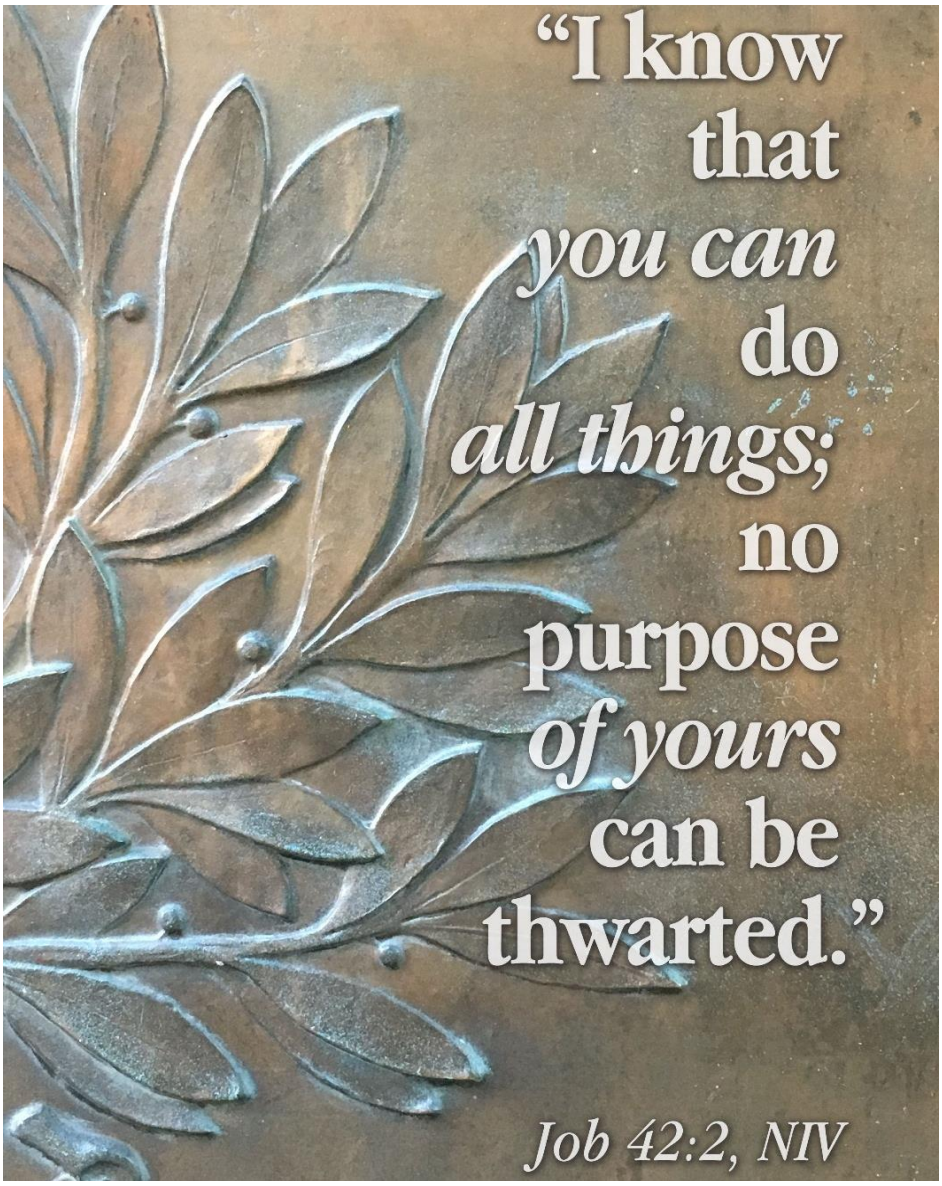


THE FIRST CHURCH

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

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

October 27, 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 "Open my eyes that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me. Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!" – Clara H. Scott, 1895

PRELUDE *Mach's mit mir, Gott, nach deiner Güt'* J. G. Walther *(1684 – 1748)*

Do with me Lord, according to Thy will

Theme
Variation 1 – Flutes over Oboe
Variation 2 – Sesquialtera over Gamba
Variation 3 – *Cantus Firmus* in the Pedals

Mach's mit mir, Gott, nach deiner Güt'	Do with me Lord, according to Thy will
Hilf mir in meinem Leiden.	Help me in my suffering
Ruf ich dich an, versag mir's nicht	If I call to Thee, fail me not
Wenn sich mein Seel soll scheiden	When does my soul then part
So nimm die, Herr, in deine Händ:	So take it, Lord, in Thy hand
Ist Alles gut, wenn gut das End	All is well, when well is the ending

CALL TO WORSHIP Inspired by Psalm 126

Leader: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

People: Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Leader: When the Lord raised Jesus from the dead, we were like those who dream.

