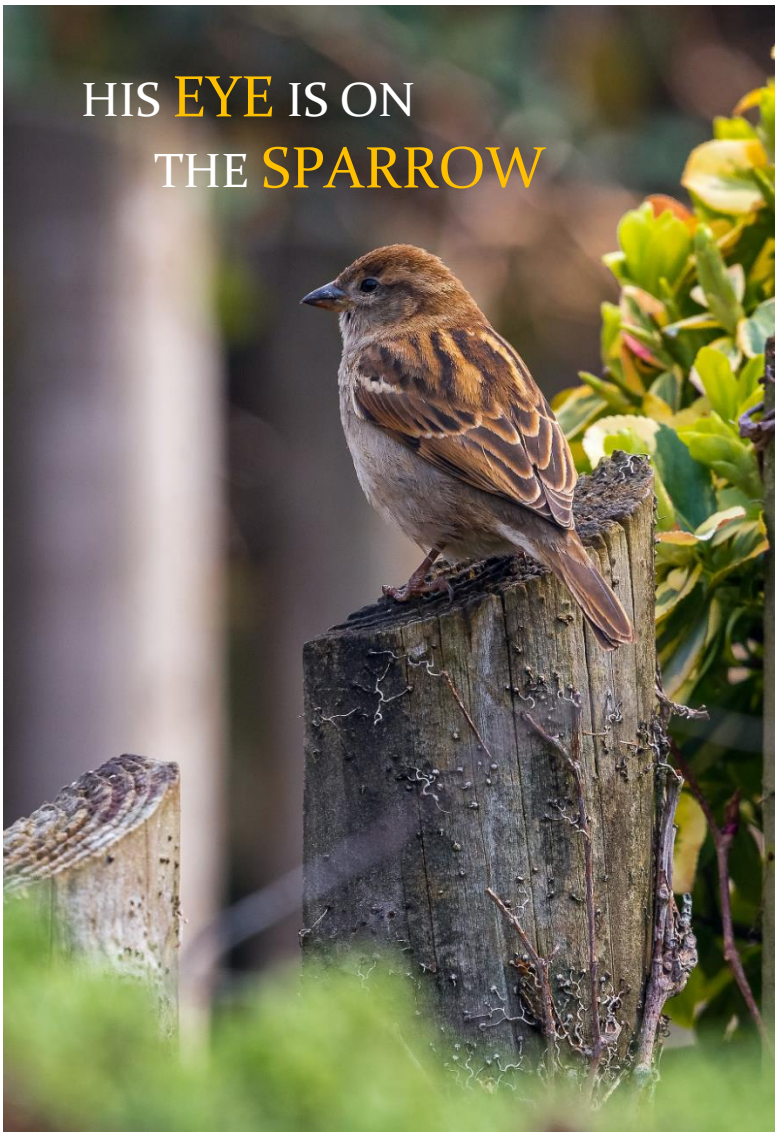


THE FIRST CHURCH

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

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 25, 2023 9:00 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 "All I have seen teaches me to trust the creator for all I have not seen." Ralph Waldo Emerson

PRELUDE xv. *Arabesque* L. Vierne
from *Quatre-vingt Pièces en style libre* *(1870 – 1937)*

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 146)

Leader: Happy are those whose hope is in God, maker of heaven and earth—
People: for God keeps faith forever!
Leader: God executes justice for the oppressed and gives food for the hungry.
People: God sets the prisoners free and opens the eyes of the blind.
Leader: God lifts up those who are bowed down.
People: God watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow.
Leader: People of God, sing praise to the One who is your help—
People: for God keeps faith forever!

***HYMN #246** *Come Thou, Almighty King* ITALIAN HYMN
(at the end of the order of worship)

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

God of grace and goodness, Your mercy comes to us in ways that continually surprise us, for You appear to offer such mercy with no strings attached which is so different from the way we so often act and live. Forgive us, O God, when we deprive people of the love we owe them as people unconditionally loved by You. Help us to see people with Jesus' eyes and to be moved by his compassion. Empower us with Your Spirit so that nothing can separate us, or others, from Your love. This we pray in Christ's holy name. Amen.

A time of silence for personal confession.

***PARDON**

Leader: Friends, believe and live the good news: In Jesus Christ we are loved, we are cleansed, we are forgiven!
People: Thanks be to God!

GREETINGS

MISSION MOMENT

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Genesis 21:8-12**

The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.
But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.” The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you.

