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

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 18, 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 Norma MacKinley-Smith

MEDITATION "Wonder is the basis of worship." -Thomas Carlyle

PRELUDE 4'33" J. Cage

In silence, there is still God's music. (1912 - 1992)

CALL TO WORSHIP

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: Psalm 8

***HYMN 270** *Built on the Rock* KIRKEN DEN ER ET

(see next page)

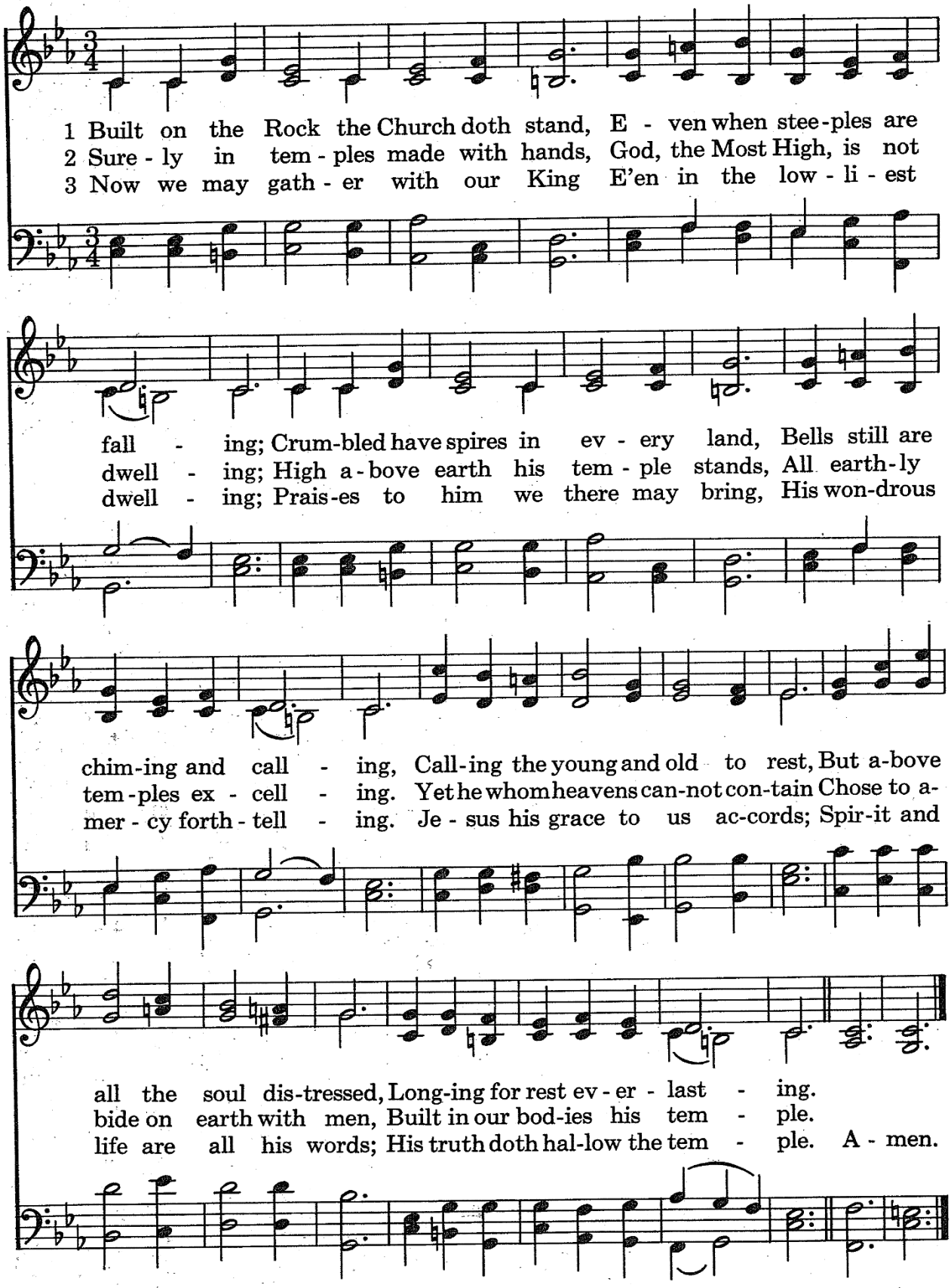
***OPENING PRAYER** (Unison)