People: Now our mouths are filled with laughter, and our tongues with shouts of joy.

Leader: The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoice.

People: May all those who have sowed in tears reap with shouts of joy.

All: We worship a good and holy God.

***HYMN 363** *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* EIN FESTE BURG

(see next page) *(1517)*

***OPENING PRAYER** (Unison)

Gracious and loving God, we gather before You this morning, hearts full of questions, burdens, and hopes. We come seeking Your presence in the midst of our busyness, longing to be reminded of who we are and whose we are. Open our eyes to Your grace that is always with us, whether we notice or not. Open our ears to the whispers of Your Spirit, calling us deeper into Your love. And open our hearts, so that in this hour of worship, we may encounter Your peace and be transformed by Your abiding presence. Amen.

GREETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

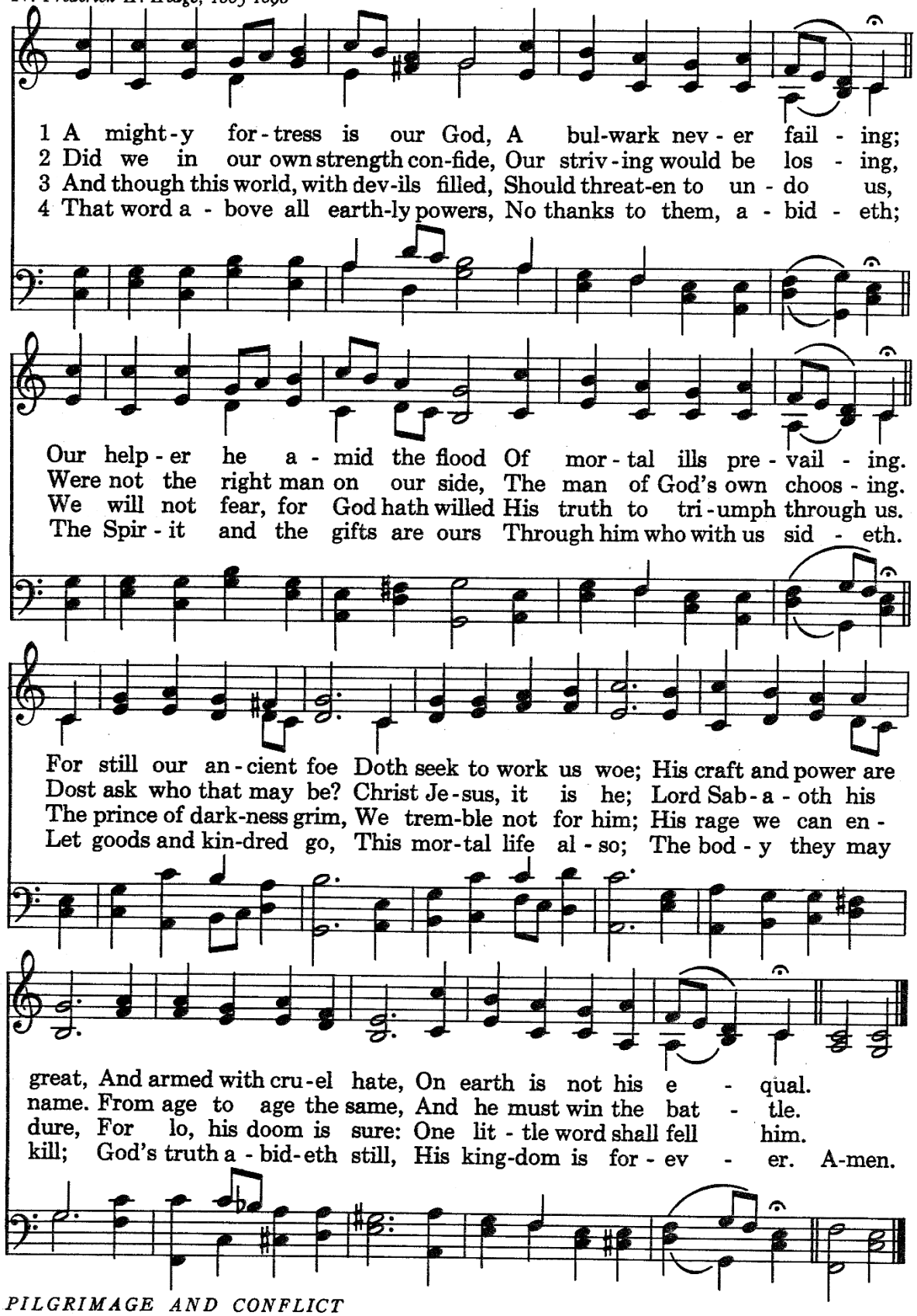
WITNESSING STEWARDS Jeanne Chaloner and Ryan Fauteux