Matthew 10:24-39

“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! “So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. “Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

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

SOLO *Have You Seen Jesus, My Lord?* J. Fischer
STEVE BLUNT, baritone & guitar *(*1947)*

SERMON “Eye on the Sparrow” Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong

***HYMN #322** *Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult* GALILEE
(at the end of the order of worship)

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

***CENTERING PRAYER**

Faithful God, You draw near to us in our joy and in our grief, in our hope and in our despair. When we are bowed down, You raise us anew. We turn to You now in search of Your healing touch. God of compassion and love, move among us this hour. Open our eyes, dispel our fears, and show us the real life You have to offer. We pray this in the name of the Risen One, Jesus the 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 *They'll Know We are Christians* P. Scholtes
(1938 – 2009)

***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)

You open hearts and minds, Gracious God, to the wonders or life and love. You have given us ways to work with You to increase our joy. We give You these gifts just as Jesus did. Keep us alert, then, to what You will do next in and through us to grow our life and love. Amen.

***HYMN #342** *I Need Thee Every Hour* NEED
(at the end of the order of worship)

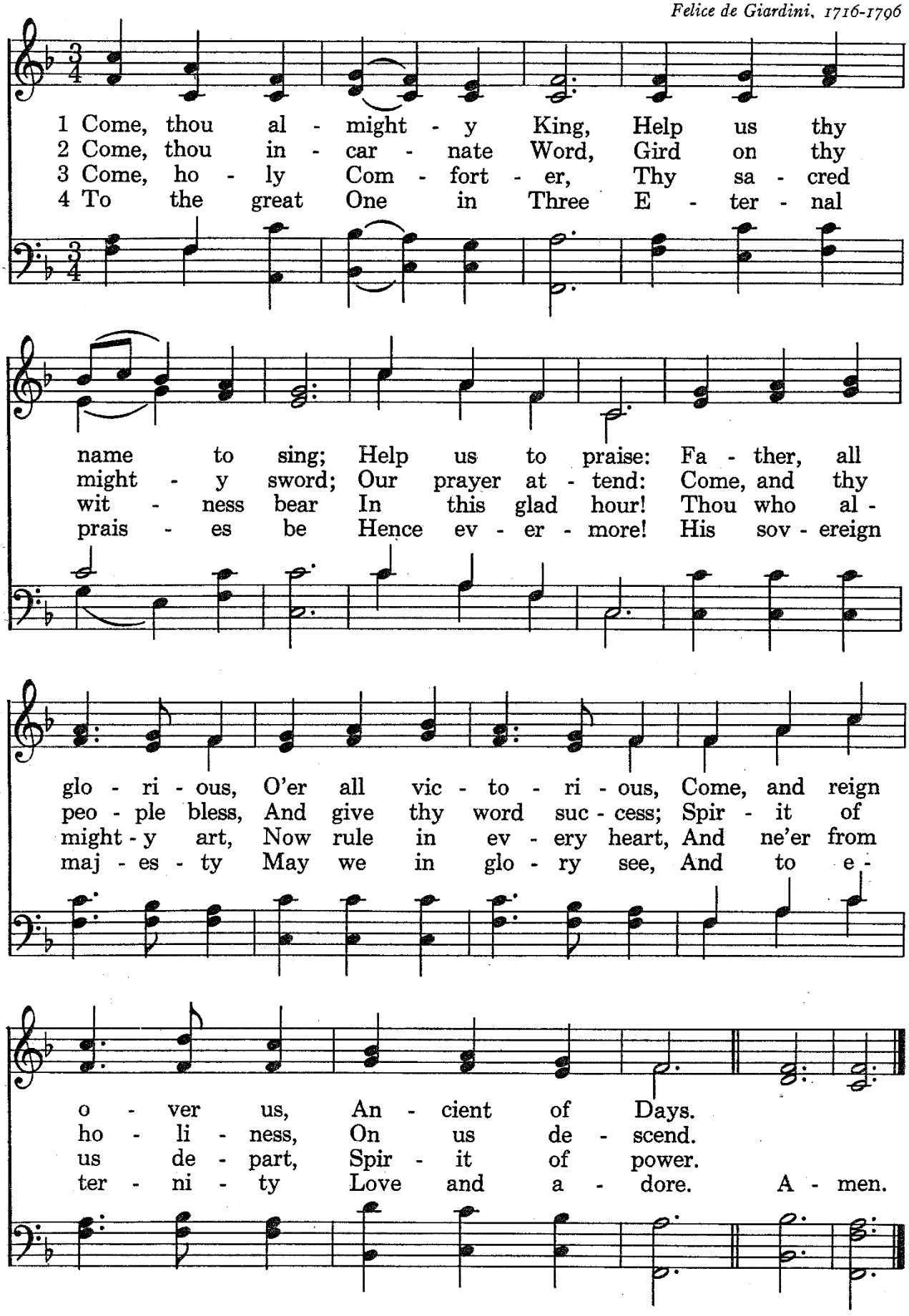
***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Echo* S. Scheidt
(1587 – 1654)

