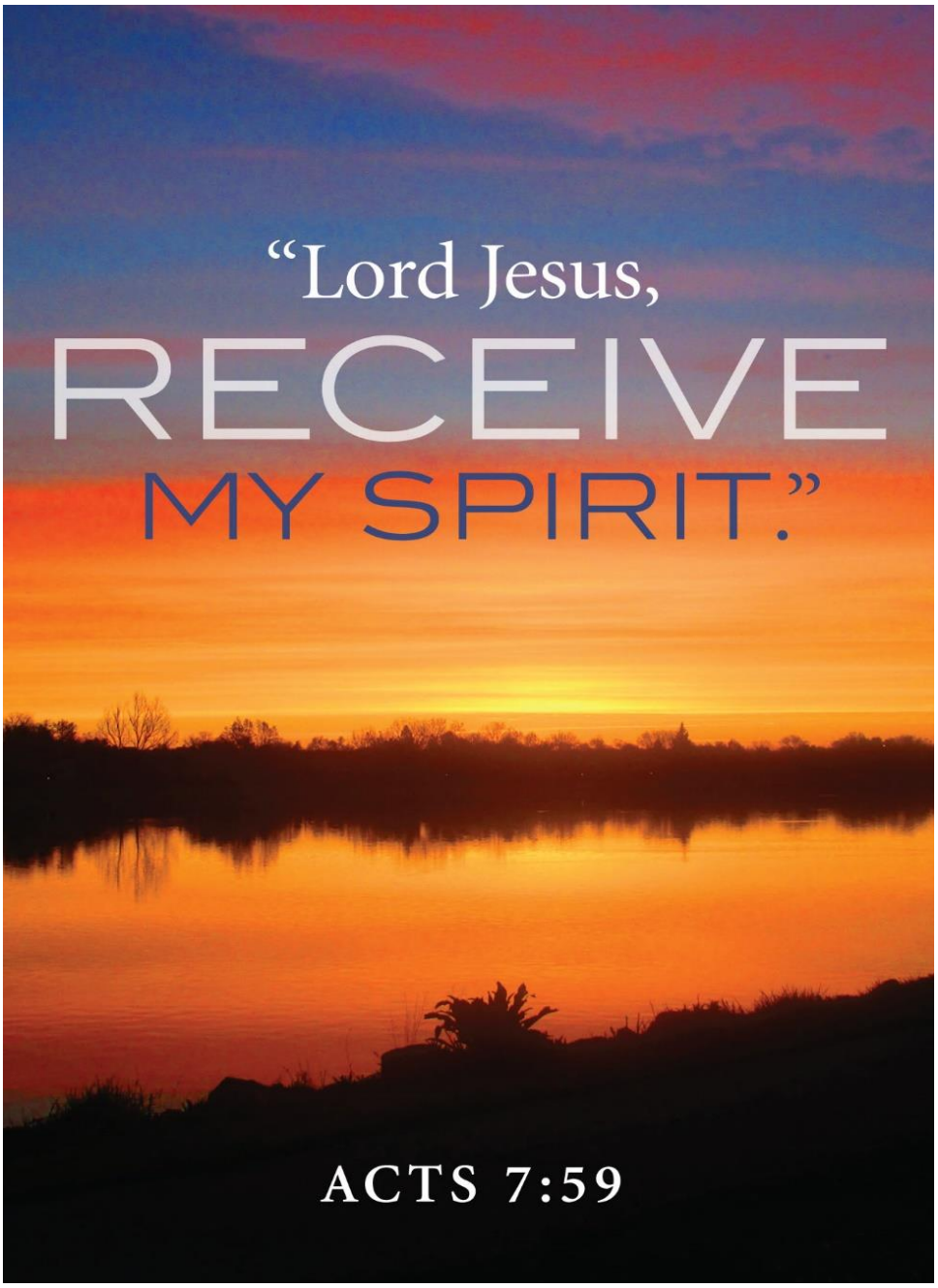


THE FIRST CHURCH

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter/Ascension Sunday

May 25, 2025 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 "Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you get neither." - C. S. Lewis

PRELUDE *Two Meditations* M. Dupré *(1886 – 1971)*

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 67)