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Based on Psalm 46
Martin Luther, 1483-1546
Tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1805-1890

EIN' FESTE BURG 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.6.7.
Melody by Martin Luther, 1483-1546



PILGRIMAGE AND CONFLICT

CCLI # 3034682

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Job 42:1-6, 10-17**

Then Job answered the LORD: "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me.' I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes." And the LORD restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends; and the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then there came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and they ate bread with him in his house; they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him; and each of them gave him a piece of money and a gold ring. The LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. He named the first Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. In all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job's daughters; and their father gave them an inheritance along with their brothers. After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children, and his children's children, four generations. And Job died, old and full of days.

Mark 10:46-52

They came to Jericho. As he, and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

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 *Bell Joyance* E. J . Lorenz
DECIBELLS *(1907 – 1996)*

SERMON "Crying Out Empty" Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong

***HYMN** *Renew Thy Church, Her Ministries Restore* ALL IS WELL
(see next page)

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

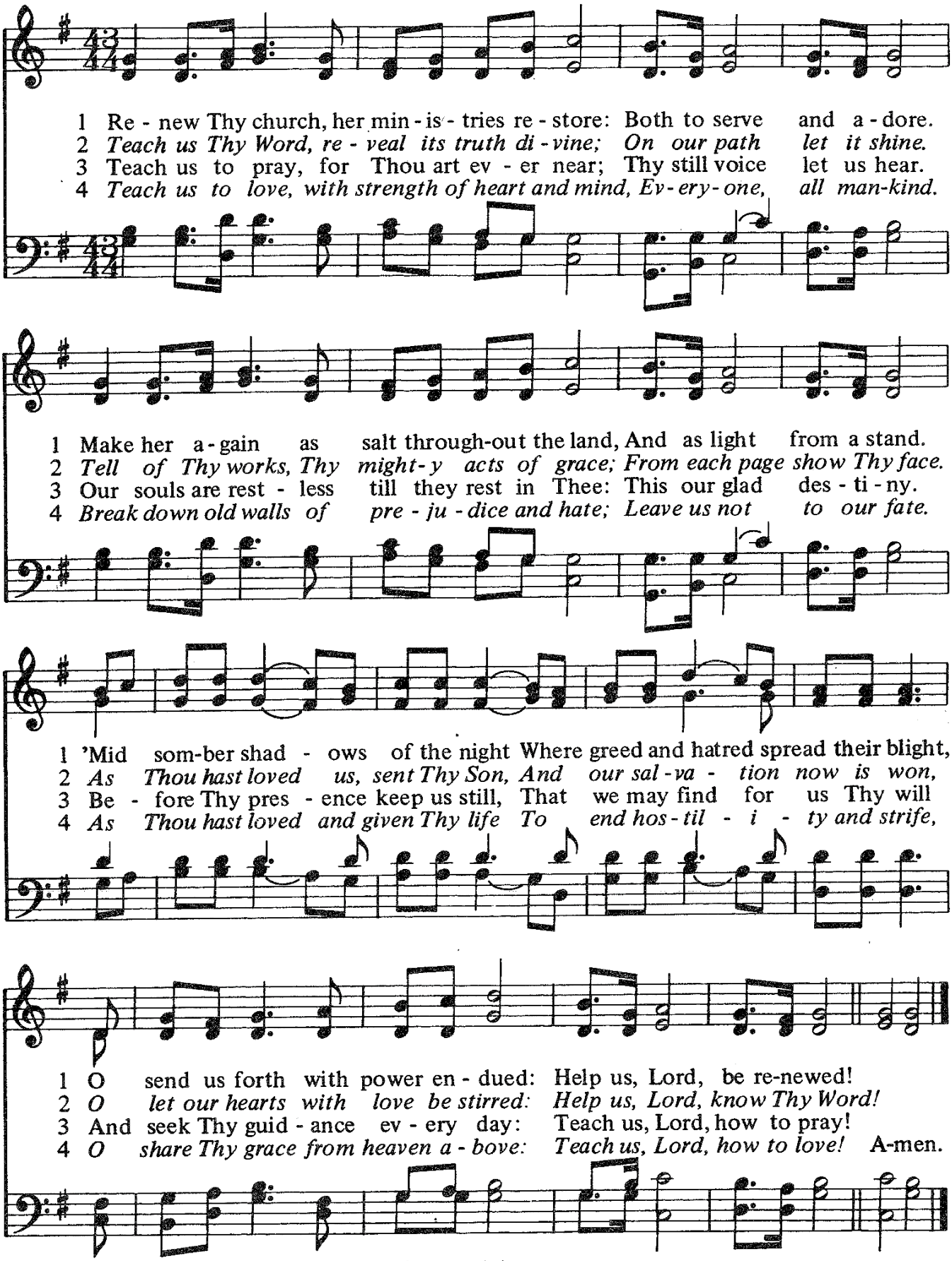
CENTERING PRAYER (Unison)
Faithful God, You draw near to us in our joy and in our grief, in our hope and in our despair. When we are bowed down, You raise us anew. We turn to You now in search of Your healing touch. God of compassion and love, prepare us for prayer as You open our eyes, dispel our fears, and show us the real life You have to offer. We pray this in the name of Jesus. 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.

