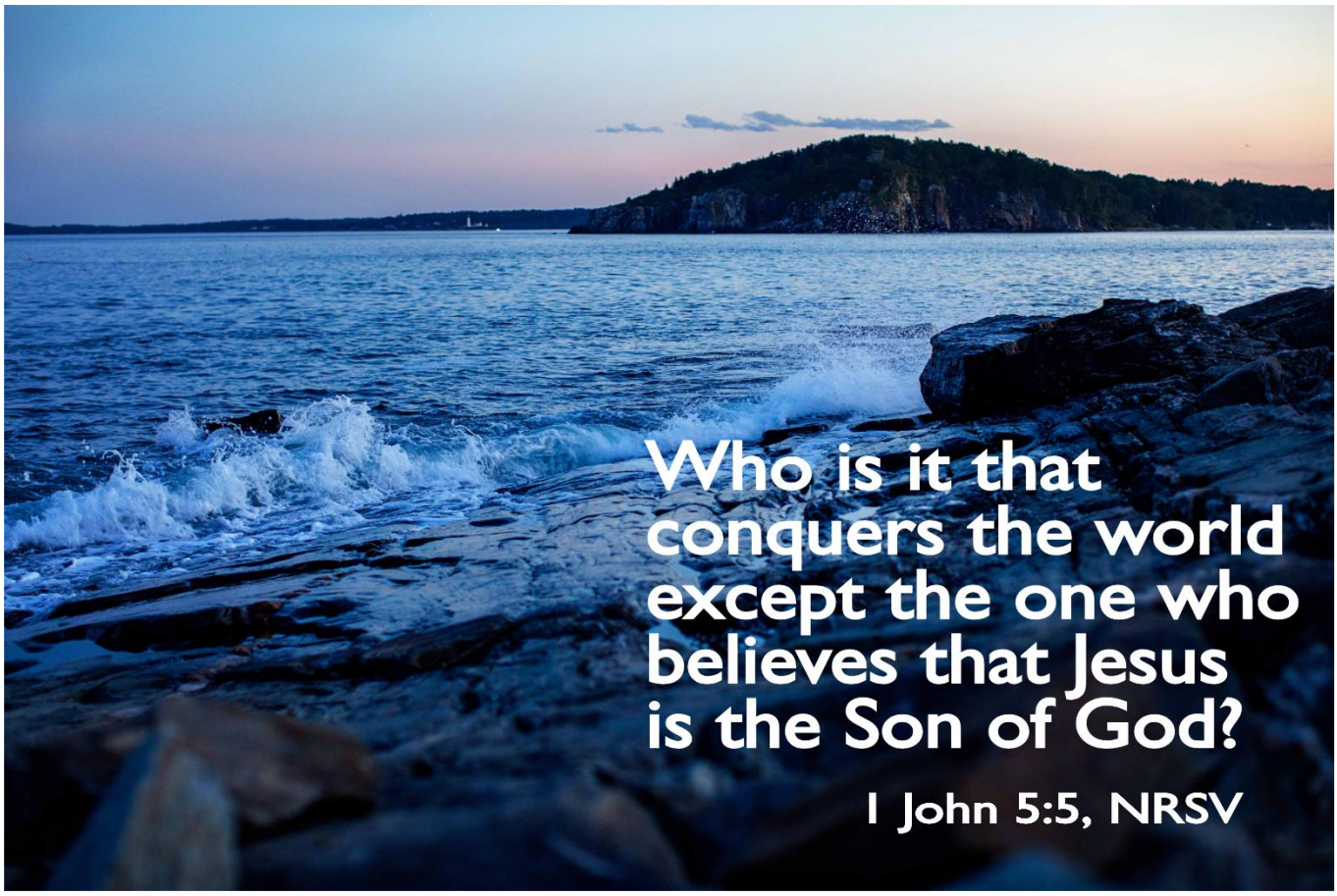

THE FIRST CHURCH

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

Communion Sunday

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 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.

