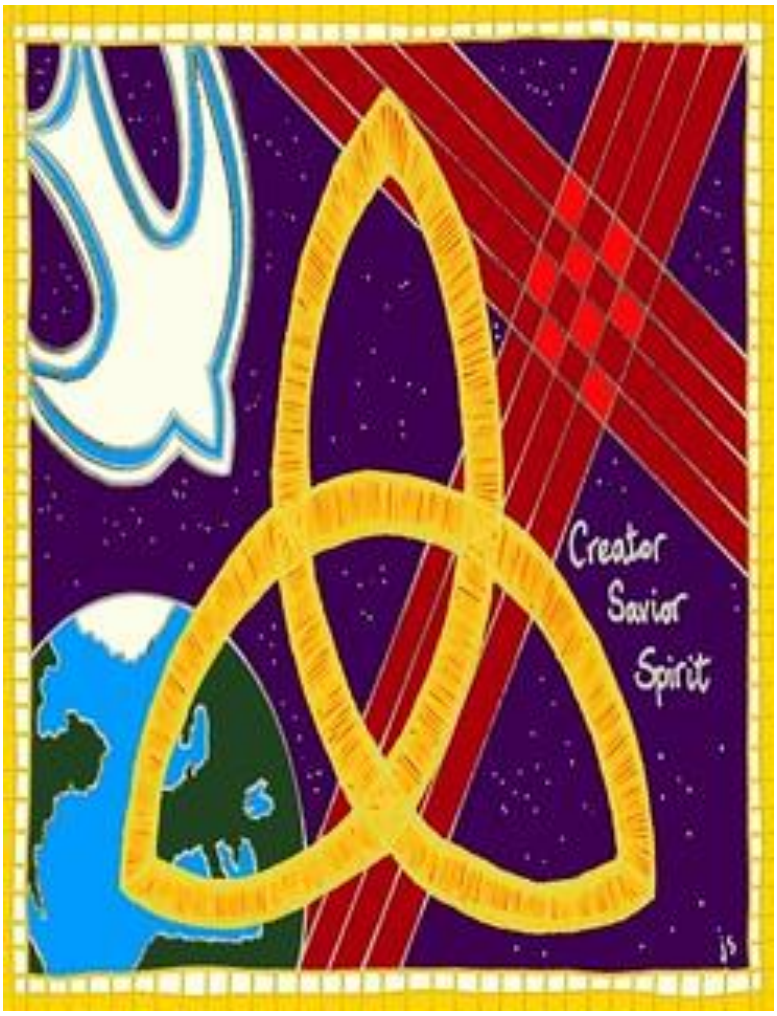

THE FIRST CHURCH

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

First Sunday after Pentecost
Trinity Sunday

May 26, 2024 10:00 AM

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*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 Norma MacKinley-Smith

MEDITATION "God for us, God alongside us, God within us."
— Richard Rohr

PRELUDE *Laudatio for Solo Horn* (1966) B. Krol
MICHAEL BELLOFATTO, horn *(1920 – 2013)*

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 29)

Leader: Credit the Holy One with glory and power!
People: Give God the honor due with worshipful reverence!
Leader: The Voice speaks and we hear. The Voice thunders and creation moves.
People: The Voice is strong and mighty, secure and majestic.
Leader: The Living Water refreshes us. The Holy Spirit strengthens us.
People: Bless the name of our God!

