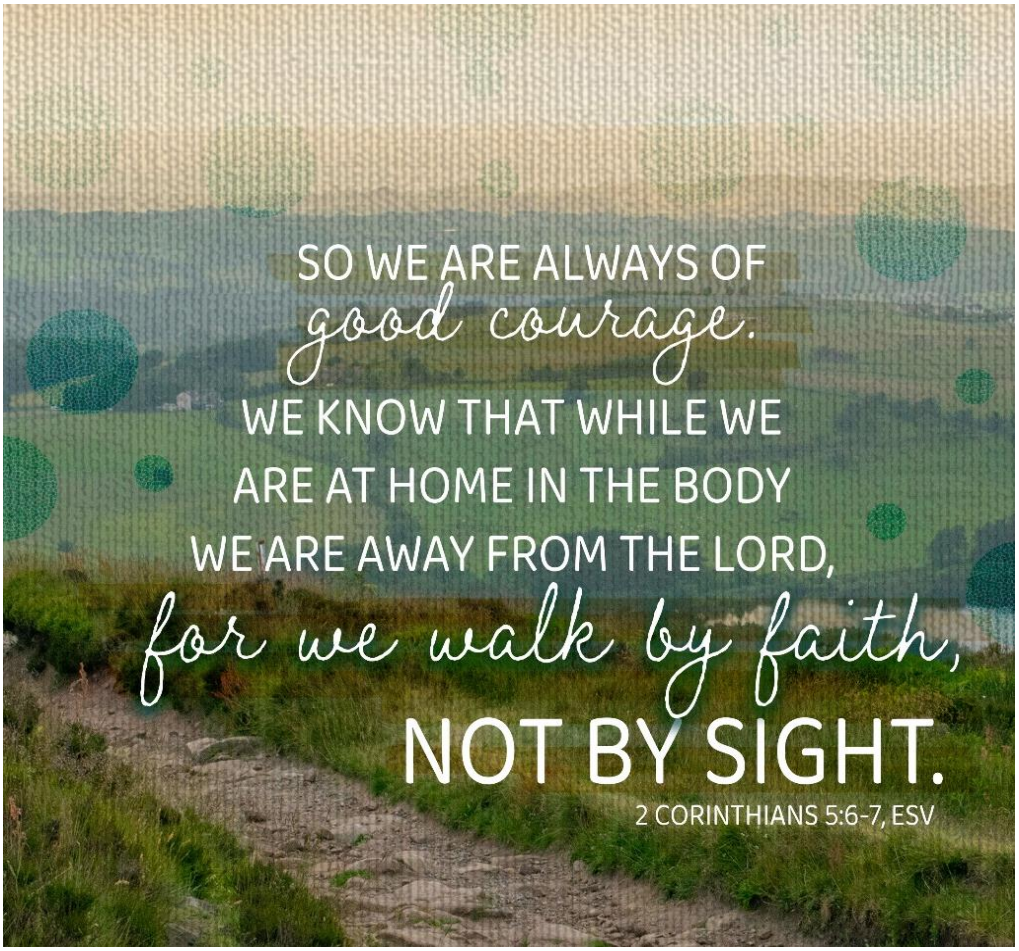

THE FIRST CHURCH

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
Father's Day

June 16, 2024 9:00 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 "We walk by faith and not by sight" 2 Corinthians 5:7

PRELUDE *Dix Pièces* (Ten Pieces) J. Langlais
iv. Flûtes *(1907 – 1991)*

INTROITUS *Holy, Holy, Holy* F. Schubert
MEN'S CHOIR *(1797 – 1828)*
arr. Ehret

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 92 and Psalm 95)