Renew Thy Church, Her Ministries Restore

Words copyright 1960 by Kenneth L. Cober. Used by permission.

Hymns for the Family of God ©1976. Used by permission. CCLI#3034682

PRAYER RESPONSE *Lobe den Herren, der mächtigen König…* LOBE DEN HERREN
(1665)

Lobe den Herren	Praise to Lord!
den mächtigen König der Ehren	The mighty King of the honors.
Lob' ihn, o Seele	Praise Him, o soul
vereint mit dem himmlischen Chören	unified with the heavenly choirs.
Kommet zuhauf!	Come to me!
Psalter und Harfe, wacht auf,	Psaltery and harp, awaken,
Lasset den Lobgesgang hören!	Let the songs of praise be heard!

OFFERTORY *The Blind Man Stood on the Road and Cried* Spiritual
arr.Clary
CRAIG PLUMMER, tenor
HARRY NORDYKE, tenor

***DOXOLOGY 515** OLD HUNDRETH LM

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Unison)
God, we offer these gifts in hope and anticipation. We pray that they may be used to plant a tree that we will not sit under, whose fruit we will not eat, whose branches will not warm our hearths. Let our gifts go forth to be a blessing to others for future generations, we pray, in Jesus Name. Amen.

***HYMN 29** *Now Thank We All Our God* NUN DANKET
(see next page)

***BENEDICTION**

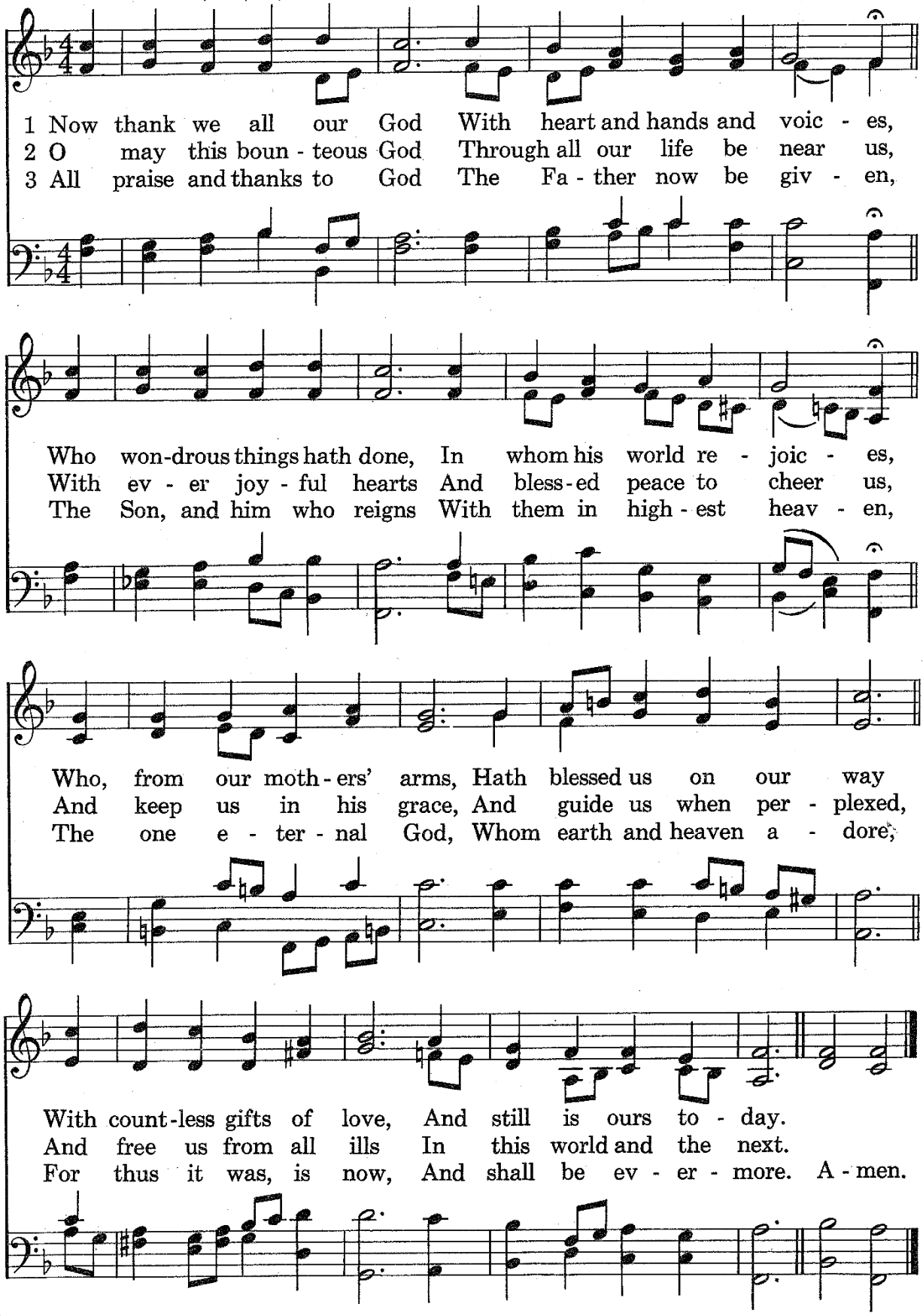
BENEDICTUS *Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott* M. Luther
(1483 – 1546)

Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott	A solid fortress is our God
Ein gute Wehr und Waffe	A good defense and weapon
Er hilft uns frei aus aller Not	He helps us free from our distress
Die uns jetzt hat betroffen	That us now has affected
Der alt böse Feind	The old, mean enemy
Mit Ernst er (es) jetzt meint	With seriousness he now means (to conquer)
Gross Macht und ganz viel List	With power and much cleverness
Sein grausam Rüstung ist	His cruel armor is
Auf Erd' ist nicht sein gleichen.	on earth: nothing within it's comparison

