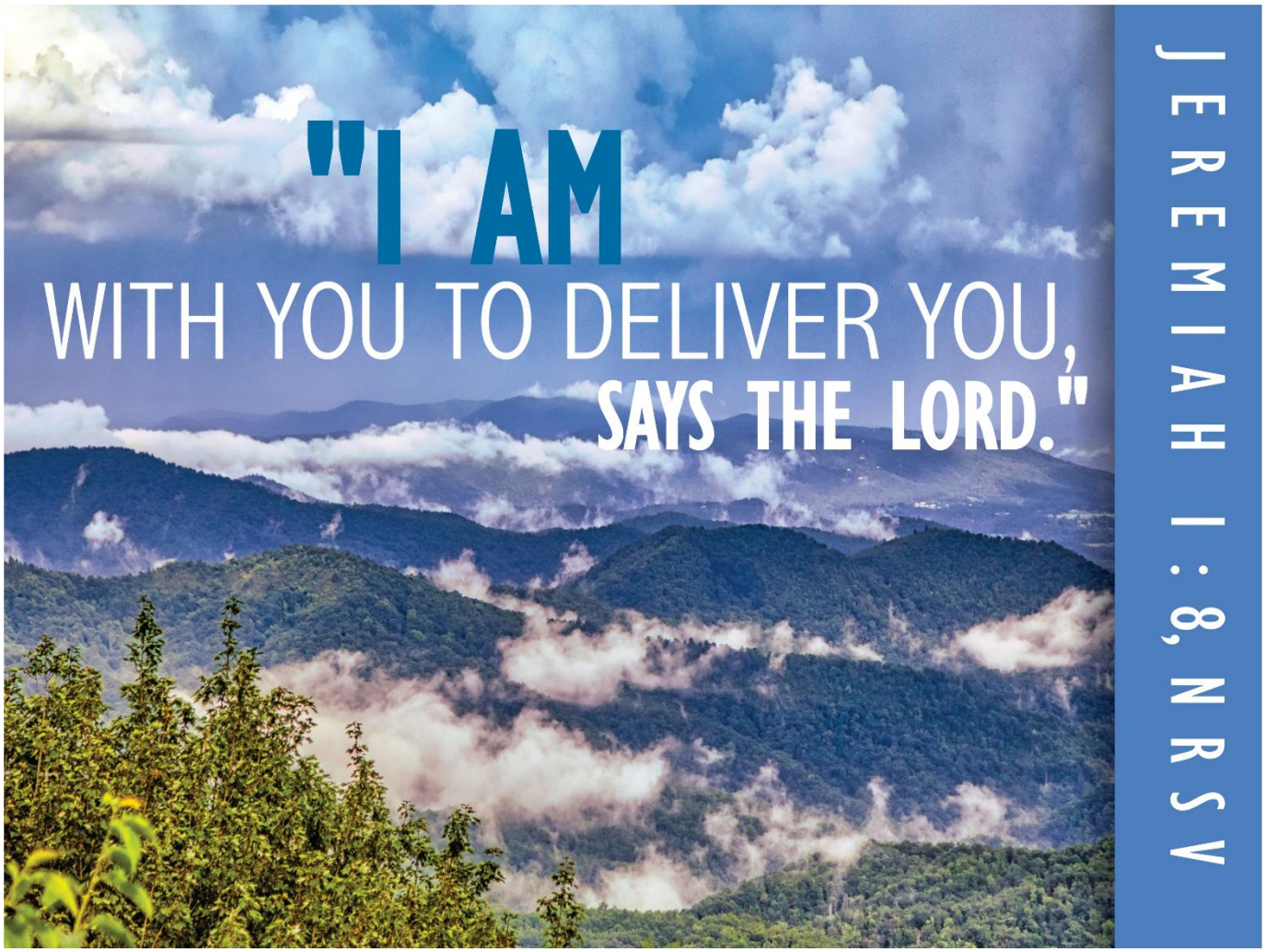


THE FIRST CHURCH

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

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 2025 9:00 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 "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations. " -Jeremiah 1:5

PRELUDE *Duetto II* (*Klavierūbung III*) J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: God alone is our refuge and hope, our shelter and protection.