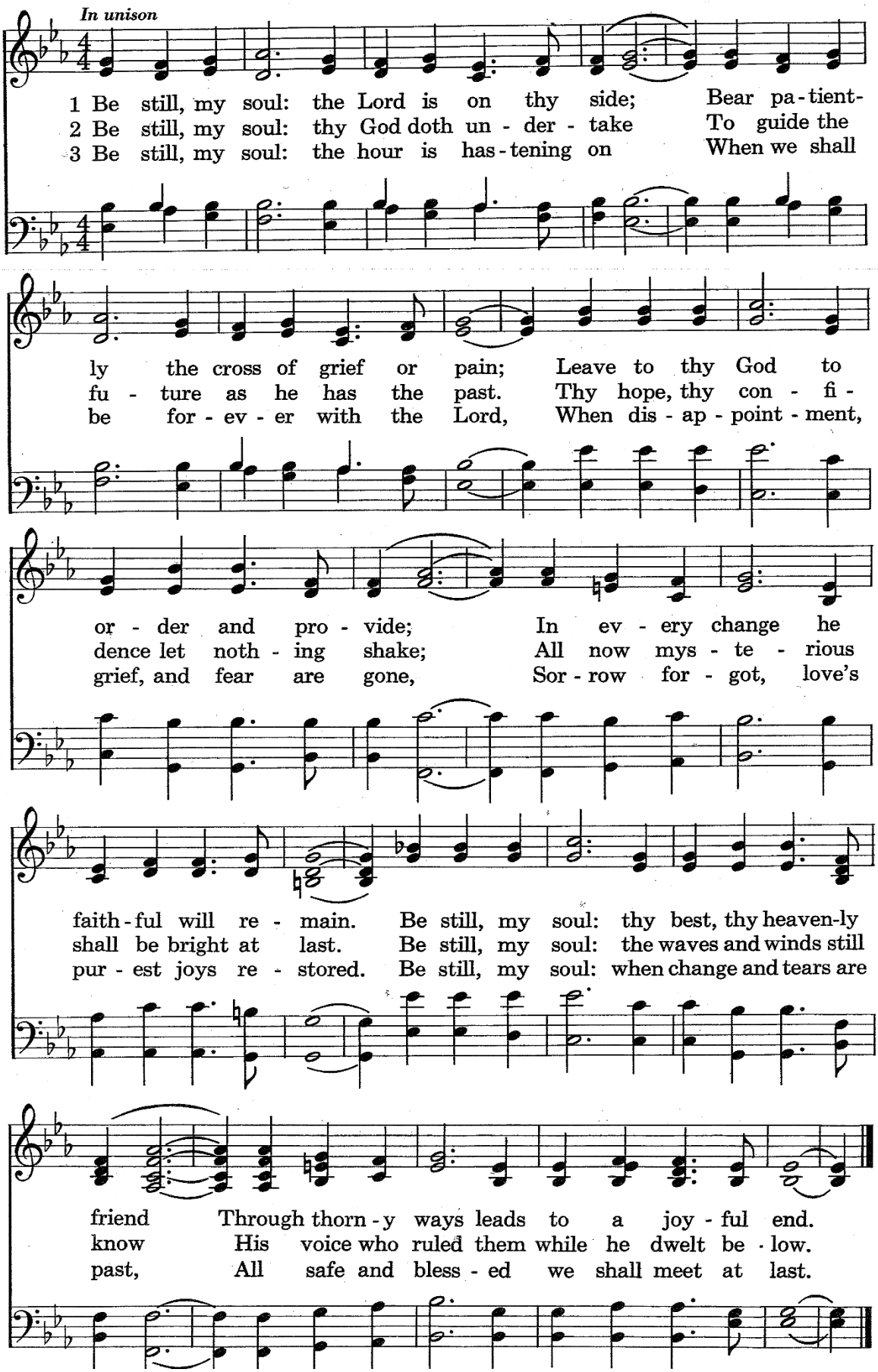
Leader: Come, let us sing to the Lord;
People: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.
Leader: We come before the Lord's presence with thanksgiving;
People: Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!
Leader: It is good to give You thanks, O Lord;
People: To sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your steadfast love in the morning, and Your faithfulness by night,
All: For You, O God, have made us glad by Your work; at the works of Your hands we sing for joy.

