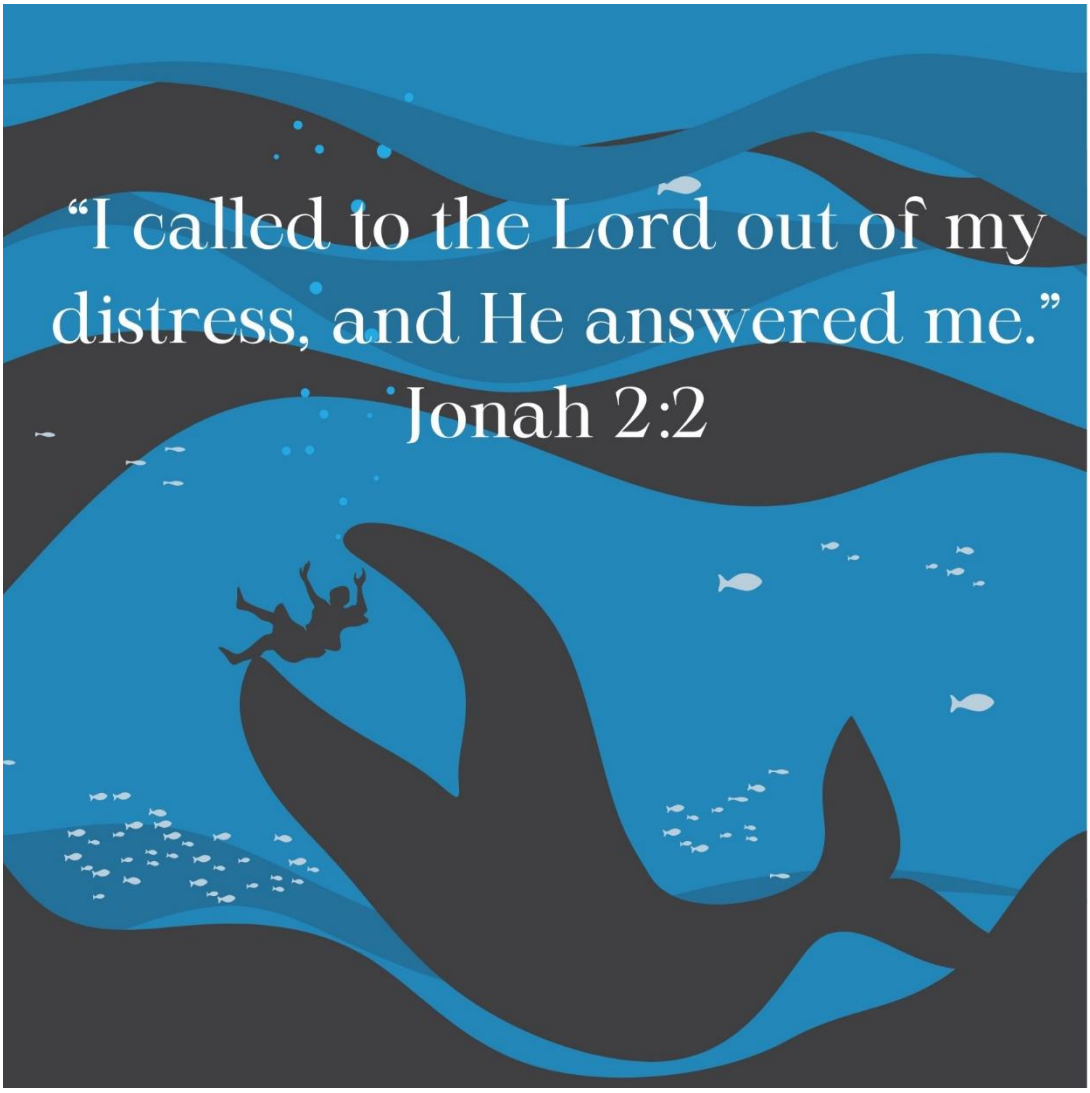


THE FIRST CHURCH

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

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 21, 2024 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.