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

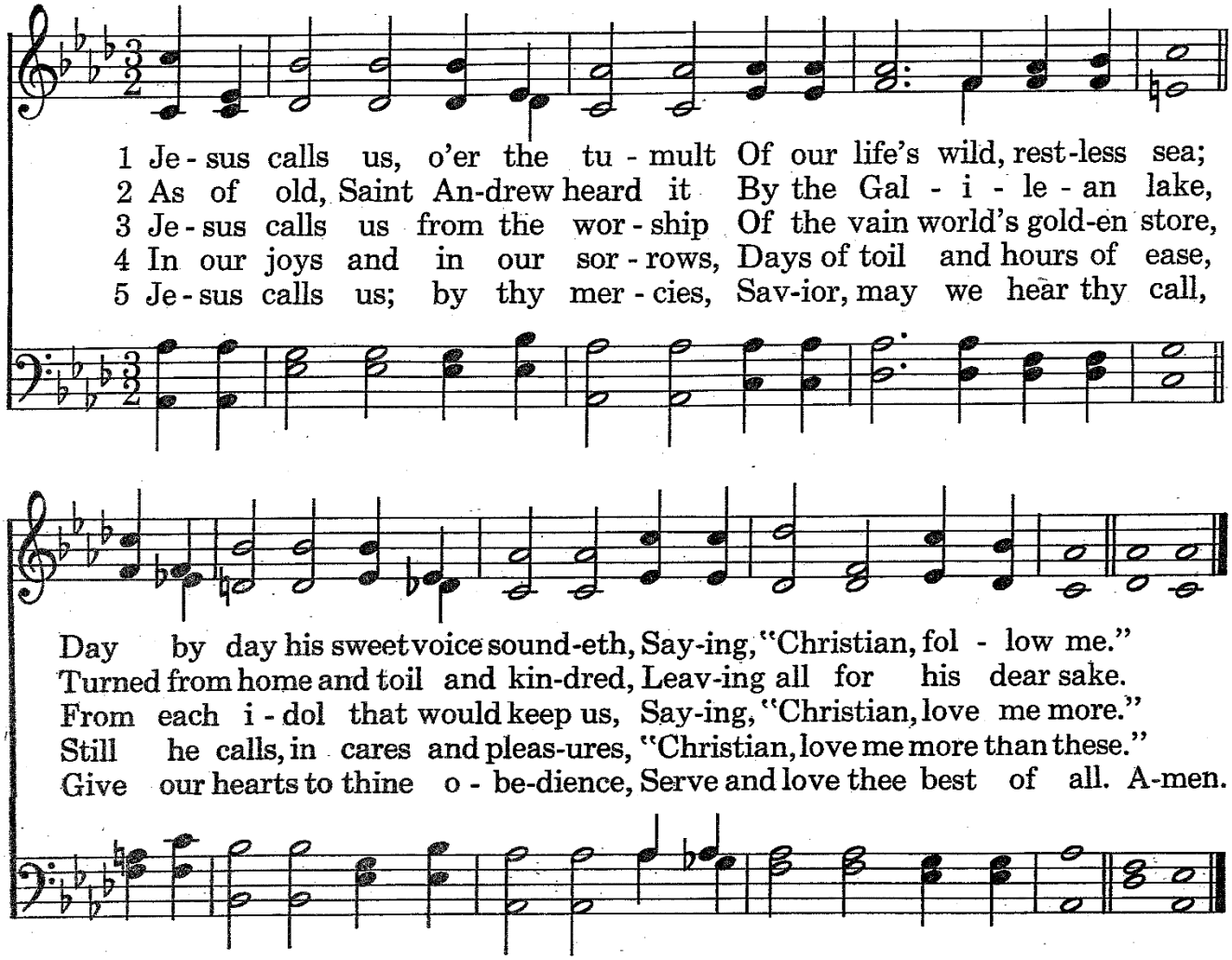
HYMN #246 *Come Thou, Almighty King*

Anonymous, c. 1757

ITALIAN HYMN 6.6.4.6.6.6.4.
Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796

HYMN #322 *Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult*

Cecil F. Alexander, 1823-1895

GALILEE 8.7.8.7.
William H. Jude, 1851-1922



HYMN #342 *I Need Thee Every Hour*

Annie S. Hawks, 1835-1918
Robert Lowry, 1826-1899, Refrain

NEED 6.4.6.4. *with Refrain*
Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