***HYMN 77** *Be Still My Soul* FINLANDIA

(see next page)

Be Still My Soul

Katharina von Schlegel, 1697-?
Tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813-1897

FINLANDIA 10.10.10.10.10.10.
Jean Sibelius, 1865-1957

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***CONFESSION** (Unison)

Most holy and Gracious God, You have come to us in Christ and set us free, but still we cling to old ways. We are shallow in faith - trials uproot us, and we fall away. The enchantments of the world and so many worries choke off the life of Your Spirit. We hear Your Word but make little effort to understand. We receive Your gifts but bear little fruit. O God, forgive us, renew us, and tend to our hearts so that Your Word might grow richly in us all by the mercies of Christ in obedience to His will. Amen.

A time of silence for personal confession

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: "There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death." (Romans 8:1-2)
Therefore, I declare to you that by faith in Christ, our sins are forgiven. May God grant us time to amend our lives.

People: Thanks be to the Lord Jesus Christ!

GREETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **2 Corinthians 5:6-10**

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

Mark 4:26-34

He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come." He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

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

ANTHEM *Steal Away* Spiritual
arr. H. Johnson

SERMON "Being Together in Faith"
Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong

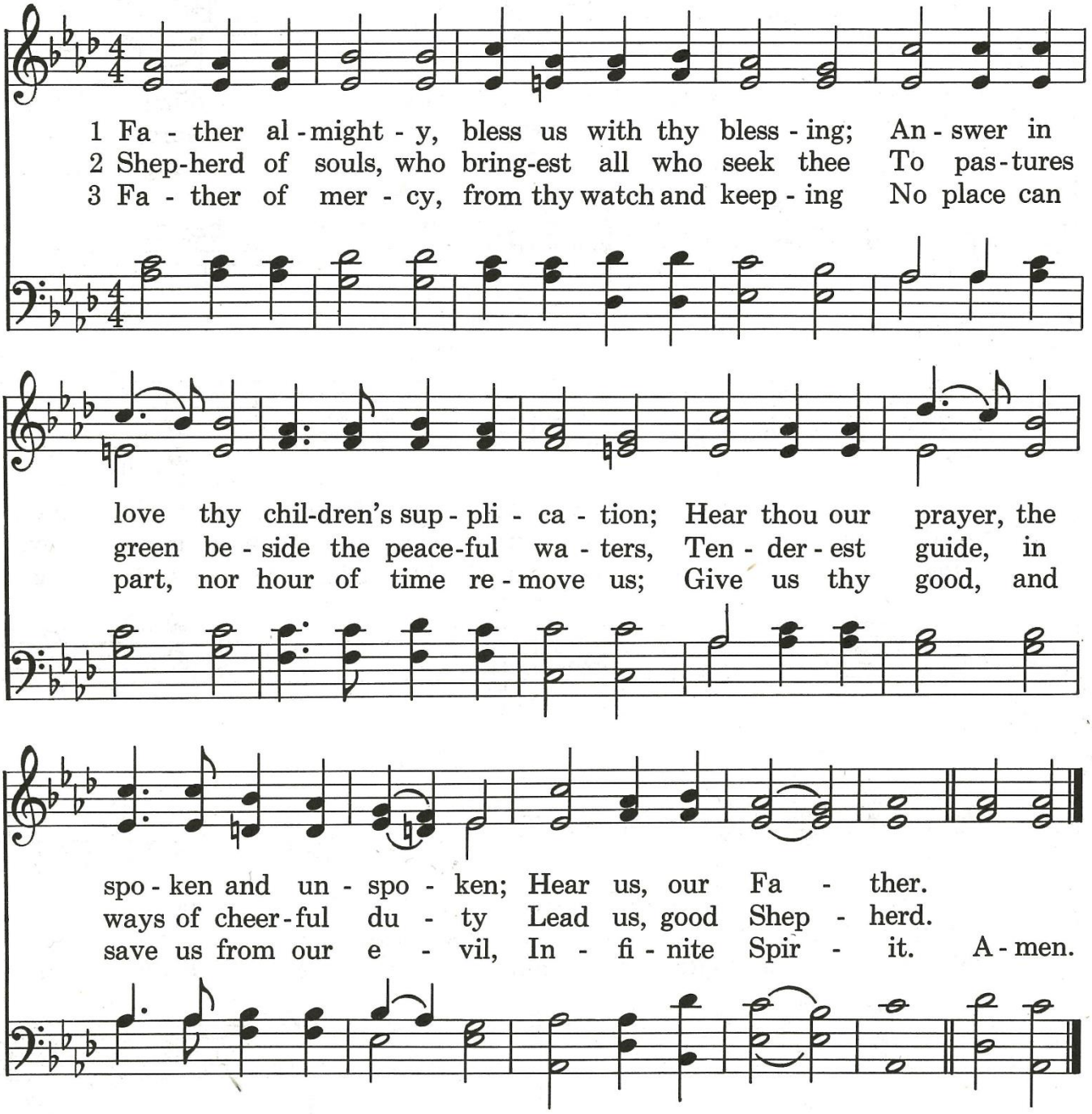
***HYMN 333** *Father, Almighty, Bless Us with Thy Blessing* INTEGER VITAE
(see next page)