TOWER CHIME Jim Stone

MEDITATION "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. " - Reinhold Niebuhr

PRELUDE *Partita on "Christe, Redemptor Omnium"* G. Near *(*1942)*

I. Thema
II. Trio
III. Triplets for Flutes
IV. Oboe and Strings

Christe Redemptor omnium	Christ, the Redeemer of all
Quem lucis ante originem	Whose light before the origin
Parem paternae gloriae	Matched the Paternal Glory
Pater supremus edidit	The Supreme Father sets forth

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 62)

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Wait for the Lord. Our souls wait in silent longing.
People: God alone is our rock and our salvation!
Leader: Wait for the Lord. God is our fortress against the storm.
People: For God alone our souls wait in silence.
Leader: God alone is our rock and our salvation!
All: Let the church say amen!

***HYMN 8** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* ODE TO JOY

(see next page)

***OPENING PRAYER** (Unison)

Almighty and Gracious God, we turn to You in this sacred moment of worship believing that You called us here. You are our God and we are Your people. Speak, for we are listening. Be our shelter in the storm and our hope in times of trial. Strengthen our courage when our faith falters, and lift us up when we fall. Take us into the arms of Your salvation, Holy God. In You we have our true home where our souls can be silent, our prayers lifted and peace is found. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

GREETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Chloe Judith Holden

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

CCLI#3034682

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Jonah 2:1-9**

Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, saying, "I called to the LORD out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice. You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me. Then I said, 'I am driven away from your sight; how shall I look again upon your holy temple?' The waters closed in over me; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped around my head at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the Pit, O LORD my God. As my life was ebbing away, I remembered the LORD; and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple. Those who worship vain idols forsake their true loyalty. But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Deliverance belongs to the LORD!"

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Mark 1:14-20

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

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

GRATIA TIBI *Thanks Be to Thee* T. Tallis
CHANCEL CHOIR *(1505 – 1585)*

ANTHEM *Fisherman Peter* South Carolina Spiritual
arr. Powell

SERMON "Swallowed Whole" Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong

***HYMN 244** *O Holy Spirit Enter In* WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET
(see next page)

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

EPIPHANY LITANY written by John Erickson

Leader: Eternal light, shine in my heart; Eternal hope, lift up my eyes;
People: Eternal power, be my support; Eternal wisdom, make me wise;
Leader: Eternal life, raise me from death, help me to see.
People: Eternal Spirit, give me breath;
Leader: Eternal Savior, come to me,
All: Until by Your most costly grace, united by Your holy word, at last I come before Your face to know You, my eternal God.

PRAYER CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYERS and PASTORAL PRAYER

