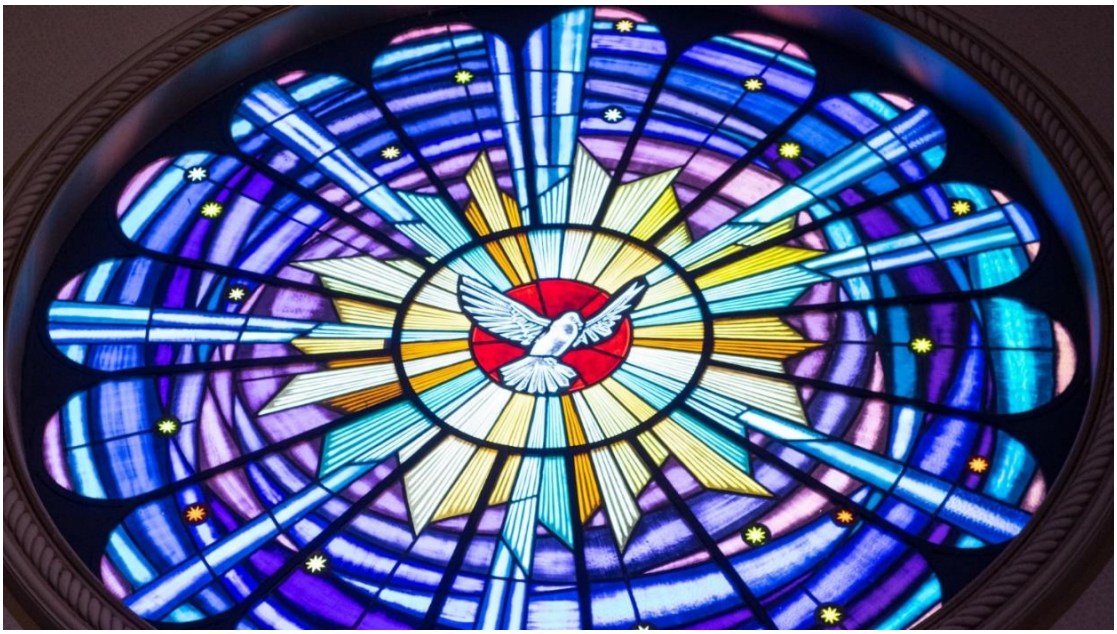


THE FIRST CHURCH

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

Pentecost

May 28, 2023 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

"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans."

PRELUDE *Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist, BuxWV208* D. Buxtehude
Now ask we, the Holy Ghost *(1637 – 1707)*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:1-4a)

People: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful people, and kindle in us the fire of Your love.

***HYMN #245** *Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me* REHEAD NO. 76
(at the end of the order of worship)

***OPENING PRAYER** (Unison)

We give You thanks for all the ways that You bless our lives: the beauty and abundance of nature, the love of family and friends, the joy of knowing You and hearing Your word. Send Your Spirit during this time of worship so that we might dream Your dreams and see visions of the world as You created it to be. Guide our thoughts and actions. Bring us closer to You so that we might do Your will and dwell in Your house forever. Amen.

GREETINGS

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Wyatt Parker Hart, born September 7, 2022
Alexander Steven Veleber, born May 12, 2022

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Acts 2:1-21**

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

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

VOLUNTARY *Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us* T. J. Williams
DECIBELLS *(1869 – 1944)*
arr. McKlveen

SERMON "Too Deep for Words" Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong

***HYMN #575** *Come Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire* VENI CREATOR
(at the end of the order of worship)

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

LITANY TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Leader: Almighty and gracious God, You have given us the Holy Spirit and so many gifts.
People: Forgive us when we put conditions on Your love.
Leader: You have sent the Spirit of joy.
People: Forgive us when we allow sorrow to overwhelm our witness.
Leader: You have sent the Spirit of peace.
People: Forgive us when our words and actions contribute towards conflict and division.
Leader: You have sent the Spirit of patience.
People: Forgive us when we worry because we do not see instant results to our prayer.
Leader: You have sent the Spirit of kindness.
People: Forgive us when we have neglected the needs of our neighbors.
Leader: You have sent the Spirit of goodness.
People: Forgive us when we have willfully or thoughtlessly caused pain by our words or actions.
Leader: You have sent the Spirit of faithfulness.
People: Forgive us when our discipleship has lacked credibility.
Leader: You have sent the Spirit of gentleness.
People: Forgive us when we have pushed and bullied others to conform to our will.
Leader: You have sent the Spirit of self-control.
People: Forgive us when we have hurt others by our careless ways.
Leader: Gracious and merciful God, grant us Your forgiveness and Your love that we may truly care for one another.
People: Refresh and renew us with Your Spirit so that we can be fruitful and vital disciples of Jesus Christ. 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 Sweet, Sweet Spirit — D. Akers
FIRST FOLK *(1923 – 1995)*
arr. J .Raney