Now Thank We All Our God

Martin Rinckart, 1586-1649
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

NUN DANKET 6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6.
Melody by Johann Crüger, 1598-1662



ADORATION AND PRAISE

CCLI # 3034682

POSTLUDE *Nun danket alle Gott* S. Karg-Elert
Now Thank We All Our God *(1877 – 1933)*

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.

STAFF SINGERS: Janet Poisson, soprano; Brianne Biastoff, alto; Zoe Harper, tenor; Joshua L. Gore, bass

---

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27th

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

Christian Formation Corner

October 27th, 2024 - Today is the Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost 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 - are available at the welcome center for when children choose to remain in worship.

NOTES FROM THE CHANCEL

This morning's opening to worship (Prelude), is a chorale prelude based on a 1628 hymn tune by **Johann Hermann SCHEIN** *(1586 – 1630),* penned by Thüringian (German) composer **Johann Gottfried WALTHER,** a cousin of Johann Sebastian Bach! The opening theme is played on a soft stop on the Choir Division, called a *"Quintadena"* – This gentle stop has overtones of the 5th sounding on each pitch, giving it its name. The first variation places gentle flute stops of the organ against a bass line using the *Oboe* stop from the Swell Division. The second variation utilizes a "composite" sound (the *"Sesquialtera"*) using a flute unison sound, colored by two harmonic partial stops, the *"nasard"* and the *"tierce"* against a robust Gamba sound of the organ's *Violoncello* stop on the Enclosed Great Division. The final variation uses the organ's Open Great division, in a sparkling *Principal Chorus and Mixture*, with a bold Pedal Reed bringing out the hymn tune's theme (or *"Cantus Firmus"*).