***HYMN 251** *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty* NICAEA
(see next page)

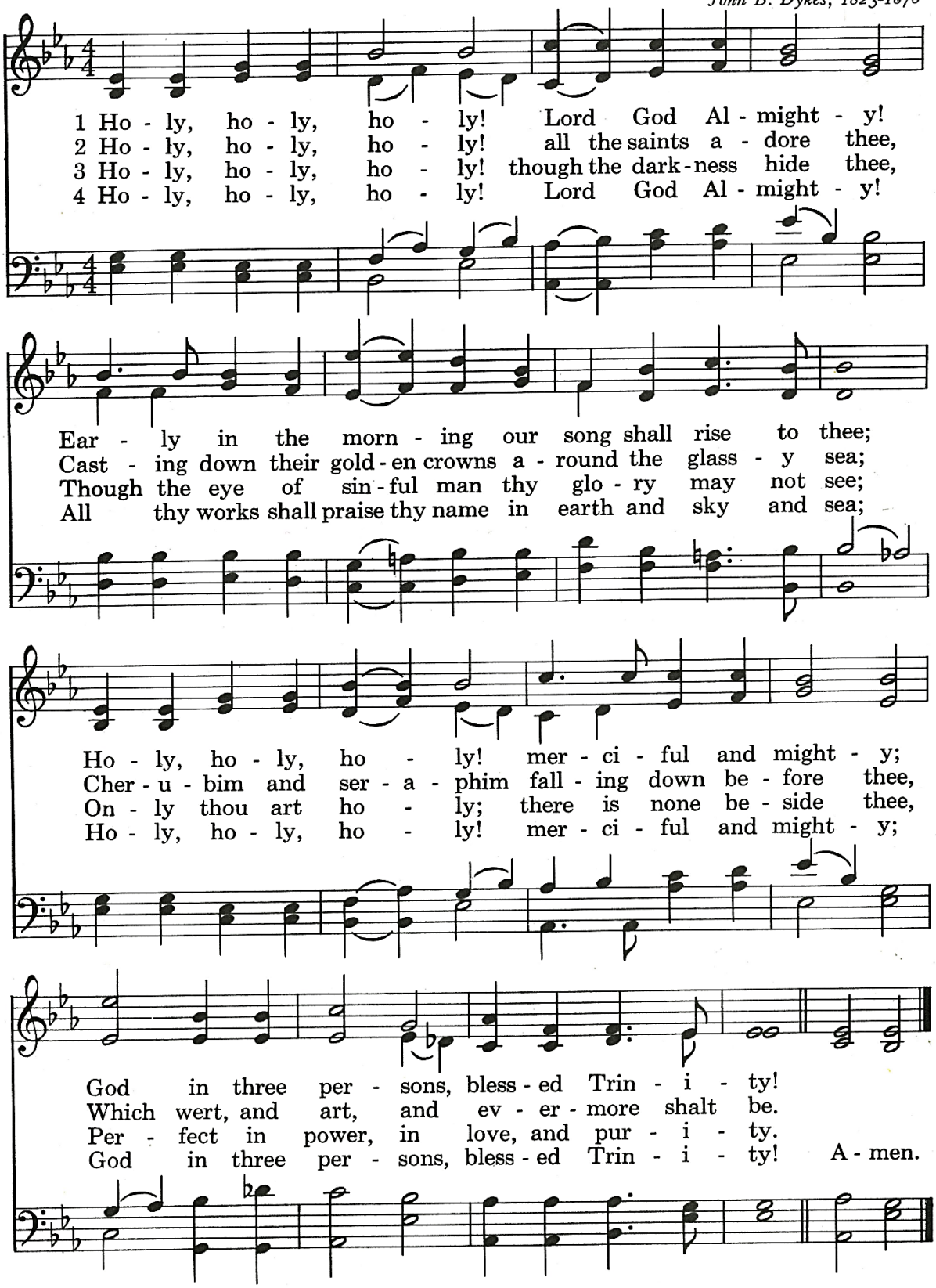
***CONFESSION** (Unison)

O Lord God Almighty, Ruler of heaven and earth, we dare not lift our eyes into the brilliance of Your holiness. Cover us, we pray, with the cloak of Your mercy and the grace of Jesus, Your Son. Then may we find refuge and strength in Your loving embrace. Amen.

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

Reginald Heber, 1783-1826

NICAEA 11.12.12.10.
John B. Dykes, 1823-1876



THE TRINITY

CCLI #3034682

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: How much does God love us? Enough to send the divine heart, hope, and spirit to us, not to condemn us, but to save us. Not by our speaking or doing, but by God's good and precious grace are we saved.

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

GREETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 29

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor.
The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.
The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!"
The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.
May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

John 3: 1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Pastor: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY *Celebration* (1974) R. E. Faust
for Horn and Organ *(*1947)*