***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)

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to give, which we do with joyful, grateful hearts. We look at the needs of the world, and our offerings are small. May they be like yeast, gifts that grow in Your kingdom watered by the Spirit, bringing a rich harvest of righteousness. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

***HYMN #437** *My Country, 'Tis of Thee* — AMERICA
(at the end of the order of worship)

***BENEDICTION**

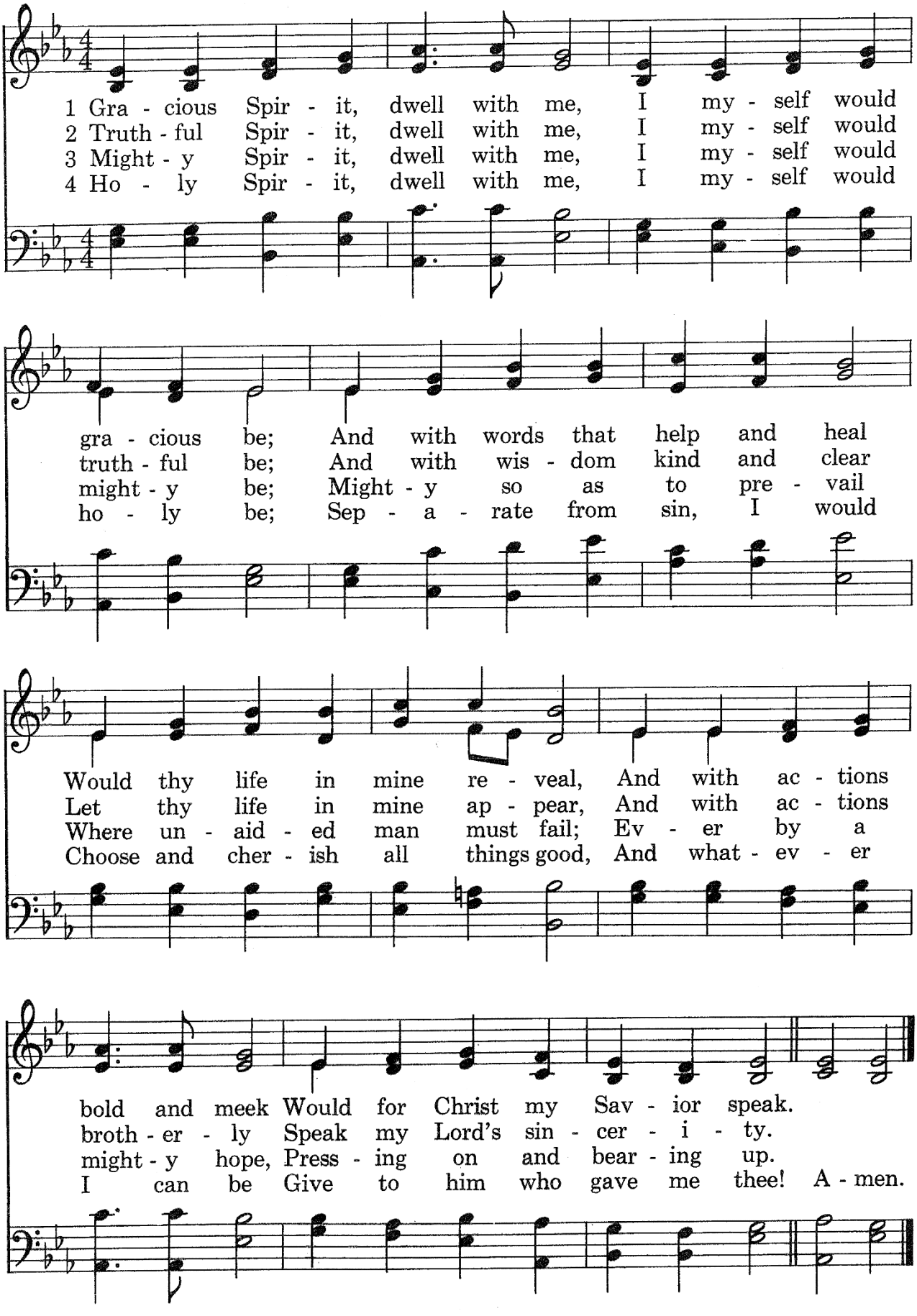
BENEDICTUS *Go Now in Peace* — D. Besig
*(*1936)*