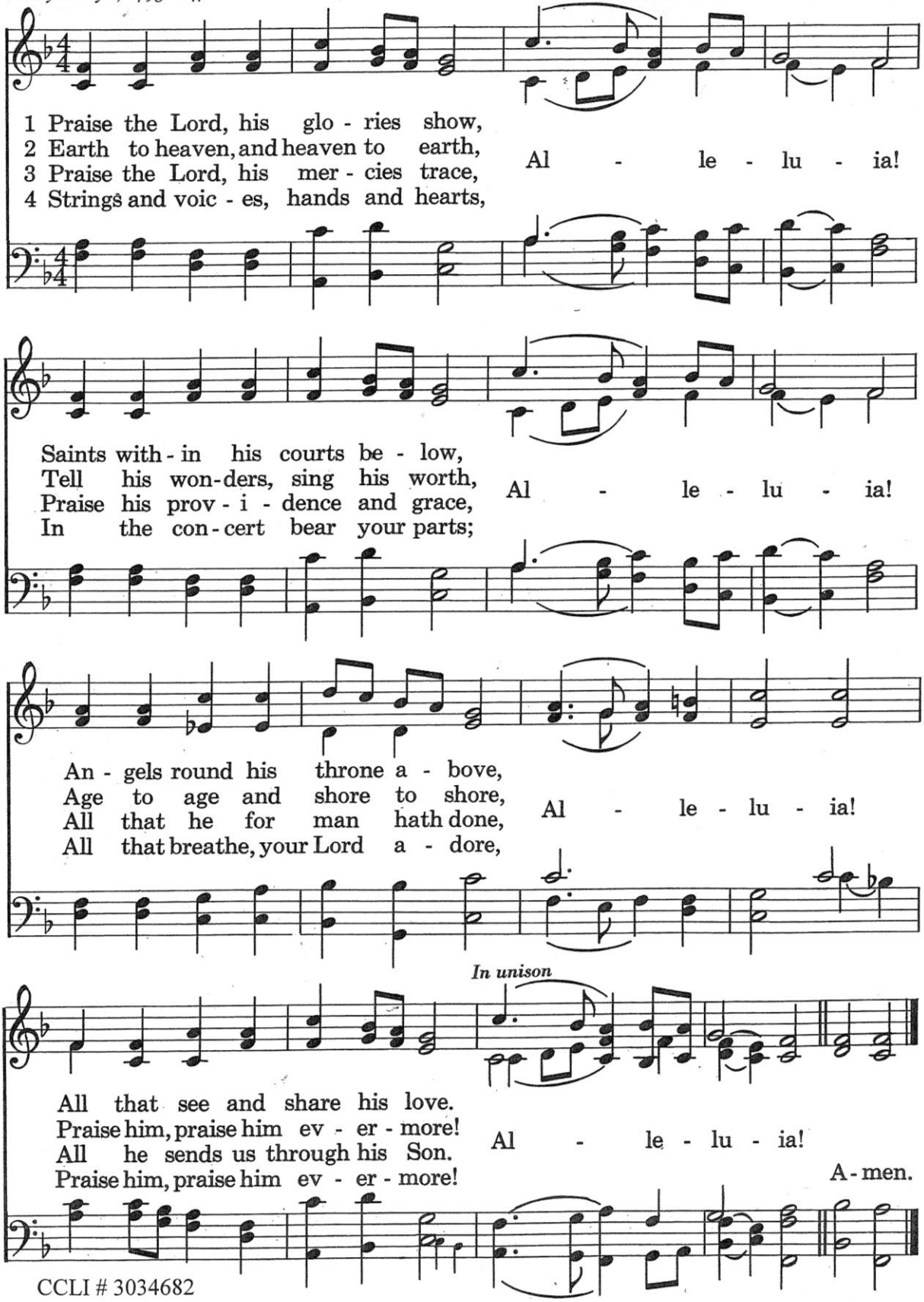
Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You.
People: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.
All: Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!

***HYMN 19** *Praise the Lord, His Glories Show* LLANFAIR

(see next page)

Praise the Lord, His Glories Show

Based on Psalm 150
Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847

LLANFAIR 7.7.7.7. *with Alleluias*
Melody by Robert Williams, c.1781-1821

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***OPENING PRAYER** (Unison)

"Holy God, we remember with wonder and joy that Your Holy Spirit is reaching everywhere: blessing all living things; touching what is wounded or ill with healing power; gathering in the lonely, the lost; soothing ancient animosities; creating and recreating a vision of hope and leading us to heaven. Come now, Holy Spirit. Inspire our worship, and lift our hearts, and bind us in one family of loving grace. We ask in Jesus' name; Amen."