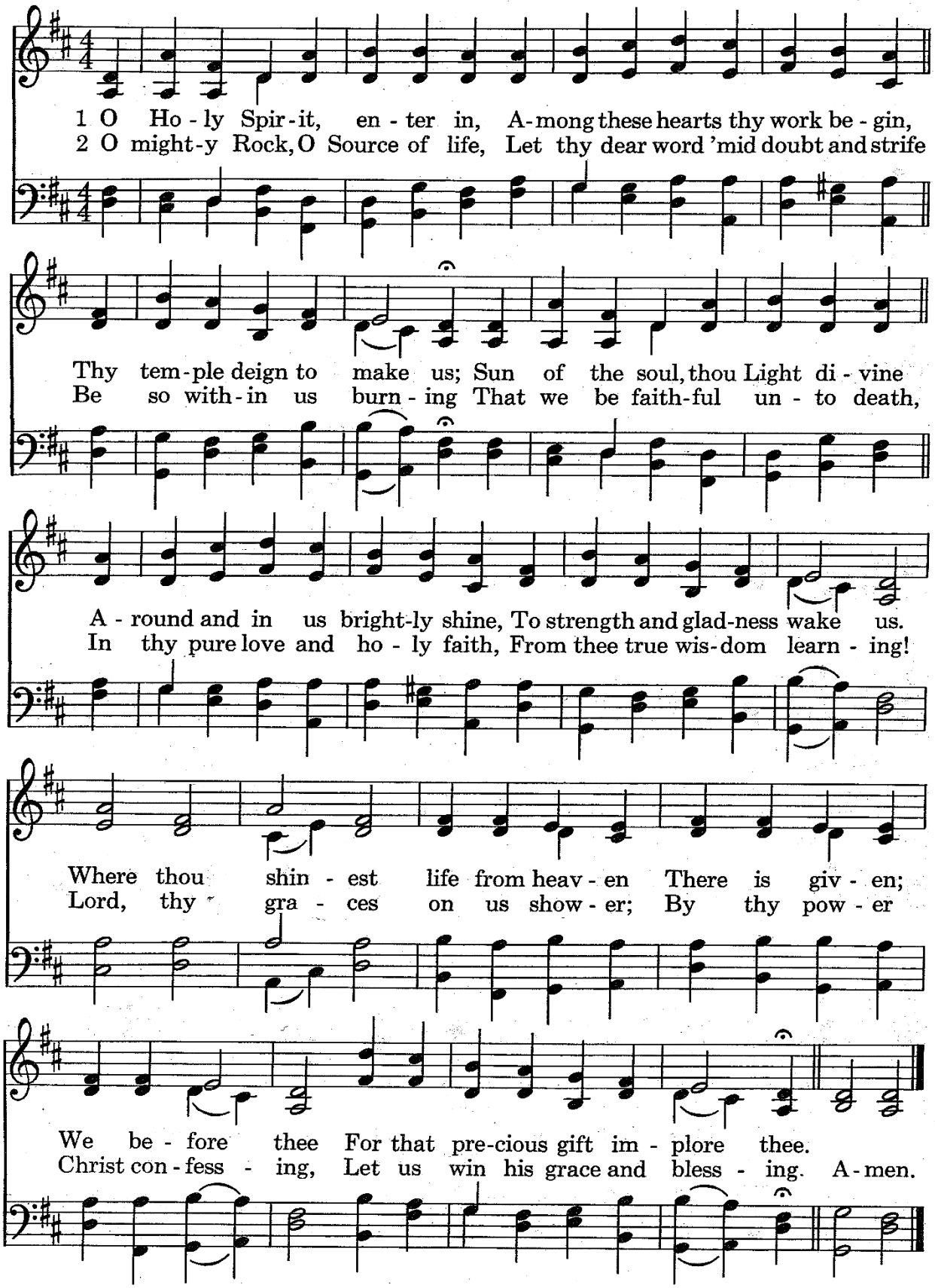
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

O Holy Spirit Enter In

Michael Schirmer, 1606-1673
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET 8.8.7.8.8.7.8.4.4.8.
Melody by Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608



CCLI # 3034682

PRAYER RESPONSE *God Be In My Head* H. Walford Davies
(1869 – 1941)

OFFERTORY Blessed Exaltation P. McKlveen
DECIBELLS *(*1960)*

***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, You know our fears are great and our needs are endless. Nevertheless, You have given us Your presence and eternal promises for life as it is and one day will be. In gratitude, we give You these gifts for all that You have done and will do to provide for us now and always. Amen.