POSTLUDE *Resounding Jubilation* — D. R. Edwards
*(*1951)*

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

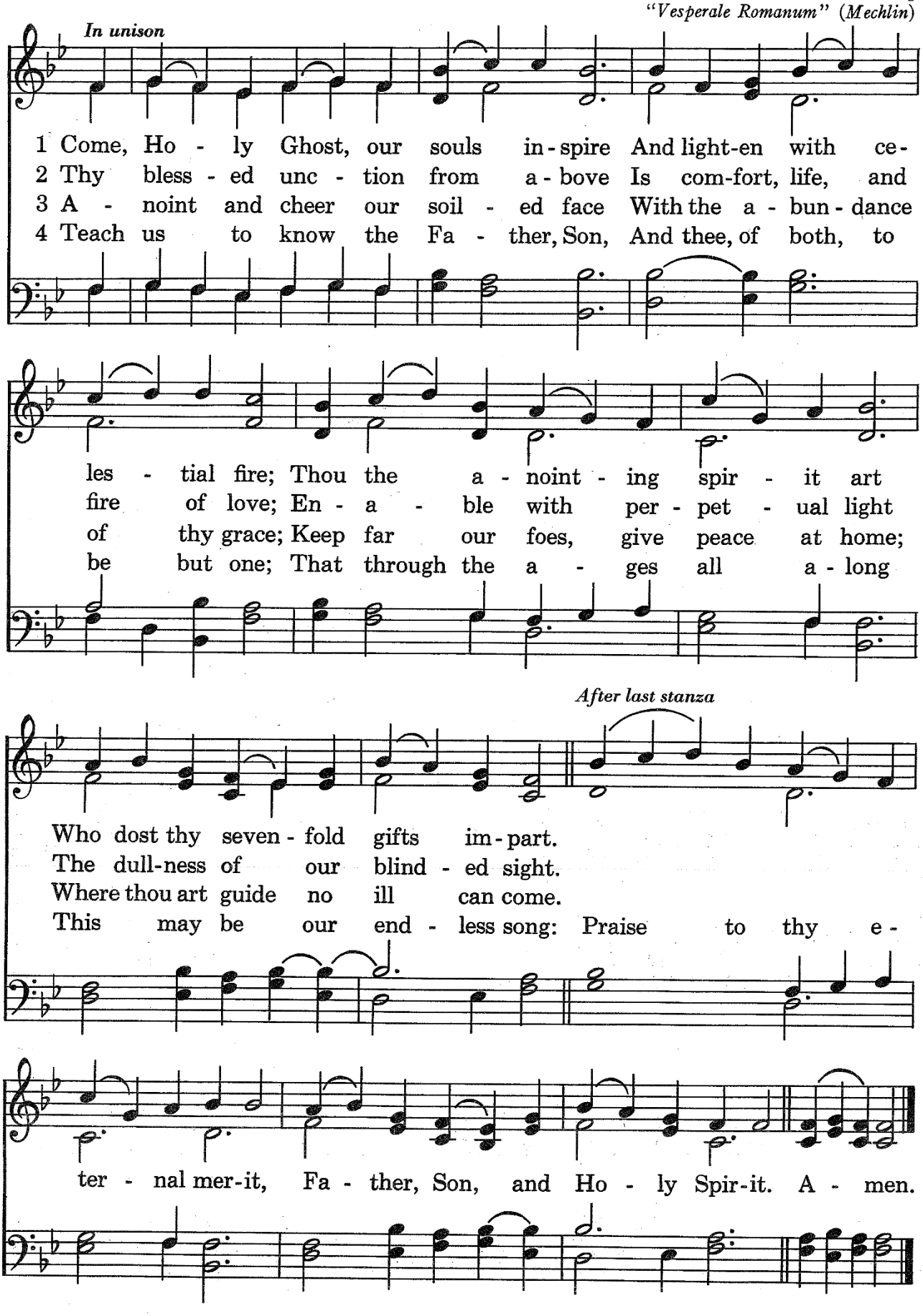
*HYMN #245 *Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me*

