THE FIRST CHURCH

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

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 13, 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.

TOWER CHIME Dale Neth

MEDITATION "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." — Corrie ten Boom

PRELUDE ROCKINGHAM Healey Willan
Strong Son of God, Immortal Love *(1880 – 1968)*

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 67)

Leader: Holy are You, O God of grace and mercy. May all the nations praise You, O God.
People: May all the nations of the earth joyfully sing because God's justice is supreme!
Leader: May the love that lights up the face of God shine with favor upon us and bless us;
People: teaching us God's way of living and serving so that we may witness to that love and grace.
Leader: We gather to worship our wise and holy God.
People: We are in awe and revere You for Your saving works.
Leader: We come together to seek Your blessing, O God.
People: Praise be to our generous and just God. Amen.

***HYMN #357** *Strong Son of God, Immortal Love* ROCKINGHAM
(at the end of the order of worship)

***OPENING PRAYER** (Unison)

With open arms You welcome all who call on Your name—who acknowledge You as Lord, and look to You in faith. No one stands outside the circle of Your mercy and love. And so we come to offer You our worship—to declare that You are our God, and that we are Your people, called and chosen by You from the very beginning. Through the presence of Your Holy Spirit open our eyes to see You here; open our minds to receive Your truth, and our mouths to speak and sing Your praise. For You alone are God— worthy of all praise and worship, now and to the end of time. Amen.

GREETINGS

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON **Matthew 14: 22-33**

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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

SOLO HANOVER — William Croft
O Worship the King — *(1678 – 1727)*
DON FLUCKINGER, euphonium — *arr. Sparke*

SERMON "We Are Not Alone in the Boat" — Rev. Nancy Haynes

***HYMN #230** *Immortal Love, Forever Full* — SERENITY
(at the end of the order of worship)

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

***CENTERING PRAYER** (Unison)

God, infuse our prayer with grace and blessing! May this time reflect Your light and Your goodness, so that the way in which we live might bring others to an awareness of Your presence and Your love. Teach us to trust You with our whole heart, and to praise You in every circumstance, so that Your grace and mercy might reach out through us to the entire world. 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 REPTON — Charles Parry
Dear Lord and Father of Mankind — *(1823 – 1890)*
arr. Sparke

***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)

In deep gratitude for all that You have done for us, we offer ourselves and our gifts to You—living sacrifices of worship and praise. Transform our hearts and minds from the inside out; show us what is good and pleasing in Your sight, so that we may be quick to recognize Your call and respond. In the name of Jesus, our Messiah. Amen.

***HYMN #8** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* HYMN TO JOY
(at the end of the order of worship)

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Fantasia in D Major* — Reginald W. Martin
(1885 – 1963)

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

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AV TEAM: Lee Hauenstein & Craig Neth
COVER ART: Christ Walking on Water, ca. 1880, Klever, Julius Sergius von, 1850-1924
GUEST DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Brett Greene
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

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The flowers in the pulpit are given in loving memory of Peter Testa, by Susan Testa.

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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.