~ from The World is Our Home, written by John A. Nelson. Posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways Archive. http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Andrew John Myers

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Revelation 21:1-5**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Acts 7:55-60

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him.

Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

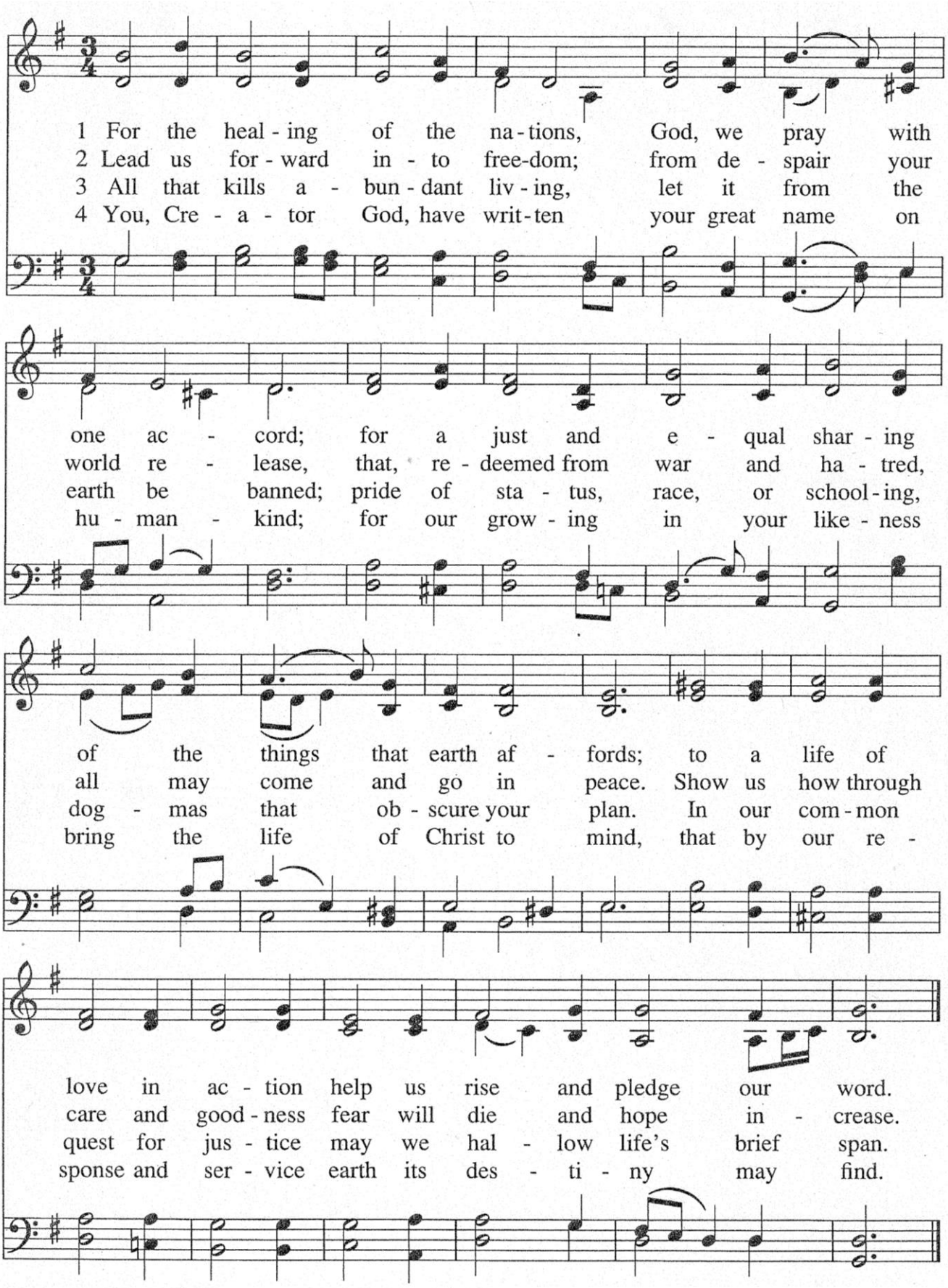
John 14: 1-14

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

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

SOLO *Let Me Hide Myself in Thee* C. Courtney
ZOE HARPER, vocalist *(*1954)*

SERMON "When God's Will is Done" Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong

HYMN** ***For the Healing of the Nations WESTMINSTER ABBEY

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"For the Healing of the Nations" Words by Fred Kaan
© 1968 Hope Publishing Company

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

LITANY OF PRAISE (based on Psalm 67)

Leader: May God be merciful to us and bless us; may He smile with kindness upon us. Then everyone on earth will learn to follow Him, and all nations will see His power to save.