Thomas T. Lynch, 1818-1871

REDHEAD NO. 76 7.7.7.7.7.7.
Richard Redhead, 1820-1901

***HYMN #575** *Come Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire*

Latin: 9th century
Tr. John Cosin, 1594-1672

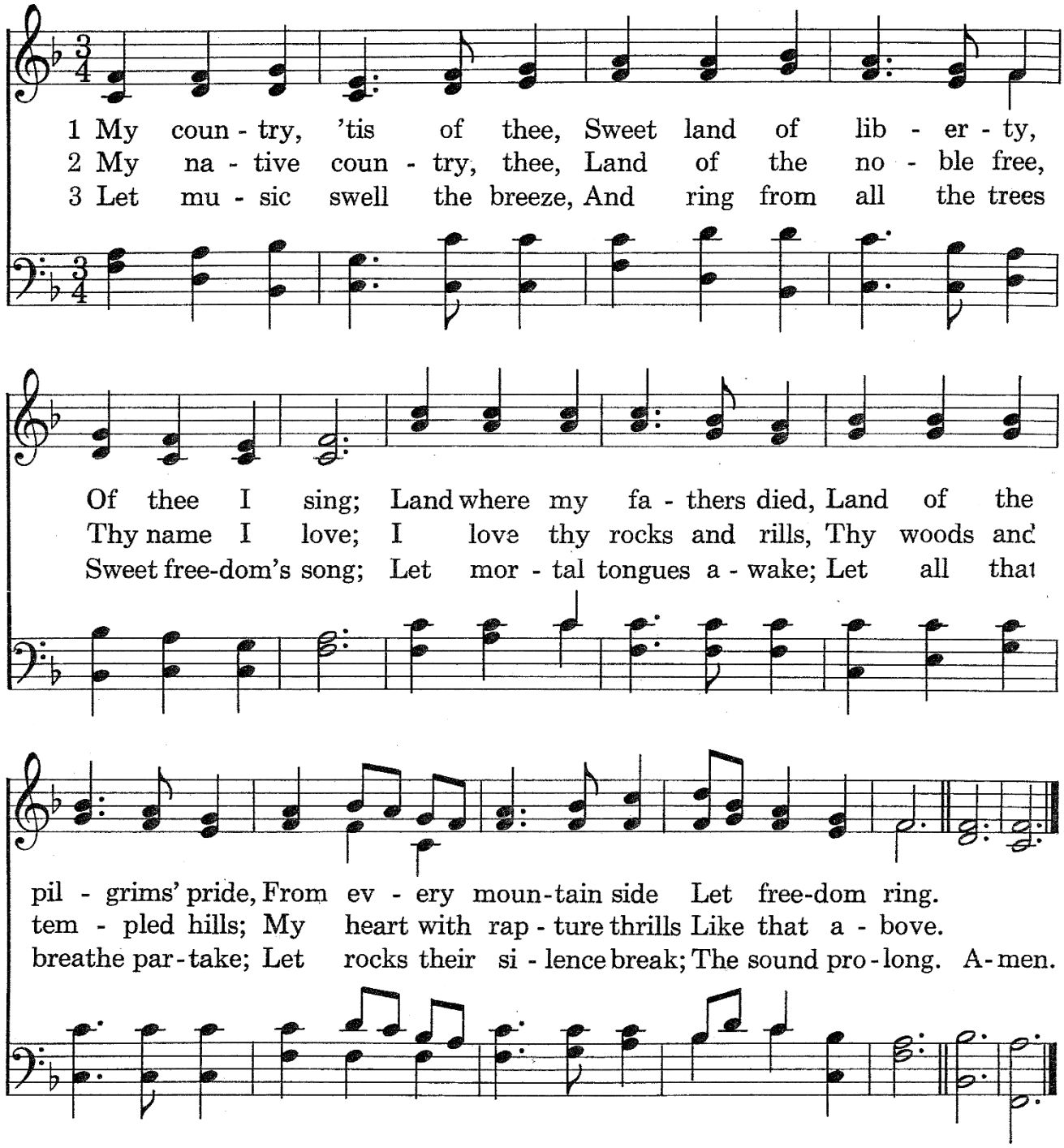
VENI CREATOR L.M.
Plainsong
"Vesperale Romanum" (Mechlin)



***HYMN #437** *My Country, 'Tis of Thee*

Samuel F. Smith, 1808-1895

AMERICA 6.6.4.6.6.6.4.
Source Unknown



4 Our father's God, to thee,
Author of liberty,
To thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by thy might,
Great God, our King.