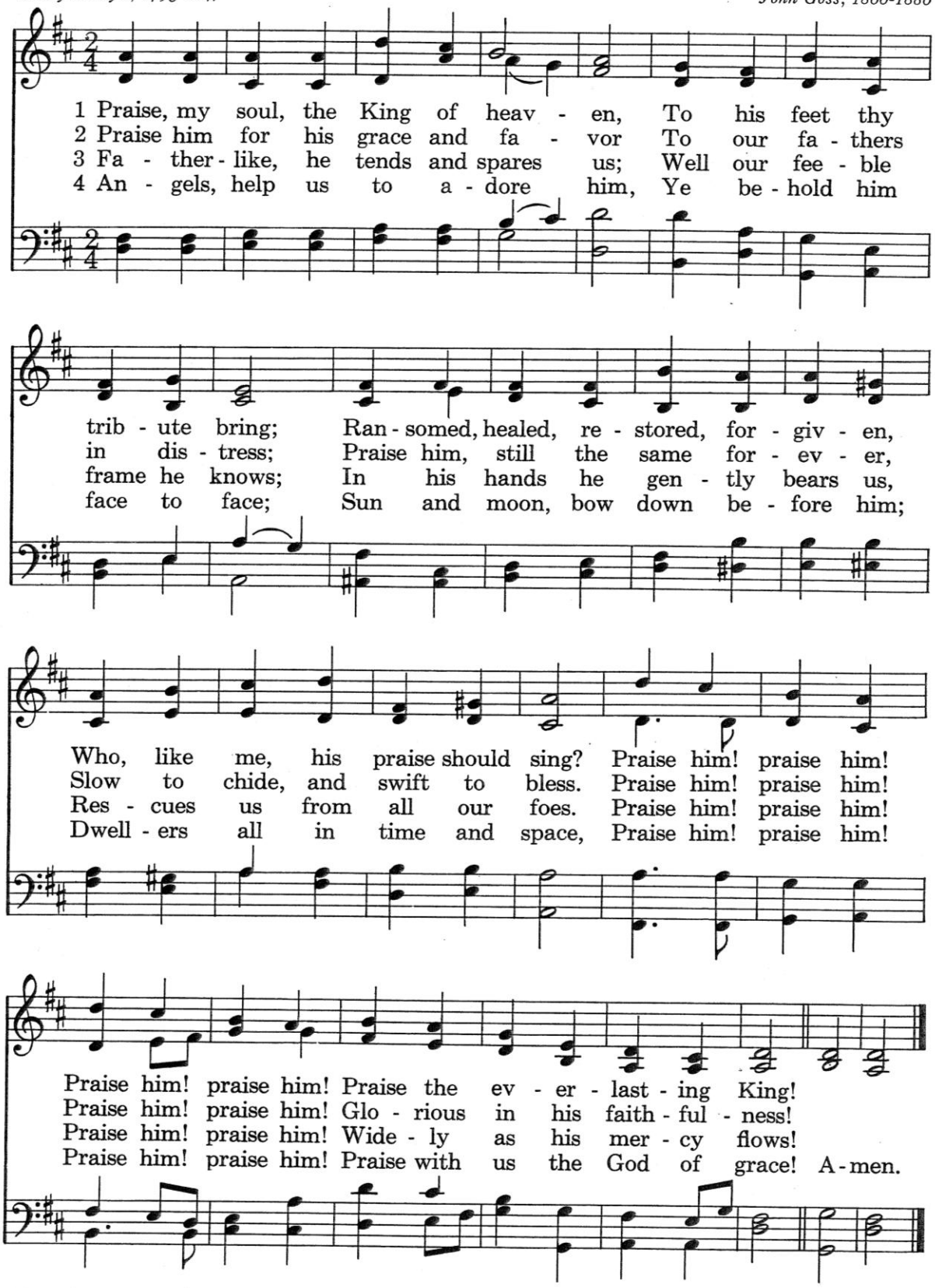
People: From our very first breath to our last, God's love and compassion never fails.