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

CENTERING PRAYER (Unison)
Mighty God, to You belong the mysteries of the universe. You transform shepherds into kings, the smallest seeds into magnificent trees, and hardened hearts into loving ones. Bless us with Your life-giving Spirit, re-create us in Your image, and shape us to Your purposes, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Father, Almighty, Bless Us with Thy Blessing

Anonymous
"Berwick Hymnal," 1886

INTEGER VITAE 11.11.11.5.
Friedrich F. Flemming, 1778-1813

PRAYER

CCLI# 3034682

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE *May the Words of Our Mouths* A. Walker
*(*1927)*

OFFERTORY *No Need to Knock* S. K. Albrecht
(Premiere) *(*1954)*
arr. K. Heider
(Arranger-in-Residence)

***DOXOLOGY 515** OLD HUNDRETH LM

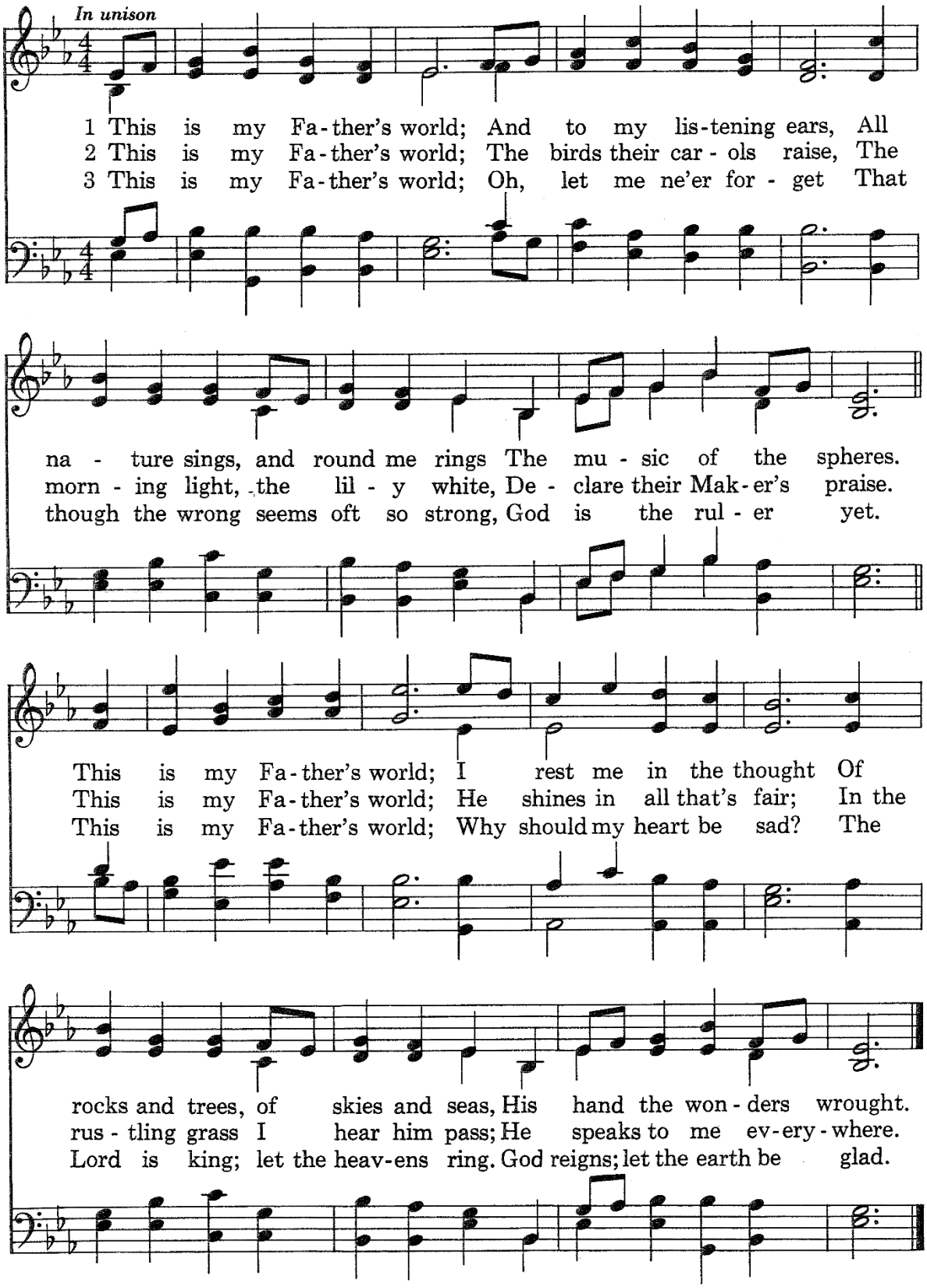
***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Unison)
O God, we recognize that we have been blessed with great abundance. In offering these gifts, may we be strengthened to proclaim Your salvation and live faithfully to Your greater glory. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

***HYMN 485** *This Is My Father's World* TERRA BEATA

This Is My Father's World

Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901, alt.

TERRA BEATA S.M.D.
Traditional English Melody
Adapted by Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852-1930



CHILDREN

CCLI # 3034682

***BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTUS	*Grant Us To Do With Zeal*	J. S. Bach *(1685 – 1750)* *arr. Treharn*
POSTLUDE	*Dix Pièces* (Ten Pieces) x. Pasticcio	J. Langlais