***HYMN 436** *O God of Earth and Altar* LLANGLOFFAN
(see next page)

***BENEDICTION**

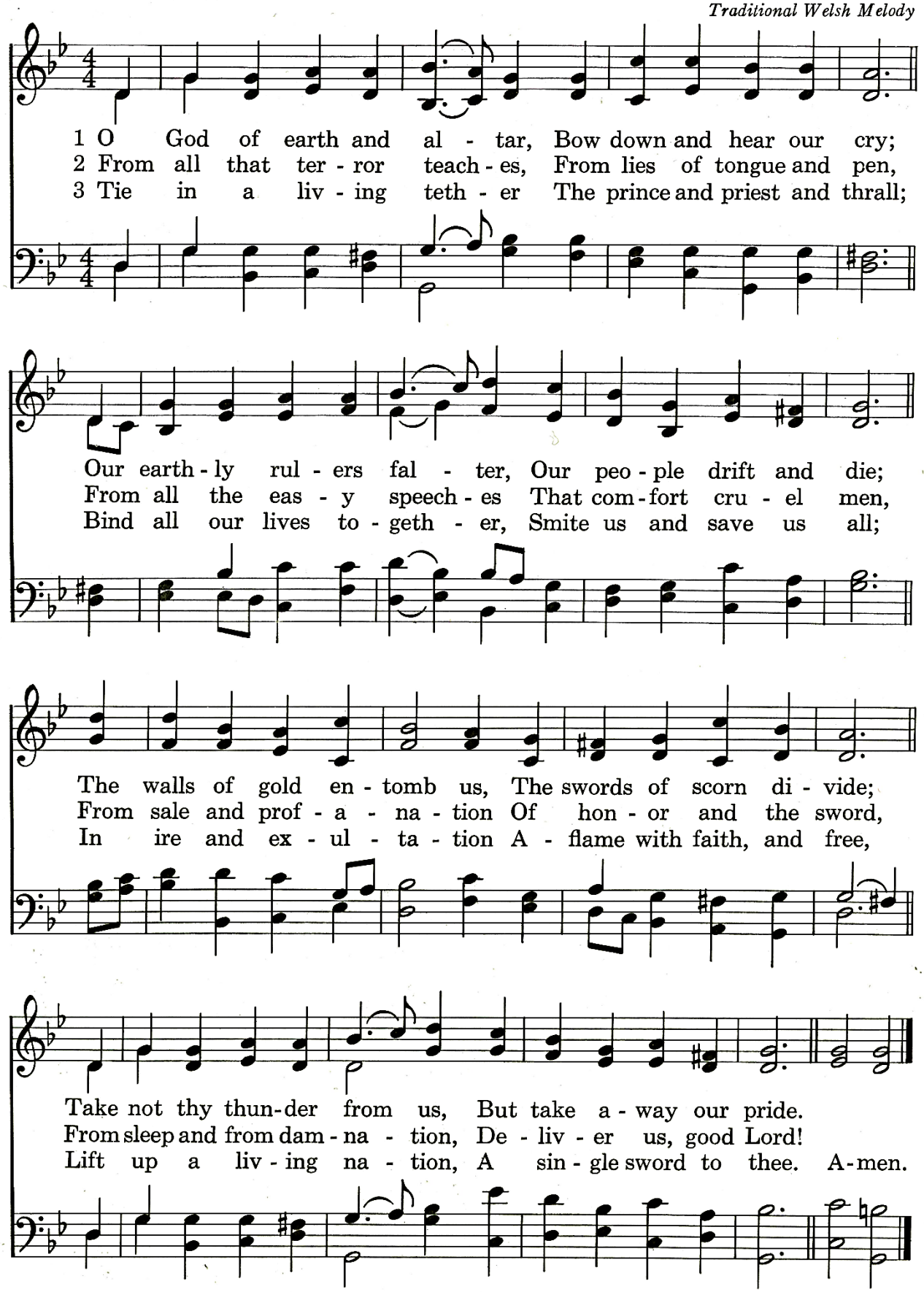
BENDICTUS *Father, Give Thy Benediction* Laudi Spirituali
14th century

POSTLUDE *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern* A. Armsdorff
How beautiful lights the morning star *(1670 – 1699)*

O God of Earth and Altar

Gilbert K. Chesterton, 1874-1936

LLANGLOFFAN 7.6.7.6.D.
Traditional Welsh Melody



CCLI #3034682

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

AV TEAM: Brenda Smith-Weiss and Craig Neth

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.