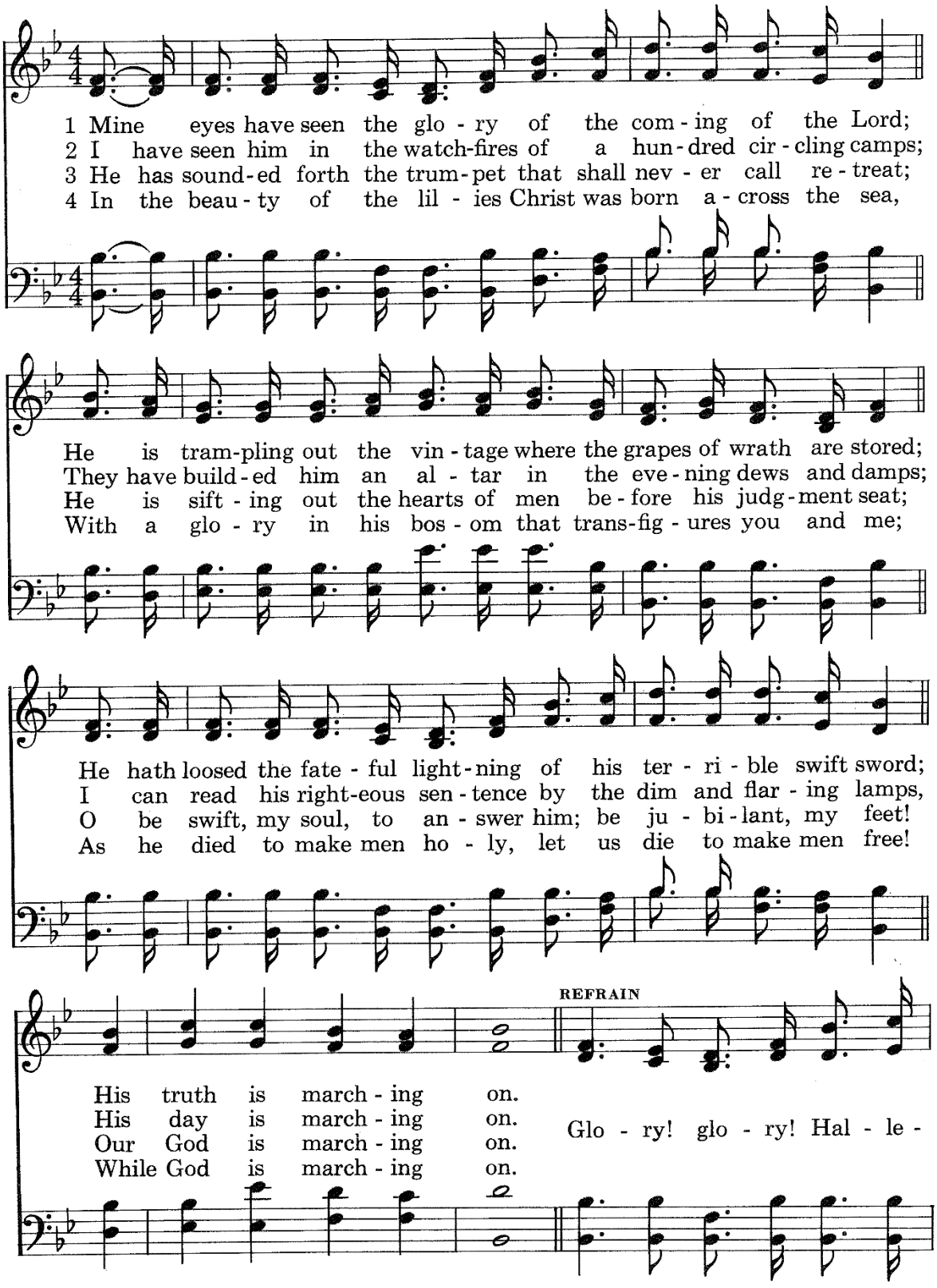
SERMON "We Seek, God Responds" Rev. Nancy Haynes

***HYMN 433** *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory* BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

Julia Ward Howe, 1819-1910

BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC *Irregular*
William Steffe?, c.1852