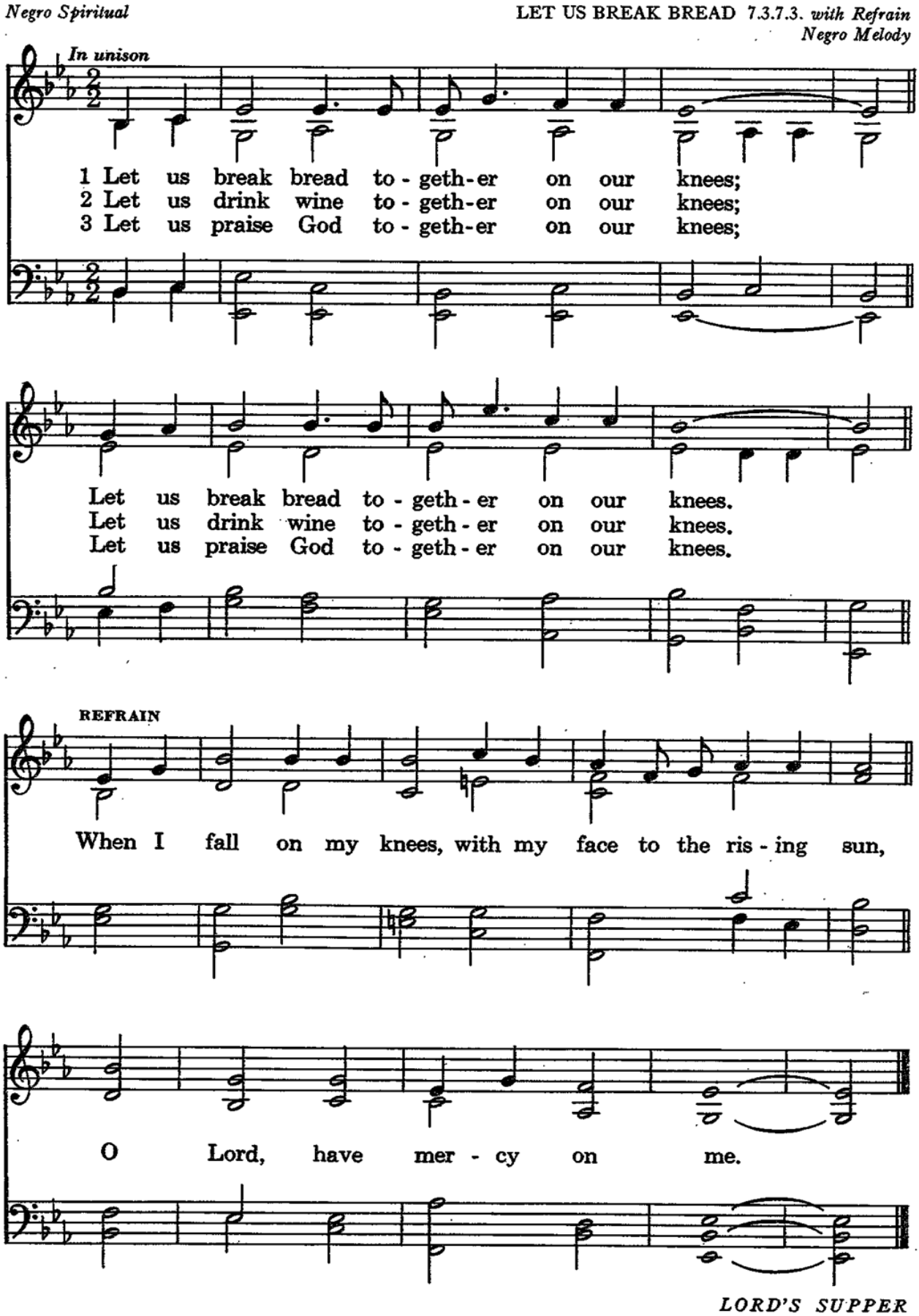
TOWER CHIME Jim Stone

MEDITATION "...Whatever is born of God overcomes the world."
-I John 5:4

PRELUDE *Douze Pièces pour Grande Orgue, Op. 16* L. Boëllmann
viii. Premier Verset de Procession sur l'Adoro Te *(1862 – 1897)*

INTROITUS *The Lord Is In His Holy Temple* F. R. Lund
CHANCEL CHOIR *(*1938)*
Composer-In-Residence

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: May the Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: The Lord is our rock and our stronghold. God is our refuge and the joy of our salvation.
People: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.
Leader: When they call out to God, He answers them; when they turn to Him, He is swift to reply.
People: Exalt the name of God, for the Lord is gracious and kind. He heals the brokenhearted and gives strength to the weary.
All: Give praise to the Lord for He forgives our iniquity and restores our soul. He leads us in the path of righteousness for God's namesake.