Flowers in the pulpit are given in loving memory of our son David, our parents, and Jean's sister Nancy by the Jaquith Family.

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.

Worship Schedule

8:15 AM Worship (Shaw Chapel)
10:00 AM: Worship in the Sanctuary & Livestream
Sunday School & Nursery Care
Radio Broadcast on WSMN AM 1590 & FM 95.3

NOTES FOR THE CHANCEL

This morning in worship, we welcome back our **DECIBELLS** hand bell choir to the worship roster, alternating in their offerings with our **CHANCEL CHOIR**.

The **PRELUDE** this morning is penned by contemporary composer **Gerald Near**, whose harmonic voice is truly unique in 21st century writing for the church. The theme of the hymn tune is established and then offered in a set of variations, as listed in the bulletin. Some give a small hint toward which organ stops are being used.

Did you know that our weekly choral response to the Gospel reading, the "Thanks be to God" (or **GRATIA TIBI**) has been sung in Christian worship since the 16th century? *Now you do*!

The **ANTHEM** preceding the sermon is a rousing, if slightly short choral offering, sung *a cappella* (or without accompaniment). Although the "South Carolina" style of Spiritual may seem like other offerings within the Negro Spiritual tradition: this particular geographic region proved to have its own sets of rhythms, treatments and traditions. So much so, that even renown composers such as George Gershwin used 'exclusively' this South Carolina rhythmic style, learned from its passed-down aural tradition, within any of his borrowed themes of sacred music found within his iconic American opera *Porgy and Bess*.

The **PRAYER RESPONSE** is an Anglican setting using a text from the 1558 Sarum Primer: a collection of prayers and worship resources, which began their development in Salisbury, England as far back as the 13th century. The reverence of the text and the lilting gentle rhythm stills our minds as we offer our intercessions to God.

The **OFFERTORY** is a contemporary hand bell work, utilizing four octaves of our five-octave set of Malmark handbells. It intermittently utilizes select mallet techniques, where the bells are struck either in a more staccato sound (like a pizzicato on a string instrument) while on the table, or suspended in the air by the hands creating a gentle wash of sound. These various techniques provide additional color to the playing and composition, offered in praise to God.

The **POSTLUDE** is a 16th century Phillip Nicolai (*1556 – 1608*) hymn tune, already heard on Epiphany Sunday (*Postlude*), but not sung that Sunday as its hymn's 'traditional' text. Today we offer this tune as the middle hymn dedicated to the Holy Spirit. The alternate 17th century German text by Michael Schirmer (*1606 – 1673*) was translated for American hymnals in the 19th century, by Catherine Winkworth (*1827 – 1878*). This organ work today stems from the pen of Thuringian composer **Andreas Armsdorff**, who is thought to have been a student of Johann Pachelbel (*Canon in D*, *et al*).

Christian Formation Corner

January 21, 2024 - Today is the Third Sunday after Epiphany and the liturgical color is green.

Nursery News - The nursery school is open and staffed. Parents can check in at the welcome center and then proceed to the nursery. The Welcome Center staff can also assist in providing directions.

Busy Bags - remain available at the welcome center for when children choose to remain in worship.

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

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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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News from the Office – The Office Staff requests that all communications for the weekend be submitted on Friday by noon. Thank you.

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Bible, Friends and Coffee resumes on January 22nd and will meet on Mondays, at 9:30 AM in the Ladies' Parlor, through May 13th.

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The Men's Wednesday Morning Study resumes on January 24th and meets through May 15th in the Ladies' Parlor.

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COLLEGE PLANNING SEMINAR- Sunday, January 28th at 11:30 am with Craig Plummer. Craig is a high school guidance counselor and professional consultant and he will offer this seminar at no cost to parents and students. The Christian Formation Board will provide lunch. Sign-up is a must. Contact the church office if you plan to attend.