People: Let the people praise You, O God—Let all the people everywhere praise You!

Leader: May the whole world celebrate and sing for joy, because You judge fairly and with integrity, and guide all people, near and far.

Leader: Let the people praise You, O God—let all the people everywhere praise You!

People: Our God has richly blessed us, providing abundantly for all our needs.

All: May God continue to bless us, and may the whole world come to know and love our God.

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 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* W. M. Runyon
(1870 – 1957)
arr, D. Forrest

***DOXOLOGY 515** OLD HUNDRETH LM

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Unison)

God, You have marked us with grace and blessing! Our gifts reflect Your light and Your goodness, so that the way in which we live might bring others to the Gospel. Teach us to trust You with our whole heart, and to praise You in every circumstance, so that Your grace and mercy might reach out through us to the entire world in Christ's name. Amen

***HYMN 496** *The National Anthem* STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

(see following pages)

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Five Antiphons, Op. 18, No. 5* M. Dupré

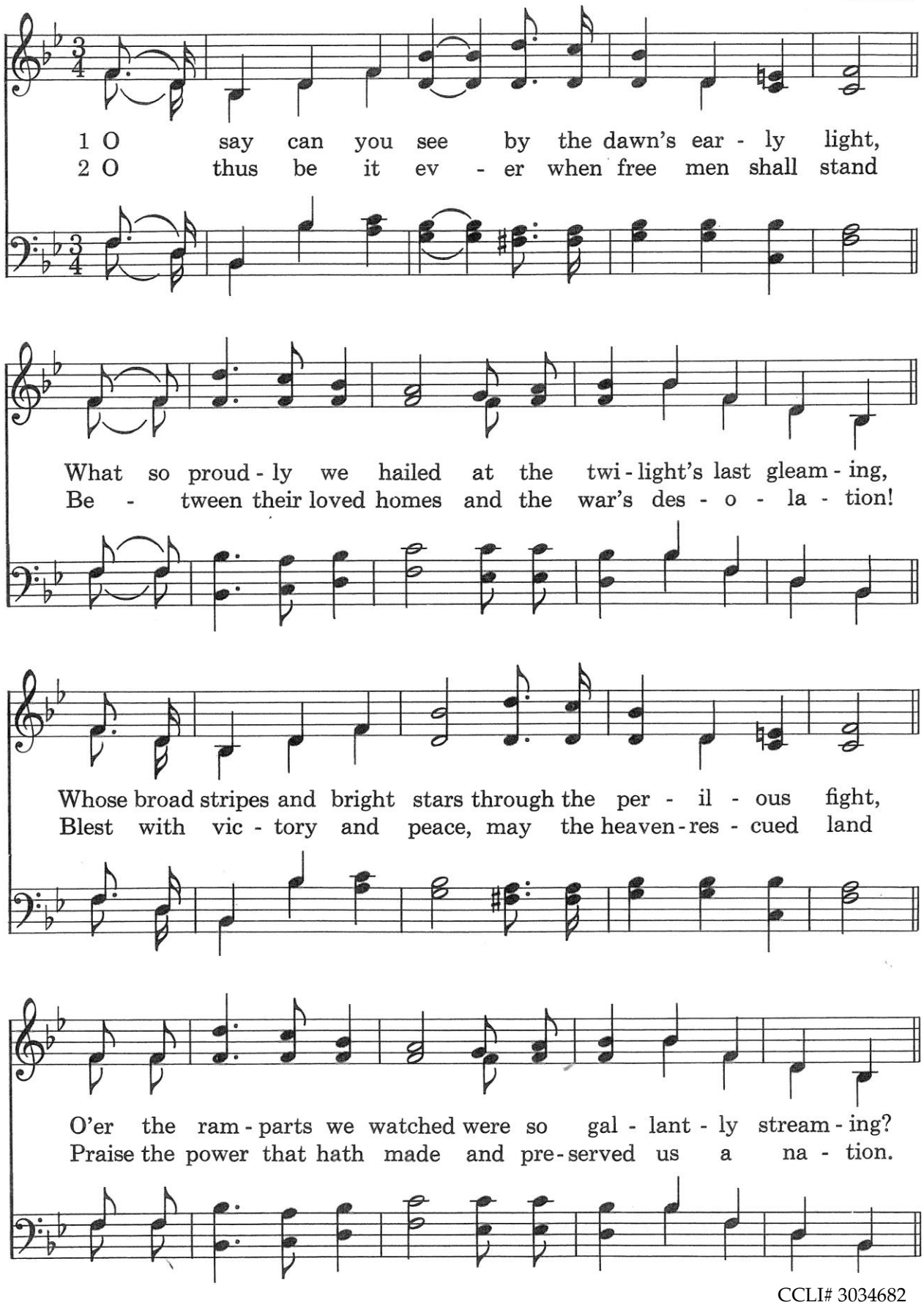
How Fair and Pleasant Art Thou

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

Flowers in the pulpit are given in memory of Ed Boyd, and honoring those who gave their lives for our country, from Susie Boyd.

The National Anthem

Francis Scott Key, 1779-1843

STAR-SPANGLED BANNER *Irregular*
Unknown

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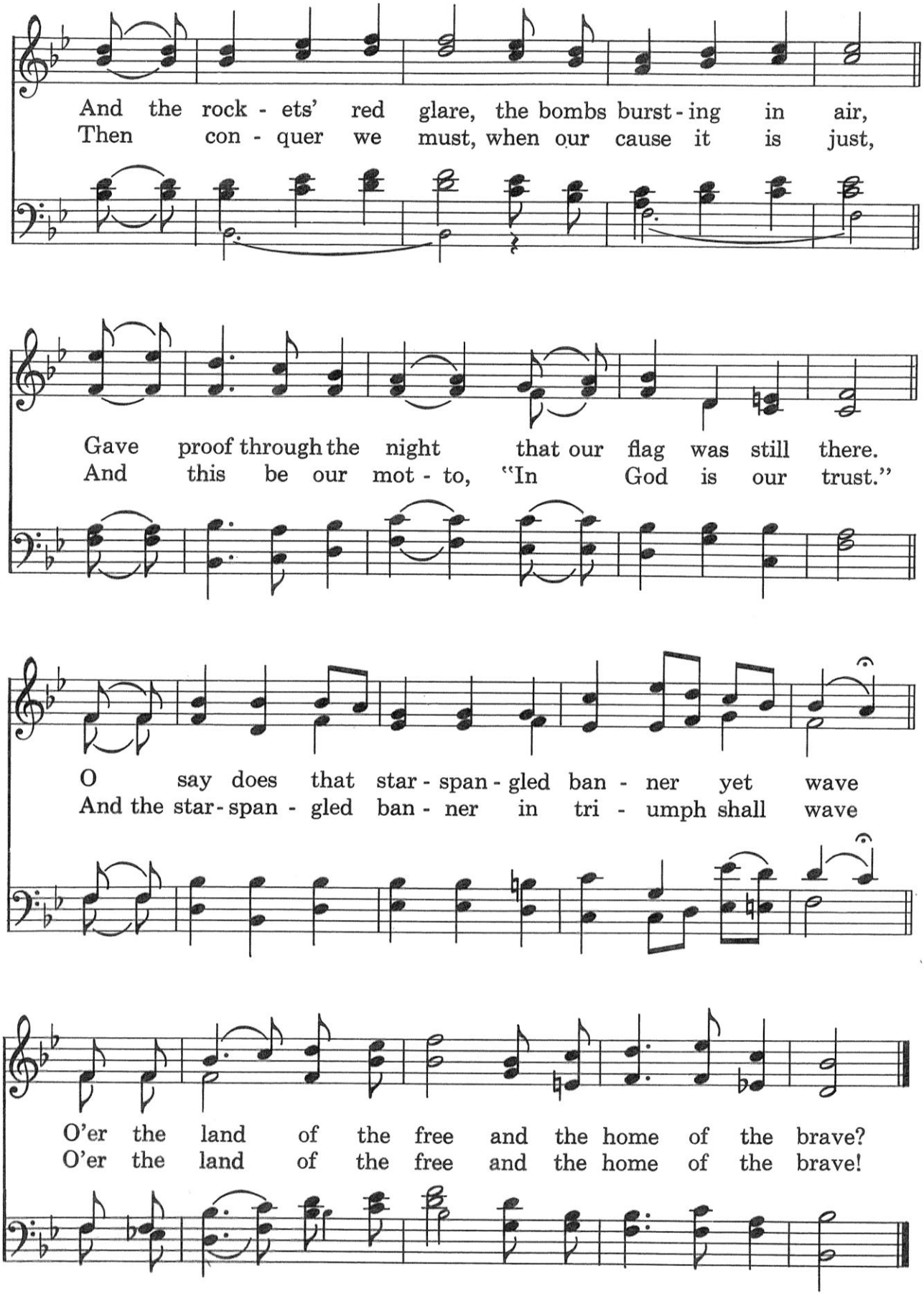
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AV TEAM:	Dale and Craig Neth
LICENSING:	CCLI (print) 3034682; CCLI (streaming) 20119862; CCS 12820; OneLicense A-736284
SCRIPTURE:	NRSV reprinted by permission of the National Council of the Churches of Christ.