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

AV TEAM: Craig and Dale Neth

LICENSING: CCLI (print) 3034682; CCLI (streaming) 20119862; CCS 12820; OneLicense A-736284

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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

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

Music at First – Father's Day 2024

The First Church of Nashua

Joseph R. Olefirowicz- MA, CAGO - Minister of Music

Men's Choir

TENOR 1

Steve Everitt
Harry Nordyke
Scott Taylor

TENOR 2

Joshua L. Gore
Charlie Morris
Don Smith-Weiss

BASS 1

Ray Crowell
David Hotham
Scott Oglesby
Oliver Shank

BASS 2

Mark A. Cleveland
George Gardner
Ken Heider
Frank Iovieno
Bill Thompson
Bill Thorp

Summer Worship Schedule

June 16-September 8, 2024

One Service at 9:00am
In-person Worship & Livestream
Nursery Care on break through the summer

Summer Office Hours (beginning June 17th)

Monday – Thursday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Friday 9:00 AM – noon

***Rally Day – Sunday, Sept. 15th**

One service at 10:00 am
In-person Worship, Sunday School & Livestream

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: Thank you for your strong giving through this first half of the church year. Because of your faithful commitment to God in carrying out your pledge, we are keeping up with our annual projections! With that said, we know that worship habits change over the summer season, and this can affect our fiscal operations. We are grateful to you for keeping up with your giving these summer months wherever the good Lord leads you!