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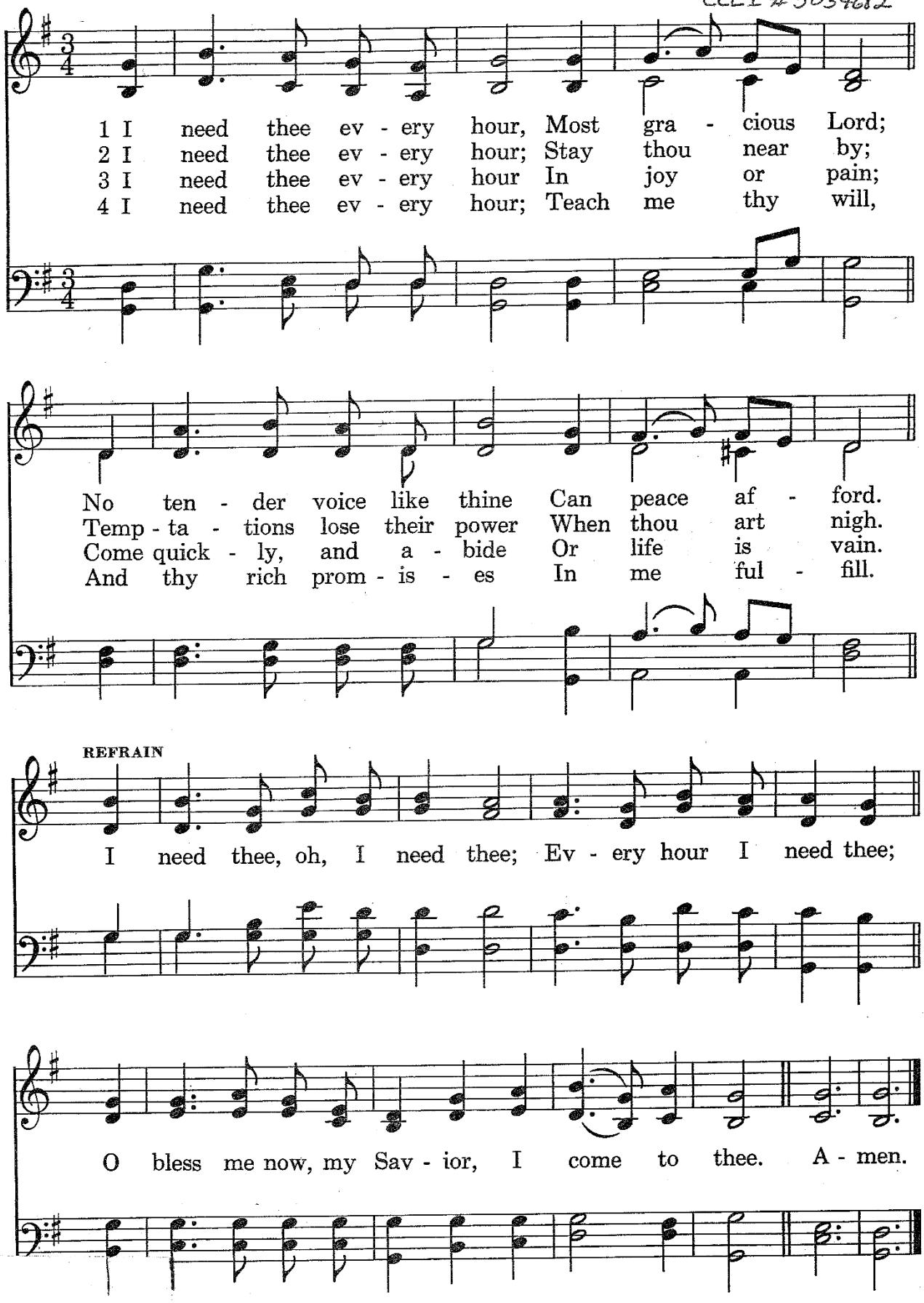
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The flowers in the pulpit are given in loving memory of Bill Ruthenberg, by his family.

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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. NANCY.

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Have you remembered First Church in your will?

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Worship Schedule

June 18 – September 10, 2023
9:00am: Worship in the Sanctuary & Livestream
11:00am: Radio Broadcast on WSMN AM 1590 & FM 95.3

Summer Office Hours (beginning June 18)
Monday-Friday: 9:00 AM-Noon and 12:30-3:30 PM
Sunday: Closed

Announcements - New/Current

Nursery Care is on break for the summer months.