Worship Schedule

SUNDAY, MAY 25th

10:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary & Livestream
Radio Broadcast on WSMN FM 95.3 & AM 1590

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION- The last event until the Fall for the Women's Association will be our Spring potluck and Yankee Swap on **Monday, June 9th at 6 PM in the dining room**. This is such a fun evening and we hope to see many new faces. It's such a terrific way to get to know other women in the church. We will have a true potluck where you can bring your favorite dish to share....main dish, salad, dessert and you don't have to sign up for what you will bring. The Yankee Swap gifts should be kept to the $10-$15 range. Sign up at the Welcome Center through Sunday June 1st.

MEN'S CHOIR- Men of The First Church, we are starting our Summer worship early this year and invite you to sing in worship on **Sunday, June 8th at 9:00 am.** Rehearsal will take place on **Thursday, May 29th at 6:30 pm.** June rehearsals on **Tuesday, June 3rd and Thursday, June 5th at 6:30 pm**. Contact Joseph Olefirowicz with any questions: jolefirowicz@tfcucc.org

Music in Worship Next Week

Sunday, June 1, 2025 – Seventh Sunday of Easter, Communion Sunday
9:00 Chancel Choir

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

SUN MAY 25	10:00 am	Worship, Livestream, Radio Broadcast
MON MAY 26		Office Closed
TUE MAY 27	2:00 pm	Huntington
	4:00 pm	Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter
	6:30 pm	Men's Choir
WED MAY 28	6:45 pm	Chancel Choir
THU MAY 29	10:00 am	Thrift Shop
	6:30 pm	Men's Choir
SAT MAY 31	11:00 am	Sisters in Sobriety (dining room)

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULES

***Sunday, May 25th one service at 10:00 am**
In-person Worship & Livestream

***Summer Worship Schedule**
June 1st – September 7th, 2025
One Service at 9:00 am
In-person Worship & Livestream
Sunday School and Nursery Care on break through the summer

***Rally Day – Sunday, September 14th**
One Service at 10:00 am
In-person Worship & Livestream
Sunday School & Nursery Care resume

SUMMER MUSIC SCHEDULE 2025

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 8	**MEN'S CHOIR (TTBB)**
June 15	**JOSEPH R. OLEFIROWICZ, baritone**
June 22	**NICOLE PLUMMER, mezzo soprano**
June 29	**WOMEN'S CHOIR (SA)**
July 6	**KATIE WEISS, soprano**
July 13	**TIMOTHY SKINNER, clarinet**
July 20	**JOHNATHAN STERLING, piano**
July 27	**SUMMER CHOIR (SATB)**
August 3	**DEBBIE NORDYKE, mezzo soprano**
	HARRY NORDYKE, tenor & guitar
August 10	**RICHARD BENEFIELD, organ**
August 17	**SUSAN COBB, soprano**
August 24	**CRAIG PLUMMER, tenor**
August 31	**JOSEPH R. OLEFIROWICZ, piano**
September 7	**MARK A. CLEVELAND, bass-baritone**

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
Interim Sexton, *Bruce Lund,* blund@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 are 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