We welcome **DECIBELLS** back into our Music at First worship rotation this morning! The bell choir could always use new music-reading enthusiasts that would like to learn about the art of hand bell ringing. – Please see Joseph or a member of the choir for more details about their work. Rehearsals are on Thursdays, 6:45-8:15pm.

Composer of their piece this morning, **Ellen Jane Lorenz** ,composer, music publisher, and authority on handbells. She was editor in chief of the Lorenz (music) Publishing Company from 1940 to 1963. She studied composition with Nadia Boulanger in Paris from 1931 to 1932. She was 71 years old when she earned her Ph.D. Lorenz also composed music which she did under multiple names including Allen James, Rosemary Hadler, and Peter Jerome. She also helped make handbells popular in choirs in the United States.

The rousing **POSTLUDE** this morning, is penned by **Sigfrid Karg-Elert,** organist and composer, one of the principal German composers for organ of his generation. Karg-Elert studied at the Leipzig Conservatory, and in 1919 he became a member of the staff there. His early works reflect the influence of composers such as Claude Debussy, Aleksandr Scriabin, and Arnold Schoenberg, but he later developed an original style that melded chromaticism and expanded harmonies with Renaissance and Baroque polyphony. The full resources of our Anderson Memorial Organ bring a full-on German "Romantic" period treatment to the beloved hymn *Now Thank We All, Our God.*

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

MORNING BIBLE STUDIES – We have two morning bible study sessions each week. Bible, Friends and Coffee meets on Monday mornings at 9:30 am. The Men's Group meets on Wednesday mornings at 8:30 am. We look forward to seeing you there!

THRIFT SHOP-Fall and winter clothing for women and children can be left in the bin at the Courtyard entrance. Please make sure they are clean Looking for sizes: Girls 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Boys 3-4, 5-6. If you would like to work in the shop on a Thursday, contact Beth Bartlett.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION- All women of the church…members and friends…are invited to our very special Women's Association CATERED brunch on Saturday, November 16, at 11:30 AM in the dining room. This is our way of letting you know how much we appreciate you and how thankful we are for you! If you have never been to one of our events, this is the time!! Come and be waited on! Even the board members will be able to participate!!! Following the brunch, we will have Oonagh Williams, a dynamic speaker, award-winning chef/instructor, consultant and cookbook, author to entertain you with her expertise on healthy eating. Please sign up at the Welcome Center.

FIRST FOLK – The next First Folk project will be taking place soon. If you are interested in joining, there will be a rehearsal on Oct. 27th (Today) at 11:25 am Music Room. ***Sunday, November 10th rehearsal at 9:15 am, sing in 10 am worship. Note change of date.**

UCC HURICANE RELIEF EFFORTS- The impact of Hurricane Helene and Milton are widespread and devastating. We continue to be in touch with our UCC Conferences as they work to contact local congregations and become aware of their needs. Please use the following link to donate:
Hurricane Helene relief - United Church of Christ (ucc.org)

THANKSGIVING BASKETS AND WHITE DOVE/SILVER DOVE PROGRAMS 2024- Over the past couple of years our protocol for the Thanksgiving baskets and White Dove/Silver Dove programs has changed. Originally we were doing gift cards due to the pandemic and I know some of you were disappointed we weren't doing it the "old" way….choosing families and actually buying for them. The agencies have told me that their clients actually prefer the gift cards both for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The gift cards for Thanksgiving need to be collected by **November 15th**, so the recipients will have time to do their shopping before Thanksgiving. Gift cards for the White Dove/Silver dove Christmas program are needed by December 11th. Contact Carol Butler (information in the directory) with any questions.

A REMINDER FROM NOMINATING - If you're currently on an elected board or committee, please let us know if you plan to serve another year by either: 1) sending an e-mail message to nominating@tfcucc.org, 2) calling the church office, or 3) contacting one of our members, Jocelyn Henning, Charlie Morris, or Todd Whitney. To help us in 2025 planning, please give us your 'yes' or 'no' answer as soon as possible but no later than November 1st. Thanks!