THE NATION

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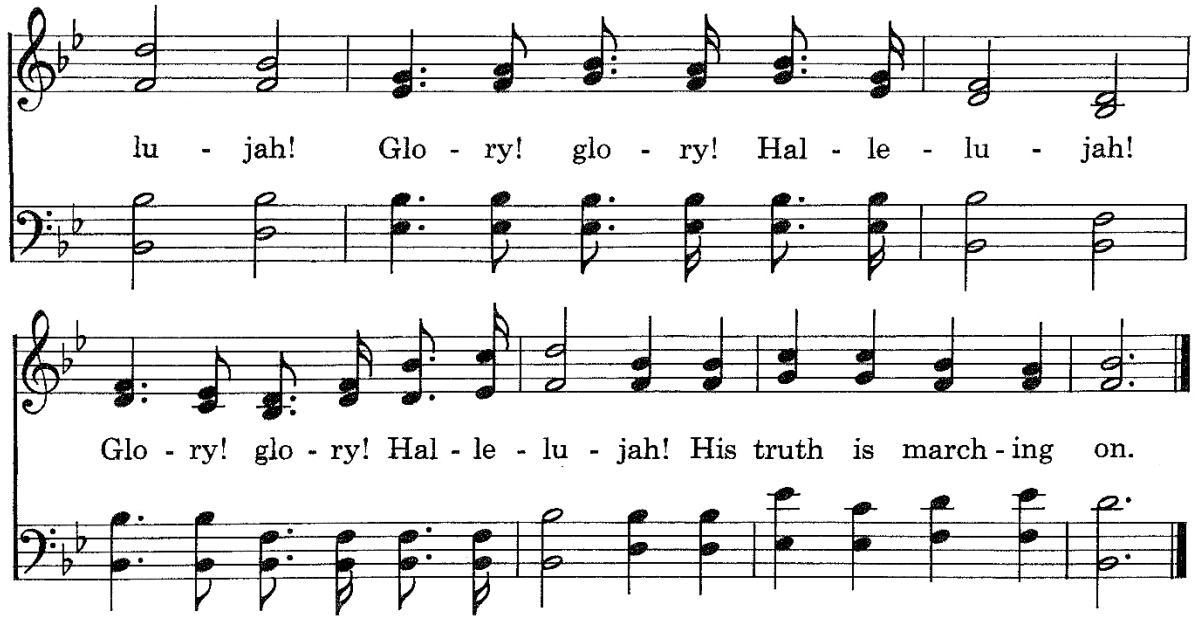


THE NATION

CCLI#3034682

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

LITANY OF PRAISE

Leader: Worthy of praise from every mouth, worthy of confession from every tongue, worthy of worship from every creature, is Your glorious name, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: For You created the world in Your grace, and by Your compassion You saved the world.

Leader: To Your majesty, O God, ten thousand times ten thousand bow down and adore, singing and praising without ceasing, and saying:

People: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts; heaven and earth are full of Your praises. Hosanna in the highest. — 5th century Nestorian Liturgy

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 *Adagio and Andante* (ca. 1853) C. Saint-Saëns
for Horn and Organ *(1835 – 1931)*

***THE DOXOLOGY 515** OLD HUNDRETH LM

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Unison)

Over and over, Heavenly God, Your Word sustains us. Over and over, Holy Spirit, You provides for us. Over and over, Jesus Christ, Your arm steadies us. One, Eternal God, we give You these gifts, with gratitude and joy, thankful that we know Your name. Amen

***HYMN 496** *The National Anthem* STAR-SPANGLED BANNER
(see following pages)

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Grand Chœur- Sortie* A. Guilmant
(1837 – 1911)

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

AV TEAM:	Roy Rumbaugh and Don Smith-Weiss
COVER ART:	John Stewart, www.stushieart.com
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.

If you would like to provide flowers for the pulpit,
please sign up at the Welcome Center.

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.

