehearsal |
| | 4:00pm | Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter |
| SAT APR 29 | 11:00am | SIS (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

# BLACK REFLECTIONS

**CAILIN MARCEL MANSON** baritone
**CHRISTINA WRIGHT-IVANOVA** piano

SUNDAY

MAY

07

3:00 PM

**FREE ADMISSION**

ALL ARE WELCOME

THE FIRST CHURCH

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# *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

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Pastors Emeriti, *Rev. James S. Chaloner and Rev. Dr. Jeffrey C. Evans*

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## *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>**

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**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.*