CCLI # 3034682

***OPENING PRAYER** (Unison)

Living God of past and future, we praise You for this moment. Fill us with Your joy and empower us with Your Holy Spirit, that our strength may be renewed to sing a new song of Your glory in a world which longs for Your justice and peace. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, in whom we become Your new creation. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI 513**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end, A-men, A-men.

GREETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **1 John 5:1-6**

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

John 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

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

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

SERMON "Overcoming the World" Rev. Dr. Andrew Armstrong

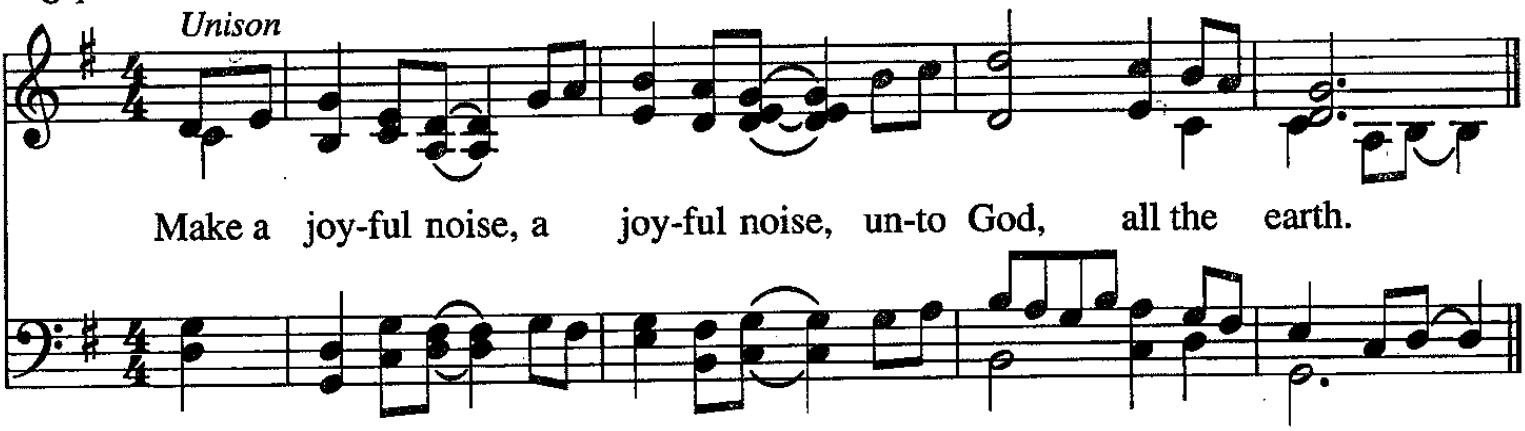
RESPONSIVE PSALM 98

JOSHUA L. GORE, psalmist

The Psalm will be intoned once: The Congregation sings the same Response, and then again at the "℟" indication on the next page.

Response

Antiphon: Marty Haugen, 1994



℟

[1]O sing to God á new song,
for God has done marvélous things.

God's strong hand and hóly arm
have given Gód the victory.

[2]God has made known God's victory,
and has revealed God's vindication
in the sight óf the nations.

[3]God has remembered having steadfast
love and faithfulness to the house
of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have
seen the victory óf our God. ℟

[4]Make a joyful noise to God,
áll the earth;
break forth into joyous song
ánd sing praises.

[5]Sing praises to God with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound
of melody.

[6]With trumpets and the sound óf
the horn
make a joyful noise before the
Rúler, the Sovereign.

[7]Let the sea roar, and áll that fills it;
the world and those who live in it ℟

[8]Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for
joy [9]at the presence of God;
for God is coming to judge
the earth.

God will judge the world
with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity. ℟

Holy Cross ABC vs. 1–5 (Alt.).

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RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (A New Creed)

We are not alone,we live in God's world.
We believe in God:who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us. We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)
Most gracious and most merciful God, we confess to You and to one another that, time after time, we have entered Your presence with countless prayers but with closed hearts. We have raised our voices to praise You, but we've fallen into the same old habits. We have rehearsed Your commandments but disobeyed You. We pray, Lord, that You forgive our lack of faith and pardon our acts of injustice.