Leader: So come, lift your voices in praise to God. Bear witness to God's acts of mercy and love. Proclaim God's glory to all who will listen.

All: Let's worship God together.

***HYMN 16** *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* LAUDA ANIMA

Based on Psalm 103
Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847

PRAISE MY SOUL 8.7.8.7.8.7.
John Goss, 1800-1880

Alternative tune, DULCE CARMEN, *No. 344*

ADORATION AND PRAISE

CCLI # 3034682

***OPENING PRAYER** (Unison)

O God of all goodness, You welcome us, forgive us and heal us. You seek us out from places where we have hidden from You. You crown us with steadfast love and mercy. Reveal Yourself to us in this moment. Let us know Your presence so that we may bless You: Bless You, O God! Bless Your holy name! Amen.

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Jeremiah 1:4-10**

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you, Do not be afraid of them,for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

Luke 13:10-17

Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water?

And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

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

SOLO *In the Garden* arr. Randa Kirshbaum
CRAIG PLUMMER, tenor (*1953)

SERMON "Origin Stories" Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong

***HYMN 100** *O My Soul, Bless God, the Father* STUTTGART
(see next page)

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

***PRAYER TO JESUS FOR HEALING** (Unison)

O Jesus, we are grateful for Your mercy and compassion. You healed all those, that approached You in faith. In Your suffering and death, You redeemed our infirmities and those of the human race. We join our suffering to Yours, and ask for Your healing mercy. Give us the strength and courage to overcome all adversities in Your powerful name. Amen.