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION- Sunday, October 27th at 11:30 am in room 15. New Members will be received on Sunday, November 3rd during the 10 am worship service.

FAMILY PROMISE-The First Church Team who prepare Family Promise dinners monthly could use some extra helping hands. We prepare dinners for the third week of every month at Family Promise. We are looking for helpers who can cook, drop off part of a meal and/or help serve meals. If you think you would like to learn more or to help out, please contact Beth Raymond 603-595-0053. Thank you!

CROP WALK- CROP/Hunger Walk: Sunday, November 3 @ Noon. **Our First Church Team is looking for walkers, pledgers and donors.** Pledge envelopes for walkers are available at the First Church Welcome Center along with information for those who want to support our walkers by donating or pledging.

You may also pledge support for our team online by:

1. Going to **Greater Nashua CROP Hunger Walk**
2. Click Donate at the top.
3. Enter our team name First Church Nashua (UCC) Walkers.
4. Add your generous donation.

https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/first-church-nashua-ucc-walkers

MAD HONORS VETERANS PROJECT

Are you a Veteran? Are you still servicing or have a family member in service. Your First Church Junior High Make A Difference (MAD) students would like to honor you. By giving everyone a chance to read your service info., and be able to thank you in person.

A bulletin board will be placed in Fellowship Hall with your information and picture. The board will be up from Sunday Nov. 10, through Thanksgiving weekend. We look forward to filling up our board!

Thank you,
The students of MAD

1. Name
2. Branch of Service
3. Rank
4. Deployment
5. Years of Service
6. Picture while in Service

Please submit the above information to the Christian Formation office by November 10th.

Choirs in Worship Next Week

Sunday, November 3, 2024 – Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

8:15 Staff Singers

10:00 Chancel Choir

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

SUN OCT 27	8:15 am	Worship (Chapel)
	9:00 am	Study (Nauss Hall)
	10:00 am	Worship, Livestream
		Radio Broadcast, Sunday School
	11:25 am	First Folk
	11:30 am	New Members (room 15)
MON OCT 28	9:30 am	Bible, Friends & Coffee (Ladies Parlor)
TUE OCT 29	4:00 pm	Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter
	7:00 pm	Politics of Christian Nationalism Forum (dining room)
WED OCT 30	8:30 am	Men's Group (Ladies Parlor)
	9:30 am	Newsletter Prep
	6:45 pm	Chancel Choir
THU OCT 31	10:00 am	Thrift Shop
	10:00 am	Pastoral Counseling Service (room 10)
	6:45 pm	Decibells
SAT NOV 2	10:00 am	Thrift Shop
	11:00 am	Sisters in Sobriety (dining room)

FALL STUDY SERIES

Curious Minds want to know!

Reading the Bible again for the First Time

OCT 6

The most popular book in the world. Learn how to read the Bible and Protect yourself from the abuses of Biblical idiocy.

A Cosmic Conversation

OCT 13

Are faith and science destined to be eternal rivals like the Red Sox & Yankees? Faith, Science and the Sacred Search for Truth.

Are only Christians Saved?

OCT 20

What does it mean to be saved? What about people from other religions? Are all religions saying the same with different words?

Power and the end of Religion and Politics as we know it.

OCT 27

What happens when religion and politics both choose to exist for the sake of power alone? It's the end of religion and politics as we know it. Is that where we are today? Let's talk.

Ghost Stories, Paranormal & Palm Readers

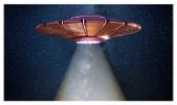
NOV 3

What has Christian Faith to say about Astrologers, Palm Readers, Clairvoyants and other dabblers in the "dark arts".

Do you believe in Miracles?

NOV 10

Join us as we explore the nature of miracles, how they might be present in our lives, and how faith shapes our experience of the extraordinary.



The Bible, UFO's & Aliens

NOV 17

There have been many sightings of UFOs over the ages; more recent encounters even found their way into the annals of Congress? What does our faith say about such things?

What's for Supper?

NOV 24

Does your diet matter to God? Are there any Biblical guidelines for Christians as to what's on the menu?

1 Concord Street, Nashua NH | 603-882-4861 | tfcucc.org | info@tfcucc.org | 9 am Nauss Hall

THE FIRST CHURCH
NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

STAFF

Senior Minister, *Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong*, aarmstrong@tfcucc.org
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 1:00-4:00pm,Friday 9:00am-noon

www.tfcucc.org