A time of silence for personal confession

KYRIE 545 *Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us* J. Merbecke
CONGREGATION JOINS IN SINGING *(1510 – 1585)*

Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Gracious God, grant us the healing that comes from Your presence and the forgiveness of Your all-powerful Word in Jesus Christ.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

OFFERTORY *Grace and Providence* J. Hummel

*(*1980)*

Almighty King!
whose wond'rous hand supports the weight of sea and land;
Almighty King!
whose grace is such a boundless store,
no heart shall break who sighs for more, who sighs for more…

Your providence supplies my food,
And 'tis Your blessing makes it good.
My soul is nourished by Your Word,
Let soul and body praise the Lord.
Let soul and body praise the Lord.

My streams of outward comfort came…
from Him, who built this earthly frame;
Whate'er I want, His bounty gives,
by whom my soul forever lives.

Either His hand preserves from pain,
or, if I feel it, heals again;
From Satan's malice shields my breast,
or overrules it for his best.

Almighty King!
whose wond'rous hand supports the weight of sea and land;
Almighty King!
whose grace is such a boundless store,
no heart shall break who sighs for more, who sighs for more…

Forgive the song that falls so low
beneath the gratitude I owe.
It means Your praise, however poor,
an angel's song can do no more.

Poem by William Cowper *(1731 – 1800)*

***THE DOXOLOGY 515** OLD HUNDRETH LM

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Unison)

Lord of heaven and earth, we long to be truly free. In this act of giving, help us to grasp the freedom that comes from seeing You more clearly, loving You more dearly and following You more nearly. Day by day, give us strength and courage to be Your generous people. Amen

THE COMMUNION

It is a tradition at First Church that we eat the bread and drink the cup together as the people of God renewing our covenant. We serve grape juice, bread and gluten free bread.

INVITATION, SURSUM CORDA AND COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to God.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
Leader: Let us pray.

SANCTUS 550 S. Wesley
(1766 – 1837)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory:
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. A-men.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE

COMMUNION *Kyrie Eleison & Agnus Dei* N. White
from "The Washington Mass" *(*1967)*

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING and 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.