****

AV TEAM: Don Smith-Weiss & Roy Rumbaugh
COVER ART: Photo by Mateus Campos Filipe on Unspash
FIRST FOLK: Brett Greene, piano
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

****

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. 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. NANCY.

****

Have you remembered First Church in your will?

****

Worship Schedule

Through June 11, 2023
8:15am: Worship in Shaw Chapel
10:00am: Worship in the Sanctuary, Livestream,
Radio Broadcast on WSMN AM 1590 & FM 95.3

June 18 – September 10, 2023
9:00: Worship in the Sanctuary, Livestream

Christian Formation Corner

Sunday, May 28, 2023 - Today is Pentecost and the liturgical color is red.

Sunday School is on break today and will resume next Sunday, June 4.

Nursery Care - Please check in at the welcome center. A nursery volunteer will be at the desk.

Children's Day is June 11. The theme this year is "Kindness". Under the direction of Holly Columbus plans are underway for an exciting worship that will involve the children of all ages. Rebecca Crivello will orchestrate the musical component.
Following worship there will be sandwiches, beverages and cookies and an opportunity to enjoy each other's fellowship before the summer break**.**

Volunteer Appreciation - First Church and the Christian Formation Board wishes to thank all the dedicated teachers, assistants and volunteers who have supported Christian Education throughout the year. This fun, supportive, and spirit-filled year would not have been possible without all their gifts. To recognize your efforts and thank you there will be a volunteer recognition breakfast on **June 4th at 9:00 AM** in room 15.

Fill the Wheelbarrow Project concludes today – The Junior High 'Make A Difference' class is overwhelmed! The church family's response to this fundraising project for the Animal Rescue farm Live and Let Live has been astonishing! Close to $4,500 dollars in donations have been given. Trash bags, glove packs, paper towels, cider vinegar, wipes and food have filled the wheelbarrow! Pitchforks, shovels, cash donations and a used car have been given! As this charity project comes to a close, MAD's church family has once again shown these students the true meaning of the Word! We are grateful and blessed by you!

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

Information Meeting - June 18 at 10:00 AM (immediately following the 9:00 AM service). Members of Prudential, Personnel, and Strategic Planning will be on hand to talk about changes to church staffing and will discuss some of the background that led to recent departures. All are welcome. We know this is Father's Day but due to the very busy schedule within our church, this was the only day we could do this meeting and, as requested, have it before the summer season. To be sure that the meeting is as useful as possible, please send your questions in advance to Caryl.Sullivan@HPE.com. We request that you sign up at the welcome center so we can set up accordingly**.**

++++

9:00 AM Small Group Study - following the 8:15 AM worship service

"Everything you wanted to know about Heaven but were afraid to ask" continues through June 4. Join Rev. Andy for a discussion about the destination of our earthly pilgrimage that we know so little about. Bring your questions, curiosity, a cup of coffee (and your sense of humor, too.) Please know as in all studies, the relationships that we build are as important as what we learn. The study meets in Nauss Hall.

On June 11, at 9:00 AM, there will be a special presentation: "A Story from Ukraine" with Anya Vandiver. Anya will share with us her own story about coming to America and offers her own perspective on the war in Ukraine. Anya is a teacher at the Adult Learning Center (ALC) which offers resources to newly arrived immigrants in New Hampshire. First Church Outreach supports the ALC where Church member Carol Baldwin is Executive Director. The group will meet in Nauss Hall.

++++

Potluck and Yankee Swap - The Women's Association will hold their year-end potluck and Yankee swap on **Monday, June 12, at 6:00 PM** in the dining room. Sign up at the Welcome Center. Please indicate what dish you will be bringing. Also, please bring a Yankee swap gift valued around $10.00.