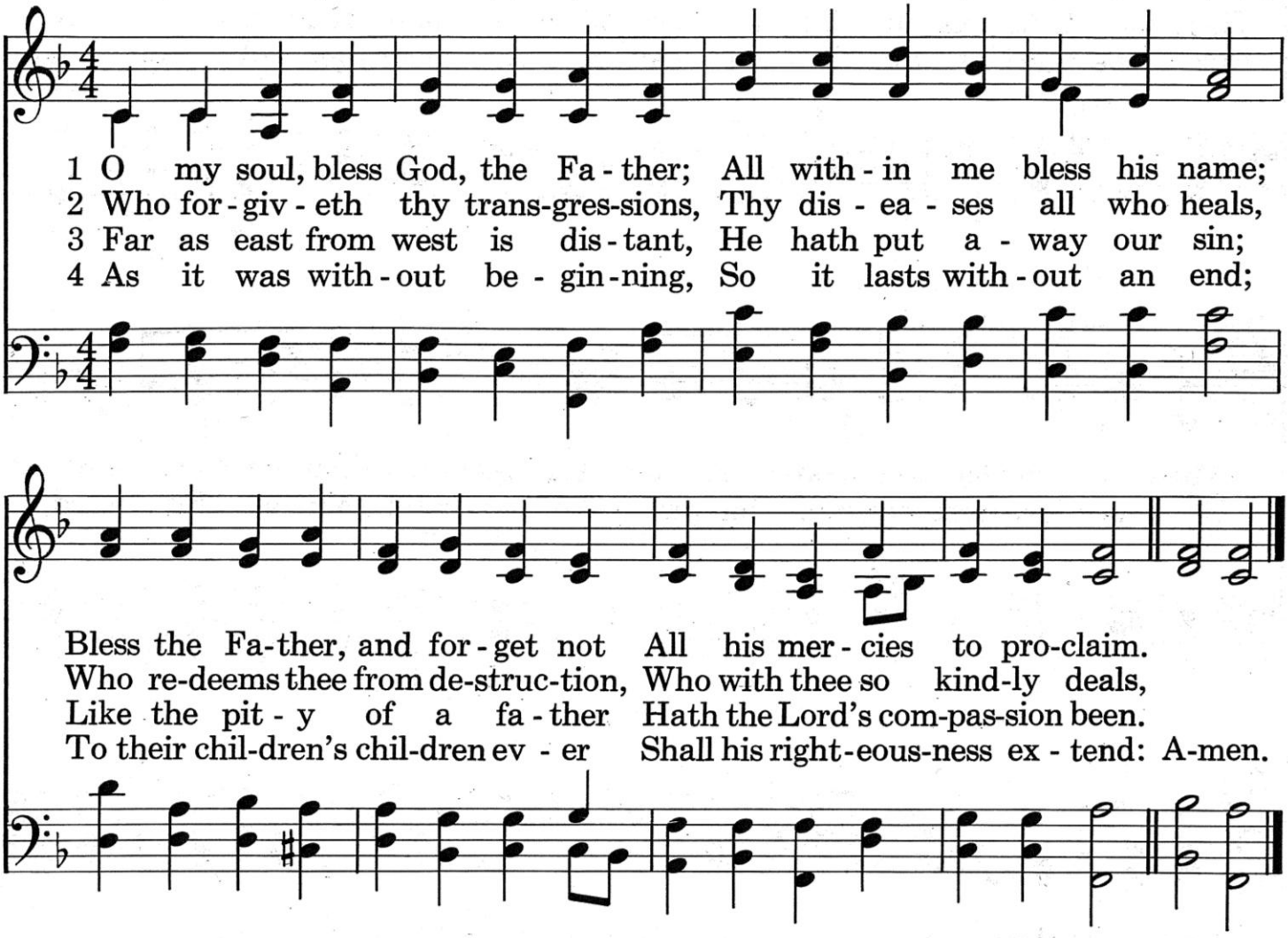
PRAYER CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYERS and PASTORAL PRAYER

O My Soul, Bless God, the Father

Based on Psalm 103
Anonymous
"United Presbyterian Book of Psalms U. S. A.," 1871

STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.
Melody attr. to Christian F. Witt, 1660-1716
"Psalmodia Sacra," Gotha, 1715



5 Unto such as keep his covenant
And are steadfast in his way,
Unto those who still remember
His commandments and obey.

6 Bless the Father, all his creatures,
Ever under his control;
All throughout his vast dominion
Bless the Father, O my soul.

GRACE

CCLI # 3034682

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 *Sometimes He Comes in the Clouds* Steven Curtis Chapman (*1962)

***DOXOLOGY 515** OLD HUNDRETH LM

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Unison)

Lord of Life and Source of Eternal Light, we commit these gifts with prayerful minds and quiet hearts. As we give, we also receive. Like Jeremiah, we know that in the silence of prayer You will enable us to listen to Your commands. We are never too young or too old to seek Your presence. This time of prayer wraps us in the comfort of Your protection and care. Bless us as we seek to bless others in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