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Summer Worship Busy Bags - During the summer months when the Sunday School is on hiatus the children are welcomed to join their parents in worship. "Busy Bags" will be available to assist in keeping the children engaged. Pick up a bag at the welcome center or seek out an usher and they will assist you.

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LaRomana Presentation – TODAY, following the worship service - Join the First Church mission team in Fellowship Hall for a time of discussion as they share their recent experiences, journey and information for upcoming mission interest.

Prayer after Worship - Are you or a loved one in need of physical, emotional or spiritual healing? Are you carrying a burden for yourself or others that you would like to offer up to God in prayer? Is there a decision that you must make that is weighing heavily upon your heart? **Following service on July 2**, you are welcome to join Rev. Andy, Lynda Pearson and Jeanne Chaloner for a special time of confidential prayer. Following service, they will be standing at the back of the sanctuary to offer prayer in the Bride's Room. This is the first of more prayer/healing services to come in the near future. Look for these in forth coming announcements and Messenger articles.

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It's Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter (NSKS) Backpack time again! Help us fill 70 backpacks for The Soup Kitchen's Backpack Program. This program supports local children in grades K-12 with much needed school supplies! The Board of Christian Outreach invites you to make a financial donation of any amount to assist with the purchase of supplies. Our goal is to raise $2500.00, to fill 70 backpacks. **$40 will help to fill one backpack.** Please send a check by August 1st with "NSKS Backpacks"' in the memo line. Outreach will be filling the backpacks on **Thursday, August 3, at 6:00 PM** and they invite you to help them. Feel free to contact Kathie McIntyre or the church office with any questions.

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Women's Association Lunch in the Park - All women of the church are invited to meet at Greeley Park on Concord Street every Friday at noon. 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. The group will not meet if there is inclement weather.

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2023 Elevator Appeal – Good News! Pine State Elevator began work this past week and we are hopeful that our elevator will be operational by the end of July! Thank you to all who have donated to our elevator appeal to date. We continue to seek gifts or pledges to help support our church being accessible to everyone. Pledge cards are available on line, or at the welcome center. To date, we have raised in excess of $57,000 towards our goal of $103,000. Thank you for your generous support!

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"No Place Like Home" golf tournament - **August 7, 2023 - Nashua Country Club** - Sponsored by The First Church, this is to support our mission to Family Promise, Front Door Agency, and Stepping Stones.

GOLFER REGISTRATION: "There's No Place Like Home" Tournament - Aug 7th, 2023 - Nashua Country Club (google.com)

FLYER: https://tfcucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/2023-No-Place-Like-Home-Golf-flyer-WEB-VERSION.pdf Flyers are also available at the church's welcome center. Questions? Contact Margaret Brenner

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Giving Options - During the summer months and all year long we have several convenient options available to keep your giving up to date. You can mail in your offering, set up automatic donations through your bank, give during worship, or set up automatic donations online on our website tfcucc.org/give/. Scan the QR Code to view online giving, and set it up today!

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.

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The First Church Thrift Shop is closed for the summer. Thank you for your support this year. Please save your donations until further notice.

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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.

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St. Joseph Mobile Health Clinic will be at First Church on July 6 and 20 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.

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THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

SUN JUN 25	9:00am	Worship & Livestream
	10:00am	LaRomana Presentation (Fellowship Hall)
	11:00am	Worship Service Radio Broadcast
MON JUN 26	7:00pm	Technology Committee (zoom)
TUE JUN 27	2:00pm	Huntington Service
	4:00pm	Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter
SAT JUL 1	11:00am	Sisters in Sobriety (dining room)

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SUMMER MUSIC SCHEDULE 2023

Each summer, while the music ministry ensembles are on summer break, members of The First Church and the outside community bring their music offerings to our summer worship service at 9am.

The following individuals and seasonal ensembles will enhance our worship services…

June 18	Men's Choir *(TTBB)*
June 25	Steve Blunt, *baritone & guitar*
July 2	Joseph R. Olefirowicz, *baritone*
July 9	Craig Plummer, *tenor*
July 16	Vivian Halvorson, *clarinet*
July 23	Susan Cobb, *soprano*
July 30	Dale Neth, *solo handbells*
August 6	Debbie Nordyke, *mezzo soprano*
	Harry Nordyke, *tenor & guitar*
August 13	Don Fluckinger, *euphonium*
August 20	Brett Greene, *organ*
August 27	Richard Benefield, *organ*
September 3	Mark A. Cleveland, *bass-baritone*
September 10	Craig Plummer, *tenor*

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 12:30-3:30pm
Visit our web site at www.tfcucc.org