HYMN #357 *Strong Son of God, Immortal Love*

Alfred Tennyson, 1809-1892

ROCKINGHAM L.M.
Adapted by Edward Miller, 1731-1807

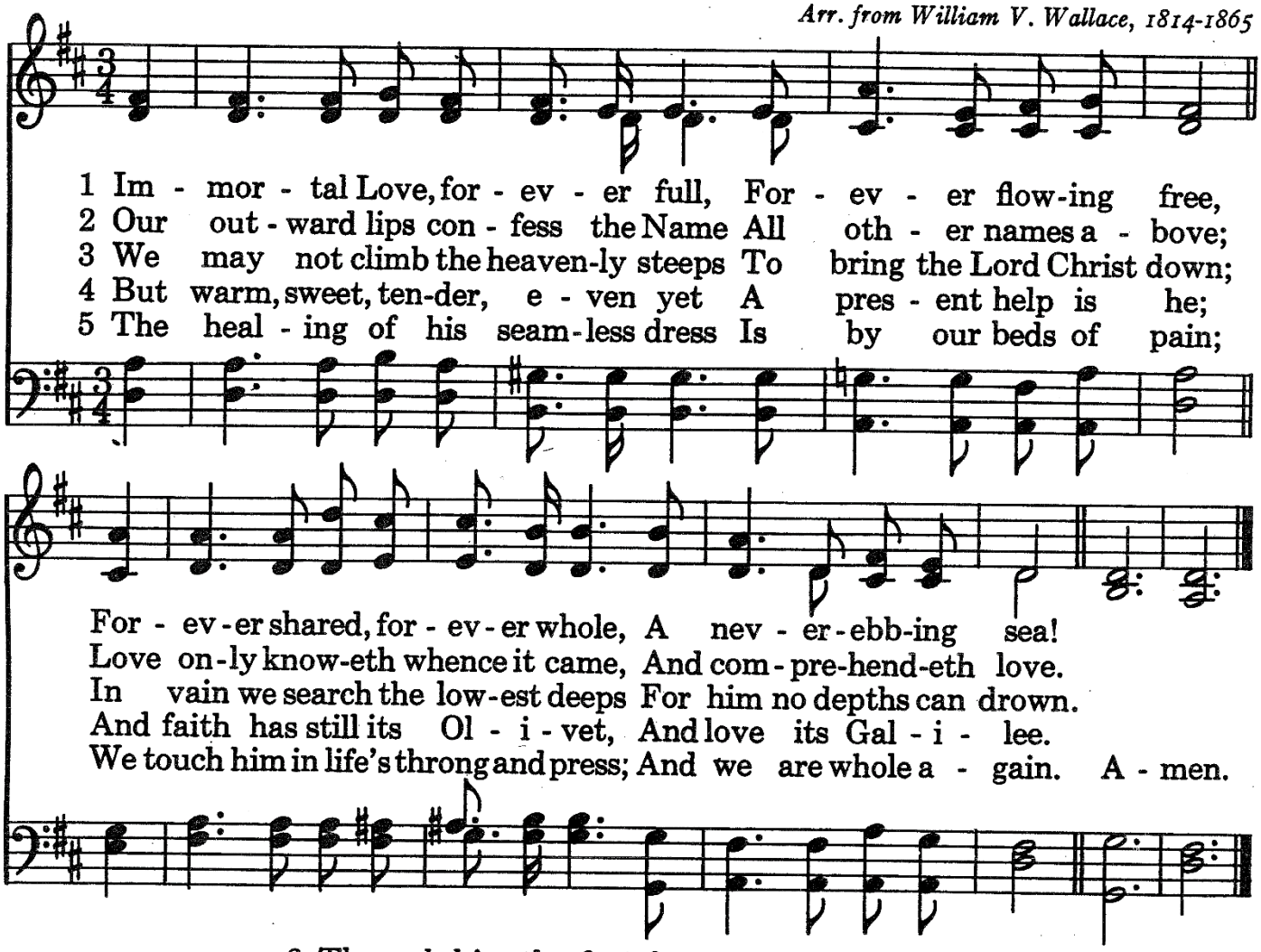
5 We have but faith; we cannot know,
For knowledge is of things we see;
And yet we trust it comes from thee,
A beam in darkness; let it grow.

6 Let knowledge grow from more to more,
But more of reverence in us dwell;
That mind and soul, according well,
May make one music as before.

HYMN #230 *Immortal Love, Forever Full*

John Greenleaf Whittier, 1807-1892

SERENITY C.M.
Arr. from William V. Wallace, 1814-1865



6 Through him the first fond prayers are said
Our lips of childhood frame;
The last low whispers of our dead
Are burdened with his name.

HYMN #8 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933

HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D.
Arr. from Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827

Summer Worship Schedule

June 18 – September 10, 2023

9:00 AM: Worship in the Sanctuary & Livestream
11:00 AM: Radio Broadcast on WSMN AM 1590 & FM 95.3

Summer Worship Busy Bags are available for our children who are worshipping with their parents. Pick up a bag at the welcome center or seek out an usher for assistance.

Summer Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 9:00 AM-Noon and 12:30-3:30 PM
Sunday: Closed

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Introducing Our New Prayer Ministry! We are excited to announce the launch of our new Prayer Ministry, starting on Sunday August 27th following the 9:00 AM service! Led by Rev. Andy, Lynda Pearson, and Jeanne Chaloner, this ministry aims to create a space of solace and spiritual connection following worship services. In the warm and inviting environment of the family room, we invite you to join us in heartfelt prayer, guided by our dedicated team. Whether you seek personal healing, divine guidance, or simply desire to strengthen your faith. More dates will be announced in the fall.