***HYMN 375** *Lead On, O King Eternal* LANCASHIRE

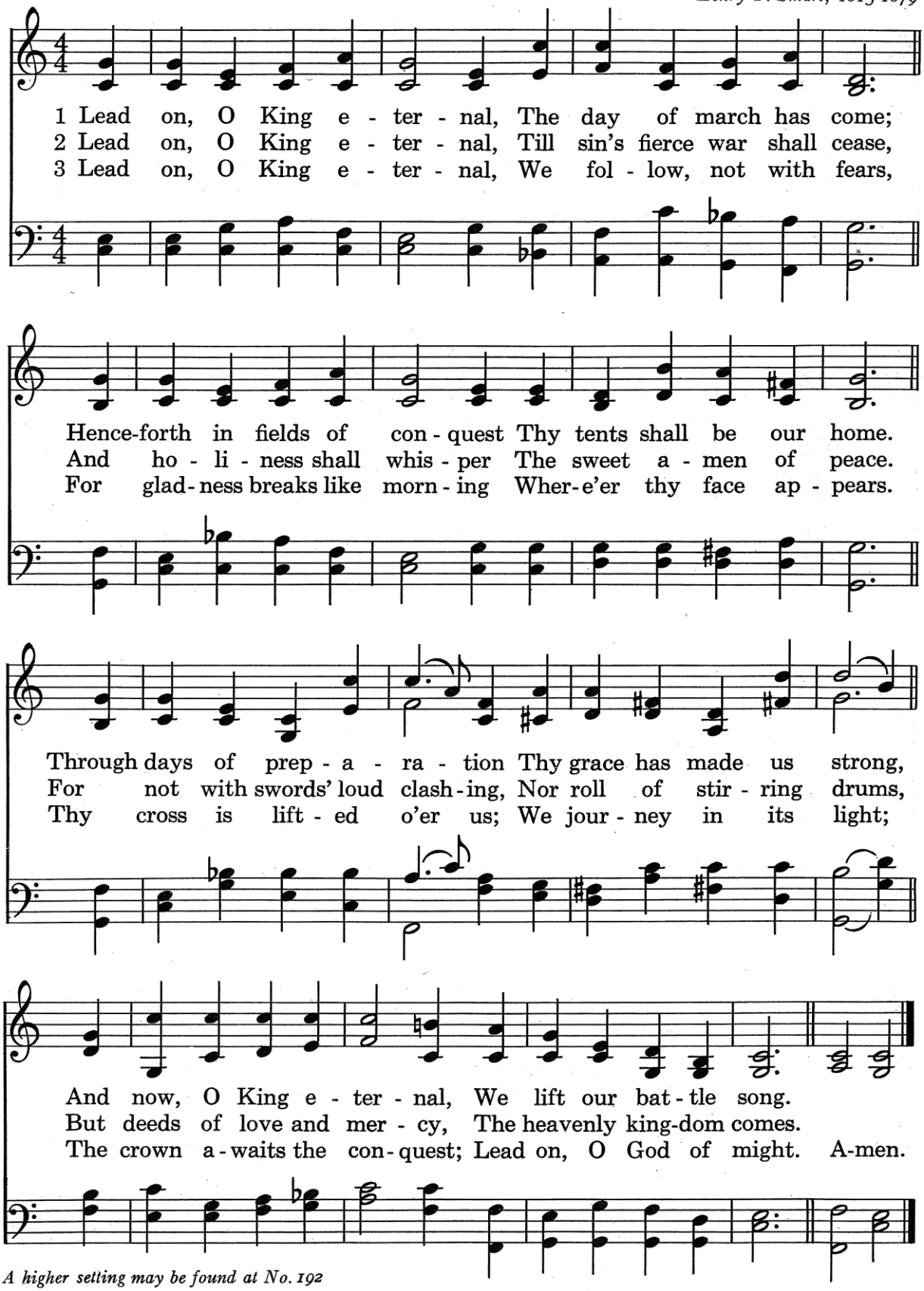
(see next page)

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Voluntary in G* William Walond (1719-1768)

Lead On, O King Eternal

Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1862-1917

LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6.D.
Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

A higher setting may be found at No. 192
Alternative tune, LLANGLOFFAN, *No. 436*

CCLI # 3034682

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

Have you remembered The First Church in your will?

AV TEAM: Dale and Craig Neth
GUEST ORGANIST: Richard Benefield
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.