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! We gather in awe of Your handiwork, mindful of the privilege to share this moment together in Your presence. You have crowned us with glory and honor, and entrusted us with Your creation. As we worship, may our hearts reflect the wonder of Your love and the joy of this fellowship. Help glorify Your most sacred and holy name. Amen.

Built on the Rock

Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872
Tr. Carl Döving, 1867-1937, alt.

KIRKEN DEN ER ET 8.8.8.8.8.8.8.
Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812-1887



NATURE AND UNITY

CCLI # 3034682

GREETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING **Luke 7:1-10**

After Jesus had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. A centurion there had a slave whom he valued highly, and who was ill and close to death. When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave. When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy of having you do this for him, for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us." And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed. For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it." When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

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

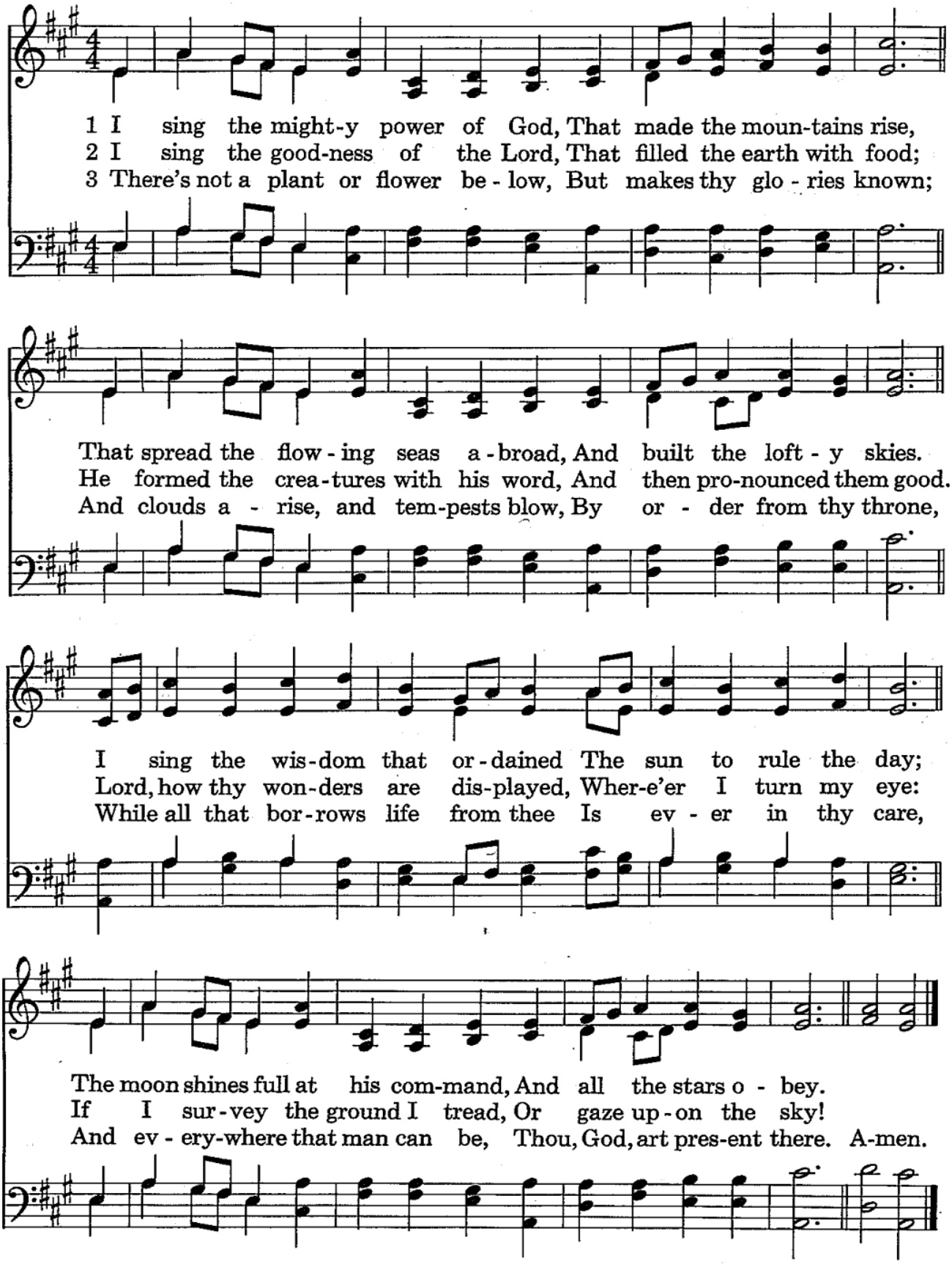
SOLO *To You* D. Zschech
JOSEPH R. OLEFIROWICZ, baritone *(*1965)*