Looking ahead, all women of the church are invited to join us at Greeley Park on Concord Street every Friday at noon starting June 23. Meet near the bandstand (located on the right as you come from the church). No sign up necessary. Just bring your lunch and a lawn chair.

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. Sign up at the welcome center for **Tuesday, May 30 or Tuesday, June 6 (*new date*)** from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in the dining room. Everyone who has attended previous sessions has been surprised/educated with valuable information to help protect their virtual lives. Contact members of the Technology Committee (Joe Glajch, Chris Guild, Craig Neth, Roy Rumbaugh,) with any questions.

++++

MEN'S CHOIR, *a TTBB four-part choral ensemble,* will sing at the 9:00 AM worship service on Sunday June 18, Father's Day. The choir will convene at 6:30 PM on five select Tuesdays and Thursdays including: June 1, 6, 8, 13 and a mandatory dress rehearsal on June 15. Participants are asked to make a minimum of 2 rehearsal calls in the first 4 scheduled, and the dress rehearsal. Please contact Joseph at jolefirowicz@tfcucc.org or (603) 882-4861 x15 to sign up. Walk-ins are always welcome, but it is easier to prepare music packets for enough folks ahead of time! Come and join in this long-standing tradition.

++++

LaRomana Presentation – Sunday, June 25, following the 9:00 AM service
Join the First Church LaRomana mission team for a time of discussion as they share their recent experiences, journey and information for upcoming mission interest.

++++

2023 Elevator Appeal – Our elevator needs refurbishing. Pine State Elevator will begin this work as soon as the necessary parts arrive.
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 donate online. To date, we have raised in excess of $43,000 towards our goal of $103,000. Thank you to everyone who has given or pledged.

++++

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. For more information, pick up a flyer at the welcome center or contact Margaret Brenner.

++++

Choirs in Worship Next Week

Sunday, June 4, 2023

8:15 Staff Singers
10:00 Chancel Choir

Christmas Fair Craft Group meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 4:00 PM in the dining room. New crafters are always welcome! Contact Sandy Gribbin with any questions.

++++

Coffee with Rev. Nancy meets on Tuesdays, 2:00-3:00 PM, through May 30, at Riverwalk Café.

++++

Bible, Friends & Coffee is on break and will resume in the fall.

++++

Wednesday Morning Men's Study is on break and will resume in the fall.

++++

The First Church Thrift Shop is open 10:00 AM-2:00 PM on Thursday, June 1, Saturday, June 3 and Thursday June 8. The shop will then close for summer. They are still accepting *SPRING & SUMMER CLOTHING for* boys' and girls' up to size 14, baby clothes, and women (all sizes), and 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.

++++

CareNotes Inspirational Booklets cover a range of topics to help individuals heal mind, body and spirit. They are designed to help those who are dealing with emotional situations who are looking for guidance and support. The booklets are available in the rack near the welcome center. Please help yourself to any of the booklets.

++++

St. Joseph Mobile Health Clinic will be at First Church on June 1 and 15 from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM. The clinic offers non-urgent, walk-in nurse visits. The RV van parks in the lot near the thrift shop and the music school.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

SUN MAY 28	8:15am	Worship (Shaw Chapel)
	9:15am	Small Group Study (Nauss Hall)
	10:00am	Worship, Livestream, Radio Broadcast No Sunday School, Child Care
	11:20am	Jubellation
MON MAY 29		Memorial Day - Church Office Closed
TUE MAY 30	10:00am	Staff Meeting
	2:00pm	Coffee with Rev. Nancy
	4:00pm	Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter
	7:00pm	Cyber Security Training (dining room)
WED MAY 31	9:30am	Newsletter
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir
THU JUN 1	10:00am	Thrift Shop
	6:30pm	Men's Choir
FRI JUN 2	9:00am	Organ Rehearsal
	4:00pm	Women's Association (Ladies Parlor)
	5:00pm	Nashua Community Music School recitals (Nauss Hall)
SAT JUN 3	9:00am	Nashua Community Music School recitals (Nauss Hall)
	11:00am	Sisters in Sobriety (dining room)

THE FIRST CHURCH

STAFF

Senior Minister, *Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong*, aarmstrong@tfcucc.org
Acting 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.

All use of the building must be scheduled by the Secretary.

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.