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Rally Sunday: September 17

10:00 AM: Worship, Livestream, Sunday School, Radio Broadcast

Post Worship Cookout – the Christian Formation Board will supply burgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers. The Stewardship Committee will provide the ice cream truck. The congregation is asked to bring a side dish or salad to share.
The Christian Formation board is seeking volunteers to assist with the day. Could you help set up, break down or serve? Contact the church office for more information.

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The First Church Thrift Shop is now accepting fall and winter clothing for women and children (infant to size 14). *Please, no summer clothing.* Leave items, clean and in good repair, in the marked bin near the stained glass window at the courtyard entrance. Contact the church office with any questions.

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The elevator renovation is nearly completed. Thank you to all who have donated to our elevator appeal to date. Currently, we have raised in excess of $75,000 towards our goal of $103,000. Help us get to the top floor! Pledge cards are available on line, or at the welcome center. Thank you for your generous support.

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The September newsletter deadline is Monday, August 14. Please send your items to Sue Englander in the church office.

Garden Vegetables for Family Promise Meals - A dedicated team of First Church cooks prepare 4 meals a month for the families who live at the Family Promise Program. We try to prepare healthy meals and we try to keep the cost of the food as low as possible. We can achieve both those goals with the help from any vegetable gardeners who would be willing to donate excess produce for those meals. We will collect the produce on the weekend of August 19 & 20 so it can be served the following week.

If you have tomatoes, cucumbers, squash or other produce to donate, please bring it to the church on **Sunday August 20** and leave it in the basket at the courtyard entrance. Feel free to reach out to Beth Raymond with any questions.

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First Church volunteers filled 70 Backpacks for the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter on August 3rd and they were delivered to the Soup Kitchen for distribution to students this month. Financial contributions are still being accepted to cover the cost of the school supplies that were placed into each backpack. Thank you for your continued support of First Church Outreach Programs!

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The "No Place Like Home" Charity Golf Tournament held on August 7 was a great success! Stay tuned for more information.

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Holiday Fair Craft Group will meet on Wednesday, August 16 at 4:00 PM in the dining room. New crafters are always welcome! Contact Sandy Gribbin with any questions.

Silent Auction: If you have handmade items, baskets, gift cards or other items that you would like to donate to the silent auction, contact Sandy.

The Fair will be held on November 3, 4-7pm, November 4, 9am-2pm, November 5, post worship

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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!

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Lunch in Greeley Park - The Women's Association invites all women of the church to meet for lunch in Greeley Park on Fridays at noon. Meet near the bandstand (located on the right as you come from the church). Bring your lunch and a lawn chair. The group will not meet if there is inclement weather.

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St. Joseph Mobile Health Clinic will be at First Church on August 17 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.

Pastoral Counseling Services (PCS) will host its 27th Good Samaritan Awards celebration on Sept. 14, 2023 from 5-7 PM. This year's honorees: Amy Chhom, an Affordable Housing & Community Advocate; Tom & Chrissy Harte, Ambassadors for Make-A -Wish New Hampshire; the Rev. Jed Rardin, UCC Pastor and Justice Advocate; and, Lynn Stanley, the Executive Director of the New Hampshire and Vermont Chapters of the National Association of Social Workers.
For more information, see the bulletin board in the link or visit www.pcs-nh.org.

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THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

SUN AUG 13	9:00am	Worship & Livestream
	11:00am	Worship Service Radio Broadcast
MON AUG 14		Newsletter Deadline
TUE AUG 15	9:00am	Family Promise (dining room)
	4:00pm	Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter
WED AUG 16	4:00pm	Craft Group (dining room)
THU AUG 17	9:00am	Mobile Health Clinic
	12:00pm	Chamber of Commerce (dining room)
SAT AUG 19	11:00am	Sisters in Sobriety

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SUMMER MUSIC SCHEDULE 2023

While the music ministry ensembles are on summer break, the following individuals and seasonal ensembles bring their musical offerings to 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
Secretary, *Tasha Drew*, tdrew@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