SERMON "What Gets Your Attention?"
Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong

*HYMN 68 *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* ELLACOMBE

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

ELLACOMBE C.M.D.
"Gesangbuch," Wirtemberg, 1784



A higher setting may be found at No. 459

WORKS IN CREATION

CCLI # 3034682

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

LITANY (Based on Psalm 19)

Leader: The skies tell the story of God's glory,
People: The vastness of space speaks of His wonders.
Leader: Each day whispers His grace,
People: Each night reveals His wisdom.
Leader: Without words, creation communicates,
People: Its message reaches every corner of the earth.
Leader: The sun rises with joy, like a runner eager for the race,
People: It moves across the sky, shining with God's brilliance.
Leader: God's teachings are perfect, giving life to our souls,
People: His guidance is true, filling us with understanding.
Leader: His commands bring joy to our hearts,
People: His words light up our path.
Leader: In every creature, we see God's delight,
People: In every part of creation, His love is displayed.
Leader: Let us join with all creation,
People: Celebrating the goodness and glory of our God. 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 *The Risen One* T. Fettke
*(*1941)*

***DOXOLOGY 515** OLD HUNDRETH LM

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Unison)

Heavenly Father, who loves us like a mother and walks with us as a brother in Christ, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude for the countless gifts You have bestowed upon us. We thank You for your abundant blessings, for life, love, and the resources we often take for granted. As our understanding deepens, we realize that You are patiently waiting for us to be faithful stewards of these gifts. Help us to respond with dedication, using all You have given us to serve others and glorify Your name. Amen.

***HYMN** *Blessed Assurance* ASSURANCE
(see end of worship)

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *On Golden Pond* D. Grusin
*(*1934)*

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

AV TEAM:	Lee Hauenstein 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.

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

Flowers in the pulpit this morning are given by Susan Testa, in loving memory of her husband, Peter.

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.

Summer Worship Schedule

June 16-September 8, 2024

One Service at 9:00 am
In-person Worship & Livestream
Radio Broadcast on WSMN FM 95.3 & AM 1590
Nursery Care on break through the summer