***HYMN 199** *Crown Him With Many Crowns* DIADEMATA
(see next page)

***BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTUS *On Us Bestow Thy Blessing* F. R. Lund

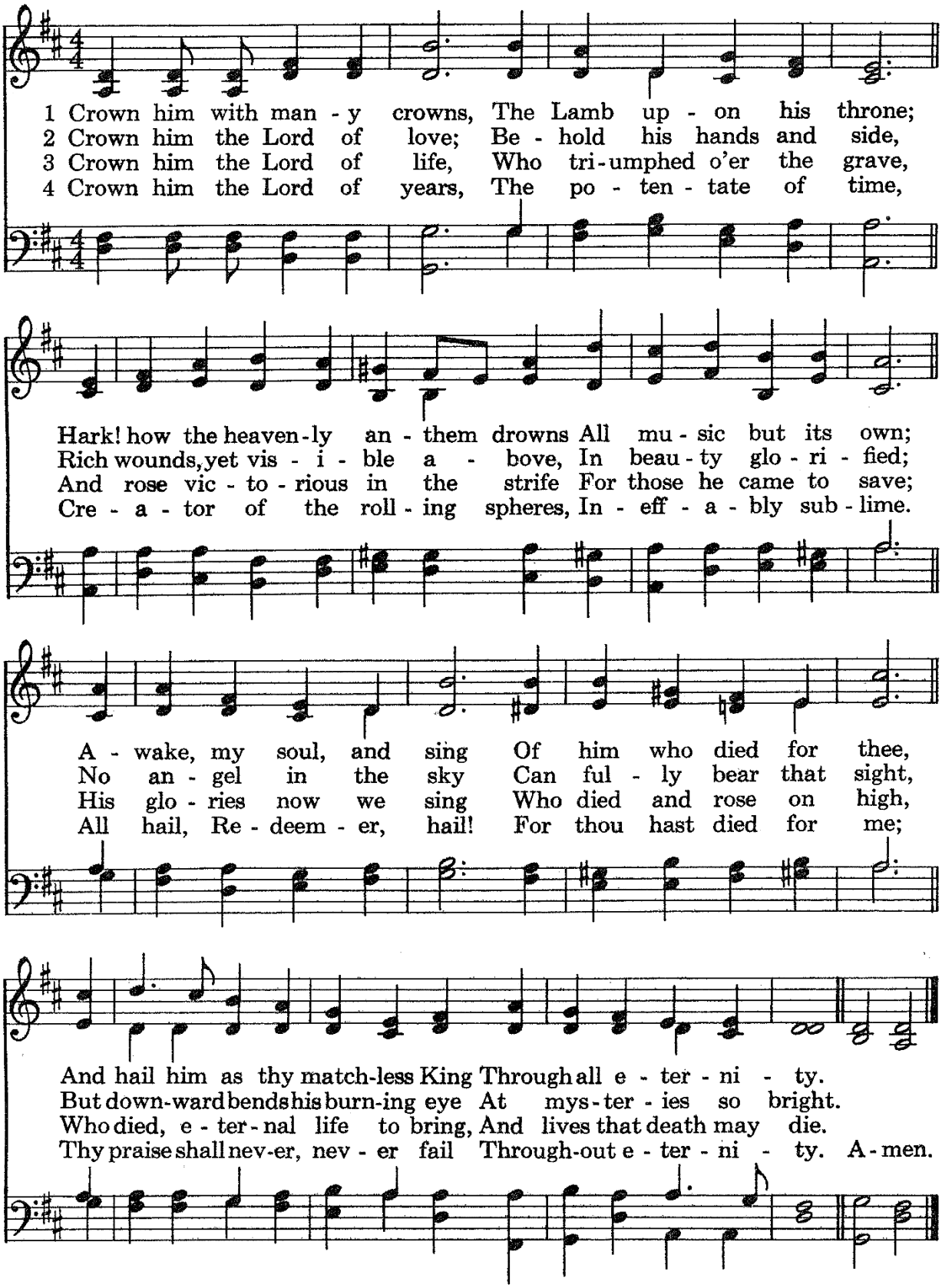
POSTLUDE *Douze Pièces pour Grande Orgue* L. Boëllmann
ix. Deuxième Verset de Procession sur L'Adoro Te

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

AV TEAM: Craig Neth and Don Smith-Weiss
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

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894
Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, St. 3

DIADEMATA S.M.D.
George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

ASCENSION AND REIGN

A higher setting may be found at No. 384

CCLI# 3034682

HEARING AIDS AND LARGE PRINT OF HYMNS AND PRAYERS
ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

Have you remembered The First Church in your will?

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

NOTES FROM THE CHANCEL

Léon Boëllmann died young but still left 68 published works, of which the *Suite Gothique* (Op. 25, 1895) is his most popular. The **Prelude**, the first *Verset* is from a twelve-piece set of works, written in 1890. It uses the Gregorian chant ADORO TE DEVOTE as its main musical theme. Its reflective start with closed Swell box and all 8′ (flue) stops on the Swell, develops to the first solo of the theme on the combined registration of the *Principal* and *Small Open Diapasons 8′* on the Great manual. (There is also a *Grand Diapason*, which is voiced at the volume of similar stops in the *Solo* division of the organ). Its slow build-up climaxes in a restatement of the theme in a majestic manner; using the complete coupled 8′ principal resources *(Fonds)* of both the Swell and Great, with an added foundation of the *Bourdon 16′* from the Swell. The theme unravels dynamically to end as soft as it begins, inspired by the host displayed within the monstrance at a Benediction service.

The corresponding movement used in the **Postlude**, also based on ADORO TE DEVOTE is written in the form of a march: a music style common in festival church services throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Its more fragmented use of the chant theme is exchanged between the hands and pedal, accompanied with a stately but somewhat jaunty march movement.

It should be noted that this piece *only* uses resources on the Swell and Great divisions of the organ (plus Pedal) and ends with only about one-third of the organ's stops and volume potential.

Nicholas White's musical career has evolved over three decades living and working in the United States. He is a Grammy-nominated composer and conductor, as well as a versatile organist, pianist, and singer with experience in many different styles of music. In 2011, Nicholas was appointed to the post of Director of Chapel Music & Organist at *St. Paul's School*, Concord, New Hampshire, where he lives and works all year round, focusing on his compositional work in the summer vacation time. The Chancel Choir offered his **Magnificat** on *Christmas at First* 2023, and offer excerpts from his *Washington Mass* in worship this morning.