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NSKS BACKPACKS- It is Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter (NSKS) Backpack time again! Outreach invites you to donate any amount of money to assist with the purchase of the needed school supplies. We will again buy in bulk which helps to fill more backpacks. Our goal is $2500.00, so all contributions will greatly help as we fill 70 backpacks this year. Please send a check made out to First Church UCC, by July 31st with "NSKS BACKPACK PROGRAM" in the memo line. **If you would like to help fill the backpacks with us on Thursday, August 1st at 6:00 pm, in the dining room, please contact Kathie McIntyre**. If you have questions, please contact Kathie McIntyre or the church office. Thank you!

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CYBER SECURITY TRAINING- We will be offering a Cyber Security Training on Tuesday, July 23rd at 1 pm. The training will take place at the Hunt Community Theater, 10 Allds Street, Nashua. All are welcome. Sign up at the Welcome Center.

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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!**

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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Choirs in Worship Next Week
Sunday, June 23, 2024 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00 Susan Cobb, soprano

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

SUN JUN 16		Father's Day
	9:00am	Worship, Livestream, Radio Broadcast
TUE JUN 18	4:00pm	Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter
THU JUN 20	12:00pm	Chamber of Commerce (dining room)
SAT JUN 22	11:00am	Sisters in Sobriety (dining room)

SUMMER MUSIC SCHEDULE 2024

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 16	**MEN'S CHOIR**
June 23	**SUSAN COBB, soprano**
June 30	**JOSEPH R. OLEFIROWICZ, piano**
July 7	**KATIE WEISS, soprano**
July 14	**STAFF PARTY QUARTET**
July 21	**SUMMER CHOIR**
July 28	**STEVE BLUNT, baritone & guitar**
August 4	**DEBBIE NORDYKE, mezzo soprano**
	HARRY NORDYKE, tenor & guitar
August 11	**RICHARD BENEFIELD, organ**
August 18	**JOSEPH R. OLEFIROWICZ, baritone**
August 25	**WOMEN'S CHOIR**
September 1	**MARK A. CLEVELAND, bass-baritone**
September 8	**CRAIG PLUMMER, tenor**

Summer Choir rehearsal:	**Wed. July 17th @ 6:30 pm**
Worship:	**Sun. July 21st @ 9:00am**
Women's Choir rehearsal:	**Wed. August 21st @ 6:30 pm**
Worship:	**Sun. August 25th @ 9:00am**

HORTON CENTER HAPPENINGS

More Info at www.HortonCenter.org

YOUTH

- Week-long and half-week long camp sessions June - Aug.

  Scholarships available!

- Leaders in Training
  June 27-29

- NEW: Pride on the Mountain camp for LGBTQIA+ youth
  August 4-7

- Fall Confirmation Retreat October 4-6

ADULTS

- Adult Women's Retreat "Peace, Faith, and Rejuvenation"
  August 1-4

- Adult volunteer counselors for camp sessions each week

- Wilderness First Aid certification course June 8-9

- Quilting/Crafting retreat September 6-8

EVERYONE

- Opening Work Days - volunteers welcome! May 17-19

- Open House event
  June 15

- Family and Friends Weekend
  Aug. 30- Sept. 2

- Retreat season availabilities for your church/group!

  August - October

Contact Tivvi Pare with questions: TPare@nhcucc.org

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 a 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 1:00-3:00pm
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.