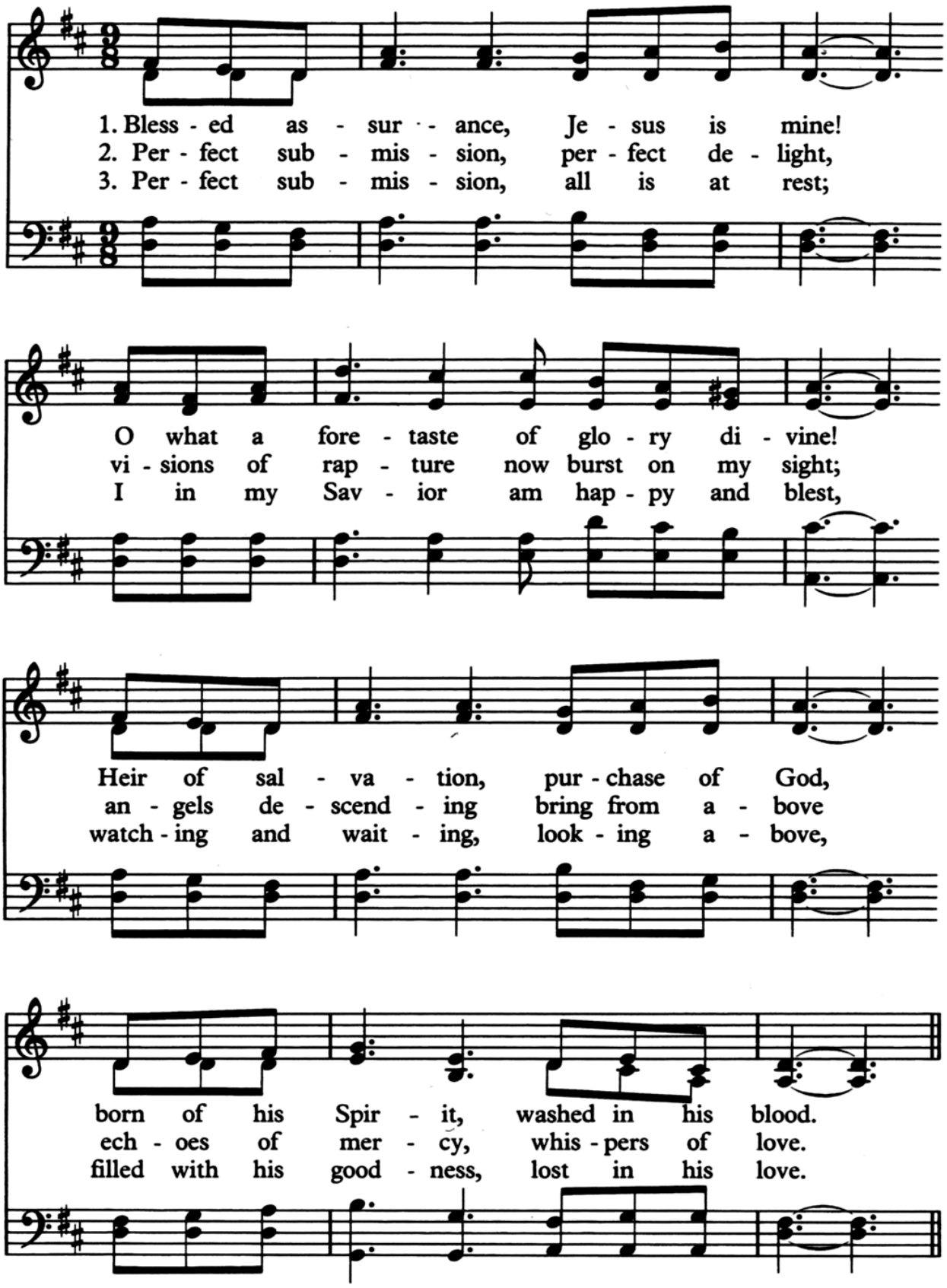
Summer Office Hours

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

Blessed Assurance



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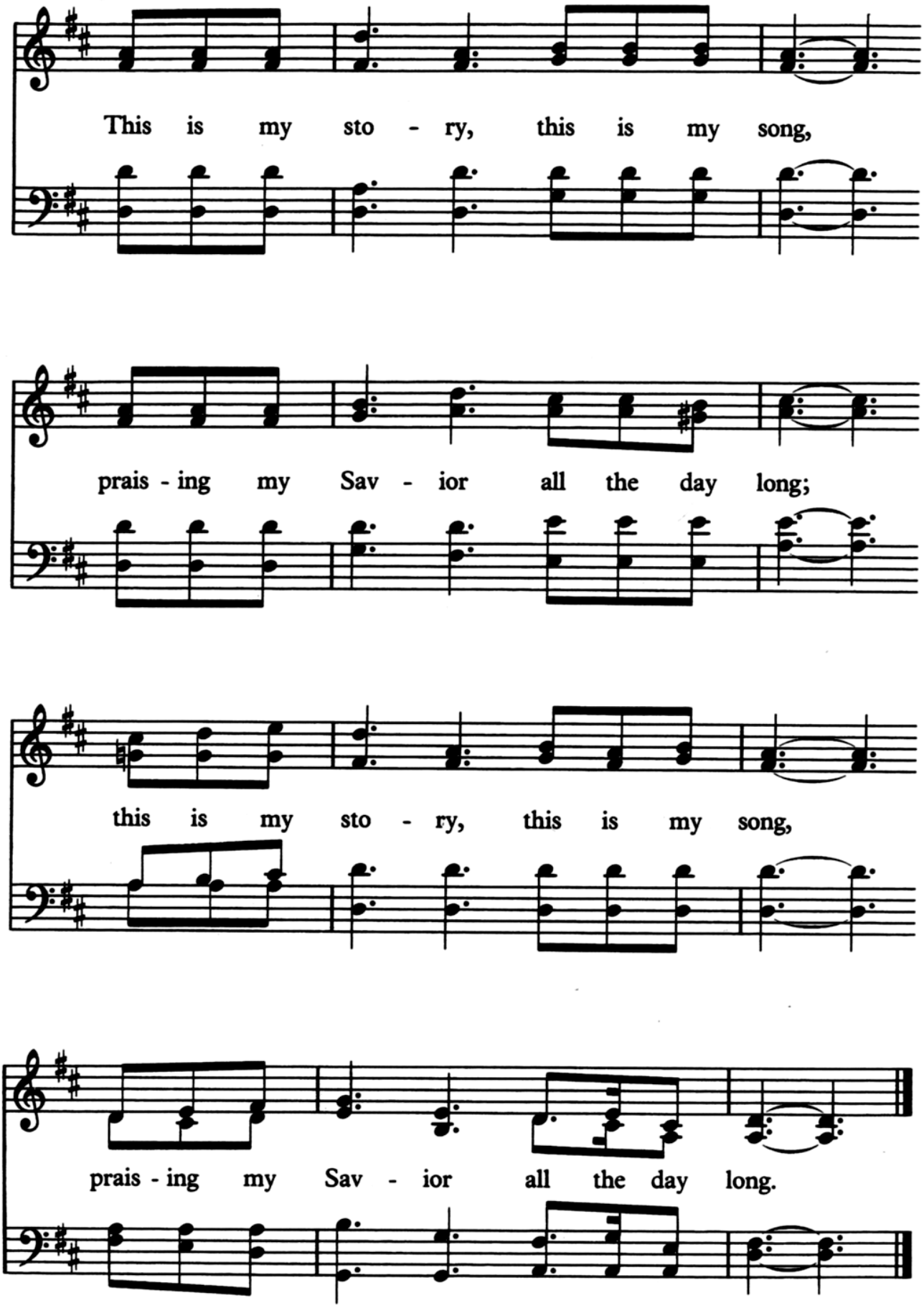
WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby, 1873
MUSIC: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873

ASSURANCE
9 10.9 9 with Refrain

Refrain



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Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

SUMMER WORSHIP BUSY BAGS- During the summer months, when the Sunday School is on hiatus, the children are welcomed to join their parents in worship. "Busy Bags" will be available to assist in keeping children engaged. Pick up a bag at the Welcome Center or seek out an usher and they will assist you.

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WOMEN'S CHOIR- We are gathering an *SA* (soprano, alto) ensemble**.** Join us for rehearsal on Wednesday, August 21st at 6:30 pm. Sing in worship on Sunday, August 25th at 9:00am. We look forward to seeing you! Please contact Joseph with any questions, (603) 882-4861 x15.

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SPECIAL MEETING: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH –The Search Team presents Rev. Nancy Haynes for Associate Minister. On Sunday, Sept 8th, at 9am, we invite you to join us as we seek to fill our Associate Minister position. Rev. Nancy will preach, and immediately following the worship service, we will hold a special meeting with the purpose of voting Rev. Nancy into this full time, permanent position. More information will be following in an all-church mailing. We highly encourage all who can attend to come to this important service to help vote Rev. Nancy in as our full time, permanent Associate Minister.