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The Women's Association will be putting on an elegant Valentine Tea on Saturday, Feb. 10, in Fellowship Hall from 2-4. Come dressed in your Valentine finery….red, white, lace, hearts…..and bring your own special tea cup. We will be serving tea and special tea refreshments and all women of the church are invited to attend. Please sign up at the Welcome Center starting Sunday January 21st through February 4th. Keep checking the bulletins and the sign up sheet for any further information.

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FAMILY PROMISE WELLNESS DONATIONS- Can you help? Cold-Flu season is here! Family Promise needs over-the -counter medications and health care products: Adult, child and infant cough medicine, Tylenol, Ibuprofen, multi symptom cold medication, antihistamines, rubbing alcohol, peroxide, Tums, Rolaids, and ice packs. A collection bin will be in Fellowship Hall through February 11th . Family Promise thanks you!

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ANNUAL MITTEN TREE DRIVE At the start of the new year we will be collecting mittens to benefit the children at three of our neighborhood schools: Mt. Pleasant Elementary, Broad St. Elementary and Adult Learning Center Day Care. Knitters and crocheters are hopefully hard at work with plans to fill this tree. We also gratefully accept purchased mittens. All children sizes are needed. As you come across those after holiday bargains while shopping to warm the hearts of loved ones in your life this season, don't forget to pick up a few pairs of mittens to warm the hands of our young neighbors in need this winter. For questions or further information contact Susan Testa. Last day of collection will be Sunday, January 21st (TODAY).

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Mission to La Romana, February 2024 - The collections for the La Romana are coming in! Thank you to everyone who has given so far. We especially thank the people who gave beanie babies. We have 60 so far (we hope to be sending 100). Those will bring lots of smiles to the young children .The First Church in Sterling let us know that they are particularly interested in men's clothing this year. This includes summer weight pants and shirts as well as shoes and socks. The Dominican men dress formally for Sunday Church services. That means light weight suits or suit coats. Last year, we sent 13 suits to the Dominican Republic. We have only received one suit so far and definitely could use more. So gentlemen, if you have been putting off cleaning out your closet, now is the time. The La Romana Mission Trippers will gladly pass your clothes onto the men in the batey. We will continue to collect items and donations through the end of January. The donation list can be found at the donation table in Fellowship Hall, or use the following Amazon link: https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/1IJMXDSY5QV6Y

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Prepared to Serve 2024 - February 24th, 2024 from 8:00am-4:00 pm

Prepared to Serve is back, and we're ready to take your learning experience to new heights! This annual event, proudly organized by the New Hampshire Conference UCC, is dedicated to equipping our congregations with invaluable tools and resources to empower your local faith communities. Both in-person and virtual options are available. Join us for a day of growth, transformation and empowerment. Together, let's create new possibilities and explore new horizons!
For more information go to:
https://nhcucc.regfox.com/prepared-to-serve-2024

Choirs in Worship Next Week
Sunday, January 28, 2024
8:15 Zoe Harper, tenor
10:00 Zoe Harper, tenor

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

SUN JAN 21	8:15am	Worship (Chapel)
	9:00am	Study (Nauss Hall)
	10:00am	Worship, Livestream
		Radio Broadcast, Sunday School
	11:20am	Joyful Noise
	11:30am	Confirmation (Fireside room)
MON JAN 22	9:30am	Bible, Friends & Coffee
TUE JAN 23	2:00pm	Huntington Service
	4:00pm	Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter
WED JAN 24	8:00am	Men's Group
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir
THU JAN 25	10:00pm	Thrift Shop
	6:45pm	Decibells
FRI JAN 26	4:00pm	Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter
		Winter Retreat begins
SAT JAN 27	11:00am	Sisters in Sobriety (Dining Room)

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 11th 2024
Immediately following worship

You must be present to vote.
There will be one worship service at 10 am.

KATHRYN BRIGHAM SERVICE AWARD

2024 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 11, 2024.

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, Dale Neth, and Bill McIntyre.

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
Office Manager, *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 4:00 PM on the second Monday of the month.

All use of the building must be scheduled by the Office Manager.

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.