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 1st – September 7th, 2025
One Service at 9:00 am
In-person Worship and Livestream
WSMN 95.3 FM, 1590 AM

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Thursday 9 am – 3 pm,
Friday 9 am – noon

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

SUNDAY SCHOOL/NURSERY CARE – Sunday School and Nursery Care are on a break for the summer months. Busy bags are available at the Welcome Center for children who attend worship with their family. We look forward to seeing you on **Rally Day, September 14th at 10:00 am!**

FRIENDS OF FIRST MUSIC –Fundraising for The First Music Concert Series XVIII **– 100th Birthday Bash!** has begun. 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 17 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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IN SEARCH OF A GRAPHIC ARTIST AND CREATIVE WRITER-
The First Church Capital Campaign Committee is looking to fill two volunteer jobs on our Team. Someone who has great graphic arts skills and someone who is an excellent creative writer. This can be one person or two. This or these volunteers will be needed for September to February 2026 for 2-3 hours a week. If you have either of these skill sets or know someone who can volunteer some time to help, please reach out to Caryl Sullivan (603) 305-5557 for more information.

THRIFT SHOP- Donations of women's and children's (newborn- size 14) clothing are welcome as we prepare to open on **Thursday, September 18th**. Fall items, clean and in good repair can be place in the bin at the Courtyard entrance. Jewelry and small knick-knacks are also needed. Contact Beth Bartlett with any questions (603) 822-4785.

THANK YOU PROJECT 10TH ANNUAL WATER WALK - TAKES PLACE SAT. SEPT. 13TH AT GREELEY PARK FROM 9AM 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.
Visit the TYP Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/TYPWaterWalk
or our website https://thankyouproject.org/ to learn more.

Music in Worship Next Week
Sunday, August 31, 2025 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00 Joseph R. Olefirowicz, piano

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

SUN AUG 24	9:00 am	Worship, Livestream, Radio Broadcast
	10:30 am	Connections Café Facilitators Mtg. (room 15)
TUE AUG 26	2:30 pm	Huntington Service
	4:00 pm	Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter
WED AUG 27	9:30 am	News Letter Prep (room 15)
SAT AUG 30	11:00 am	Sisters in Sobriety (dining room)

RALLY DAY – Sunday, September 14th

One Service at 10:00 am
In-person Worship and Livestream
WSMN 95.3 FM, 1590 AM
Sunday School and 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**

FIRST MUSIC
FM
CONCERT SERIES 2025 – 26 SEASON

SEASON XVIII
100th Birthday Bash
BRINGING the JOY of MUSIC to the GATE CITY

ORGAN MASTERS
DENIS COMTET
Titular Organist of Lille Cathedral (France)

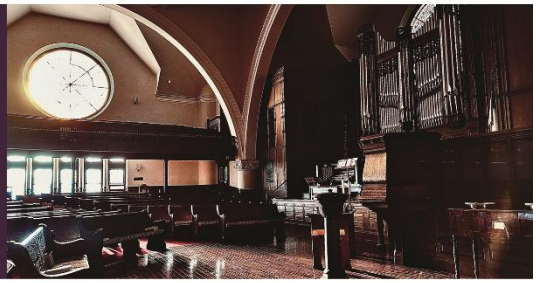
SUNDAY NOV 02

SUNDAY DEC 21

CHRISTMAS at FIRST
CHANCEL CHOIR OF THE FIRST CHURCH
MUDDY BROOK CHAMBER PLAYERS
Poisson • Plummer • Sokol • Cleveland

SEVEN LAST WORDS
A LENTEN VESPERS
CHANCEL CHOIR OF THE FIRST CHURCH
Poisson • Wilson • Cleveland • Olefirowicz

SUNDAY MAR 22



SUNDAY APR 19

STRAVINSKY & COPLAND
A SOLDIER'S TALE · APPALACHIAN SPRING
FIRST MUSIC CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
Joseph R. Olefirowicz, conductor

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY!
POPS FOR PIPES
JAMES KENNERLEY
Municipal Organist of Portland, Maine

FRIDAY MAY 15

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
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 1:00-3:00pm, Friday 9:00am-noon

www.tfcucc.org