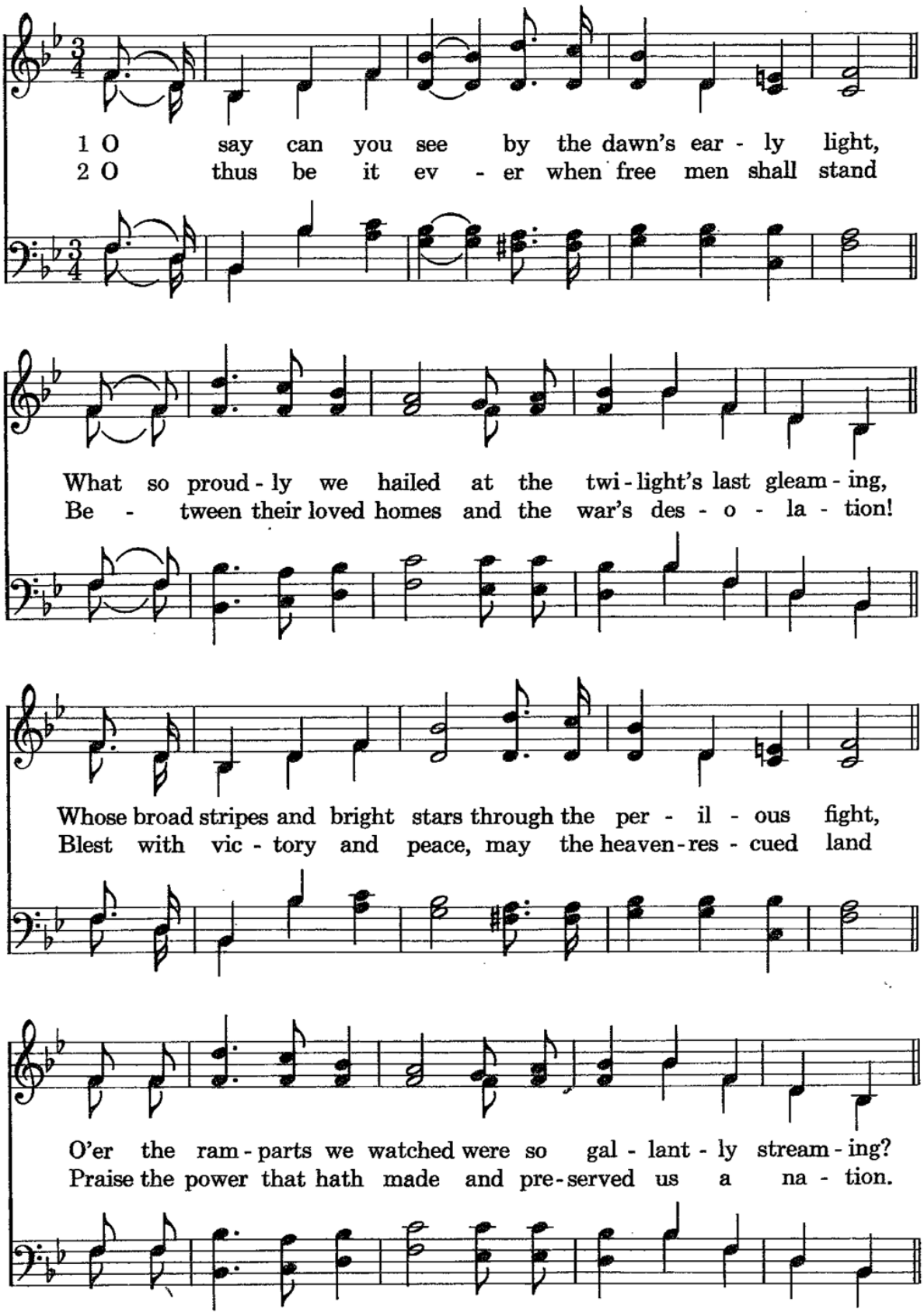
Worship Schedule

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

The National Anthem

Francis Scott Key, 1779-1843

STAR-SPANGLED BANNER *Irregular*
Unknown



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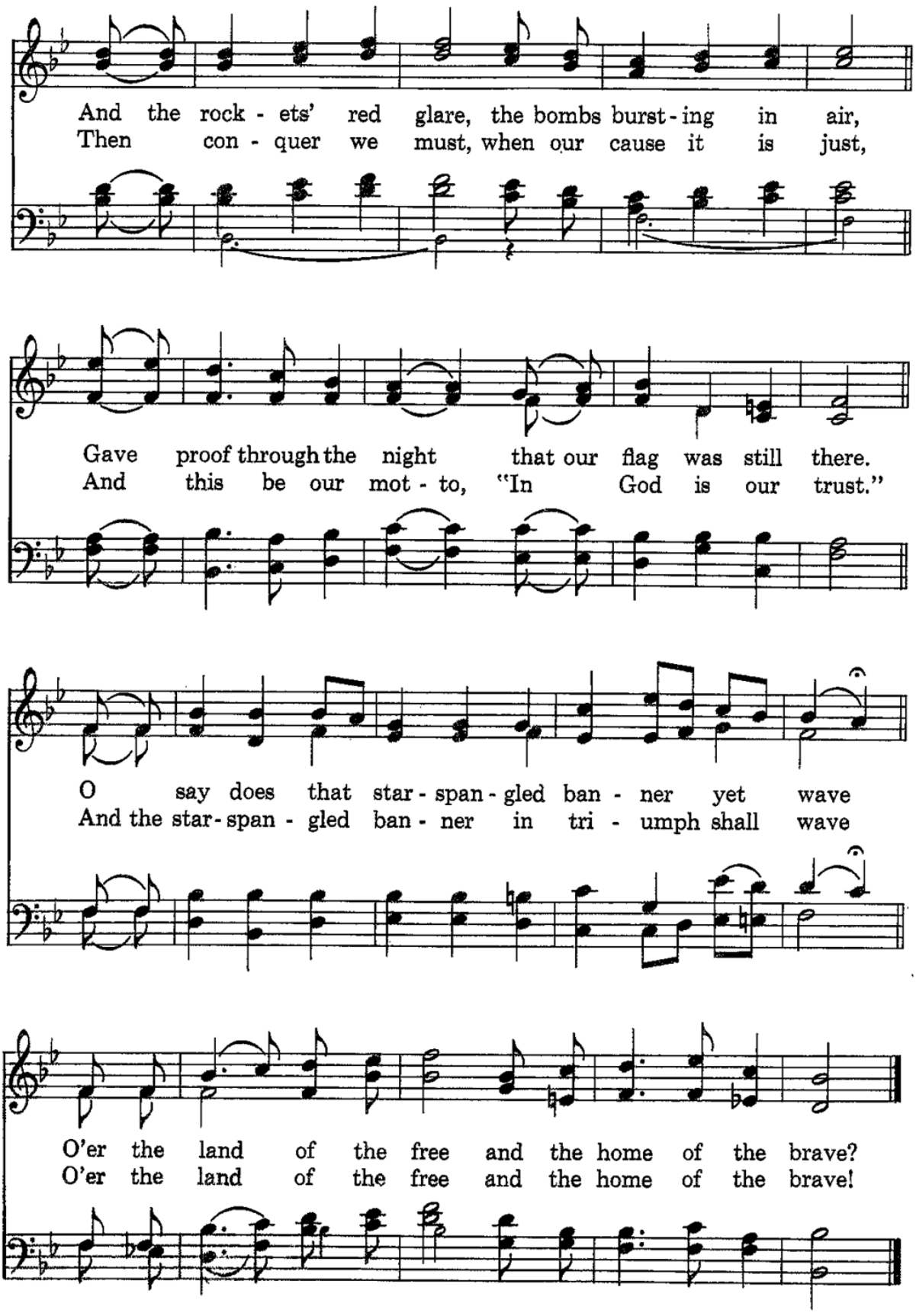
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NOTES FROM THE CHANCEL

We welcome today **MICHAEL BELLOFATTO**, who is no stranger to the **Music at First** roster. The *Ithaca College* graduate has played in Nashua with our **First Brass** for the past two Easters, and was the featured **solo horn** during **Christmas at First 2023**. In addition to serving as principal horn with the *New Bedford Symphony Orchestra* and the *Vista Philharmonic Orchestra*: he has been appointed as principal horn of the *Glimmerglass Opera* and recently played in the horn section of the *New York Philharmonic*. Michael brings to us today, a vast knowledge of repertory for his instrument, both as a soloist and a collaborative musician with organ. All three of this morning's works are "premieres" for our Nashua congregation.

Our corporate worship this morning opens with the **PRELUDE** called **Laudatio** by the Berlin-based composer and hornist **Bernhard Krol**. The solo work opens with a motif which **represents a spiritual question**. What follows is a journey, a **search for understanding**. The question reappears many times, often following the nearly-schizophrenic emotional roller coaster of musical events. **Prayer ensues twice**, the question is asked again in fragmented form, and an authentic cadence brings the listener to the **final answer**. This piece is among the first unaccompanied works studied and performed by horn students and appears as a required piece for competitions. Krol himself, played horn in the *Staatskappele Berlin* (Berlin State Opera) from 1945-62, had a brief stint with the *Berlin Philharmonic* (one season in 61/62) and several years with the *Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra* through 1967.

Composer of today's **VOLUNTARY** (called **Celebration)**, **Randall Faust**, is an American hornist, composer and educator who holds degrees from the *University of Iowa*, *Minnesota State University-Mankato*, and *Eastern Michigan University*. He held appointments at *Auburn University* (Alabama) and *Shenandoah Conservatory of Music* (Virginia). From 1985 - 2008, he was on the summer faculty at the *Interlochen Center for the Arts*. Faust is currently a Professor of Music at *Western Illinois University* and is the hornist of the *Camerata Woodwind Quintet* and the *LaMoine Brass Quintet*. He has received the ASCAPlus Award from the *American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers* every year since 1990.