Christian Formation Corner

May 5, 2024 - Today is the Sixth Sunday of Easter and 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.

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

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

MAY EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN SERVICES ON SUNDAYS AT 9 AM IN NAUSS HALL

May 5th and 12th -Tanya Prather is the manager of volunteers at Home Health and Hospice Care (HHHC) of Southern New Hampshire. She will be joining us for a two session presentation on hospice and bereavement care. In addition to sharing her own story, she will discuss common misconceptions, life lessons from a hospice perspective, and all the exciting developments at HHHC.

May 19th- Rev. Andy will offer an informational background to the war in Gaza which will provide special emphasis on the historical, religious, and political factors that have fueled a humanitarian tragedy and jeopardized the prospects of peace in the Middle East.

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CHORAL UNION- ALL ARE WELCOME to join in the **Choral Union** project, to gather in a large choir for our **Rite of Confirmation**, which will be celebrated on **Sunday, May 19th at 10AM**. There are **TWO rehearsals required for this project: on Wednesdays, May 8th and 15th at 6:45-8:30PM**. Beautiful choral works by **Howard Helvey** (*O Holy Spirit Praise to You*) and **Dan Forrest** (*Ubi Caritas*) will be offered in praise to the **Great Paraclete** and in celebration of our Confirmands becoming full members of our faith community. ***Won't you join us***? Contact Joseph in the Music Office (603) 882-4861 X15 or jolefirowicz@tfcucc.org for information or to have a music packet ready for this special **Pentecost** project.

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WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION- The Women's Association invites you to join us on **Saturday, May 18, for lunch at the Holy Grail in Epping, NH.** This Catholic church turned Irish Pub is well known and was featured on WMUR NH Chronicle the week before St. Patrick's Day. We will meet at the church at 11 AM that morning and will leave at 11:15 AM. We will be carpooling. Please indicate if you can drive and how many your car can hold. Please also be sure you write down your cell phone number or email address as well. One thing we've discovered is that this group really likes to eat so hope you can join us that day! Sign up at the Welcome Center.

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CHRISTIAN FORMATION COORDINATOR- Christian Formation is seeking a part-time Coordinator to provide support and guidance for the Sunday School. The position is for 10-12 hours per week. The Coordinator will work closely with the teachers, volunteers, Associate Minister, and the CF Board. The Coordinator will organize and manage the CE Office and prepare curriculum materials for the classrooms. In addition, the Coordinator will assist in preparing for and organizing various Sunday School events and programs. If you or someone you know is interested in this position, please contact the Church office at (603) 882-4861. Deadline to submit resume to Church Office: Friday, May 24, 2023 at noon.

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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. 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, May 12, 2024 – Seventh Sunday of Easter
8:15 Joseph R. Olefirowicz, baritone
10:00 Joseph R. Olefirowicz, baritone

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

SUN MAY 5	8:15am	Worship (Chapel)
	9:00am	Hospice and Bereavement Care Study (Nauss Hall)
	9:00am	Christian Formation Volunteer Appreciation (room 15)
	10:00am	Worship, Livestream Radio Broadcast, Sunday School
	11:30am	Confirmation (fireside room)
	3:00pm	First Music Concert
MON MAY 6	9:30am	Bible, Friends & Coffee
	7:00pm	All Boards
TUE MAY 7	4:00pm	Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter
WED MAY 8	8:30am	Men's Group
	6:45pm	Choral Union
THU MAY 9	10:00am	Thrift Shop
	6:30pm	Quilt Guild (dining room)
SAT MAY 11	11:00am	Sisters in Sobriety (dining room)
	12:00pm	Confirmation Retreat (room 15)

OFFICE CLOSED TUESDAY, MAY 14TH (NOON-4PM) - The office will be closed during the afternoon on Tuesday, May 14th for Staff Development.

FIRST MUSIC
FM
CONCERT SERIES 2023 – 24 SEASON

SEASON XVI
SWEET SIXTEEN!

BRINGING the JOY of MUSIC to the GATE CITY

ATLANTIC BRASS QUINTET

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SUNDAY MAY 05

FREE ADMISSION

ALL ARE WELCOME

3:00 PM

THE FIRST CHURCH

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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.