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FRIENDS OF FIRST MUSIC- Fundraising for The First Music Concert Series XVII is approaching! Please consider donating to this integral music outreach to our community and region. We thank our long-time donors for their continued support and could always use new donors to keep our programming alive! Support the vision which has already brought 16 seasons of fine music to the greater Nashua community. Want to become a ***"Friend of First Music?"*** – ask us how! Please contact jolefirowicz@tfcucc.org or call (603) 882-4861 X15 for more information.

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THE THANK YOU PROJECT (TYP) ANNUAL WATER WALK TAKES PLACE SAT. SEPT. 14 AT GREELEY PARK FROM 8:30AM TO 12 NOON. Help us bring clean water to those in need. **DID YOU KNOW?** - 63 million people (3 in 10) in Nigeria lack access to clean water. 115 people in Africa die every hour from diseases linked to contaminated water. The TYP is changing this reality. The TYP has built six water wells [at a cost of $35,000/well + $720 annually ($60/month) in maintenance costs FOR EACH WELL]. Please help us complete well #7!
Visit the TYP Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/TYPWaterWalk
or our website https://thankyouproject.org/ to learn more.

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Music in Worship Next Week
Sunday, August 25, 2024 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00 Women's Choir

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

SUN AUG 18	9:00 am	Worship, Livestream, Radio Broadcast
MON AUG 19	10:00 am	Karen Mercer Service
TUE AUG 20	4:00 pm	Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter
WED AUG 21	6:30 pm	Women's Choir Rehearsal (music room)
SAT AUG 24	11:00am	Sisters in Sobriety (dining room)

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE FIRST CHURCH OF NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE HAS BEEN CALLED BY PRUDENTIAL TO BE HELD IN THE SANCTUARY ON

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 9AM WORSHIP SERVICE FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE BELOW:

Pursuant to Article VI, Section 3 of the By-Laws, to consider and vote on whether to call the Rev. Nancy Haynes to the position of an Associate Minister of this Church.

This notice is made pursuant to Article V, Section 2 of the ByLaws.

Date: August 14, 2024

Charles G. Morris, Clerk
First Church of Nashua, UCC

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**

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

FIRST MUSIC

FM

CONCERT SERIES 2024 – 25 SEASON

SEASON XVII

Bach to Broadway and Beyond

BRINGING the JOY of MUSIC to the GATE CITY

LIZ CALLAWAY LIVE!

Broadway Legend, EMMY Winner,
TONY & GRAMMY® Nominee

Alex Rybeck, piano

SUNDAY OCT 20

CANTATA 61

SUNDAY DEC 22

CHRISTMAS at FIRST

Chancel Choir of The First Church
First Music Chamber Strings
Janet Poisson, soprano • Kyle Masterson, tenor
Joshua L. Gore, bass • Joseph R. Olefirowicz, conductor

4th Advent Worship Services

CELLO MASTERS II

Roric Cunningham, cello
Nadia Yamauchi Azzi, piano

SUNDAY MAR 09

SUNDAY APR 06

POPS FOR PIPES XIII

Marek Kudlicki, organ

AMERICAN SONGBOOK

Jazz Vocalist Michelle Mailhot
Mark Shilansky Quartet

SUNDAY MAY 04

UNDERWRITTEN BY THE FRIENDS OF FIRST MUSIC

THE FIRST CHURCH
NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

1 CONCORD STREET • NASHUA, NH
FIRST-MUSIC.ORG • 603.882.4861

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
Christian Formation Coordinator, *Amanda Steere*, asteere@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 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 The First Church please seek out the individuals wearing colored nametags; they are members of the various boards and committees.

INFORMATION

The 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 The 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. The 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 Tuesday. All information for the monthly newsletter must be in the office by 4:00 PM on the second Monday of the month (August through May).

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
www.tfcucc.org

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