One tends to forget today that **OFFERTORY** composer **Camille Saint-Saëns** was trained and earned a living – at least in the first part of his life – as an organist. In 1851 he completed his studies at the *Paris Conservatoire* with a first prize in the organ class of François Benoist, before immediately obtaining a position as Titular (principal) organist at the Saint-Séverin church in the *Latin Quarter* of Paris. In the spring of 1853 he moved back across the Seine to the Saint-Mary church near the *Châtelet Theatre* in Paris. It is around this time that he must have composed the **Adagio and Andante** for valved horn and organ.

Composer notes sources (Accessed 20 May 2024):
jamesboldin.com/2011/03/16/bernhard-krols-laudatio-for-solo-horn/
windrep.org/Randall_Faust
corno.de/shop/en/horn-piano/rom390.html

Christian Formation Corner

May 26, 2024 - Today is Trinity Sunday. The liturgical color is white.

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.

Sunday School - There is no Sunday School today due to Memorial Day weekend.

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

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

MEN'S CHOIR TO SING ON FATHER'S DAY- Men of The First Church, get ready to dust off those rusty vocal chords and support worship on Father's Day, June 16th. Rehearsals take place on Thursdays May 30, June 6, and June 13, as well as Tuesday, June 11th at 6:30 PM. Contact Joseph at jolefirowicz@tfcucc.org with any questions.

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WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION- The final event for the Women's Association until the Fall, is our annual Spring potluck and Yankee Swap which will be held on **Monday June 10 at 6 PM in the dining room**. Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert plus a $10 Yankee swap gift. This is always a fun night so be sure to sign up at the Welcome Center.

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SUMMER GOLF FELLOWSHIP- Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, August 14th** at the beautiful Nashua Country Club. Tee times will begin at **8:30 am**, with space for up to 32 golfers. This event is designed to combine the enjoyment of the game with fellowship among church members and friends. The cost is **$90 per person**, which covers green fees. Carts are available for an additional **$25 per cart**. Following the game, we will enjoy a delicious lunch together, with options to order from the Nashua Country Club menu. **Sign up is easy!**
You can register at the Welcome Center on Sundays, or sign up online for your convenience at https://forms.gle/snRC8CoEy1JjErpc9
We look forward to a fun and spirit-filled day on the green!

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HORTON CENTER HAPPENINGS-It's time to start thinking about Horton Center! There are so many exciting programs for youth, adults and many more. **The Horton Center Open House is on June 15th from 11am-4pm**. All are welcome!
Let's fill the mountain for our summer 2024 kickoff!
Find more information at www.HortonCenter.org.
Contact Tivvi Pare with questions: TPare@nhcucc.org.

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Choirs in Worship Next Week
Sunday, June 2, 2024 – Second Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 Chancel Choir

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULES

Sunday, May 26th – Last 8:15 am Chapel Worship

Sunday, June 2nd
10:00 am Worship
Communion Sunday

Sunday, June 9th
10:00 am Worship; Children & Youth Sunday
All Church Picnic following worship,
sponsored by Christian Formation

Sunday, June 16
9:00 am Worship
Father's Day/Men's Choir

Summer Worship Schedule
June 16- September 8, 2024
One Service at 9:00am
In-person Worship & Livestream

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

SUN MAY 26	8:15am	Worship (Chapel), **LAST CHAPEL SERVICE UNTIL 9/29**
	10:00am	Worship, Livestream Radio Broadcast
MON MAY 27		Memorial Day (Office Closed)
TUE MAY 28	2:00pm	Huntington Service
	4:00pm	Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter
WED MAY 29	6:45pm	Chancel Choir
THU MAY 30	9:30am	Newsletter Prep
	10:00am	Thrift Shop
	6:30pm	Men's Choir
SAT JUN 1	10:00am	Thrift Shop
	11:00am	Sisters in Sobriety (dining room)

THE FIRST CHURCH
NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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-MA,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 4:30 PM on the second Monday of the month.

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

THE FIRST CHURCH

One Concord Street * Nashua, New Hampshire 03064 * 603-882-4861
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-noon and 1:00-4:00pm
Friday 9:00am-noon
Visit our web site at www.tfcucc.org

Give online. Scan the QR code to view one of the giving options available.