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

Fifth Sunday of Easter; Communion
Rite of Confirmation

May 3, 2026 10:00 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 "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire." - St. Catherine of Siena

PRELUDE *Verbum Supernum Prodiens* G. Oldroyd
from *Three Liturgical Improvisations* *(1887 – 1956)*

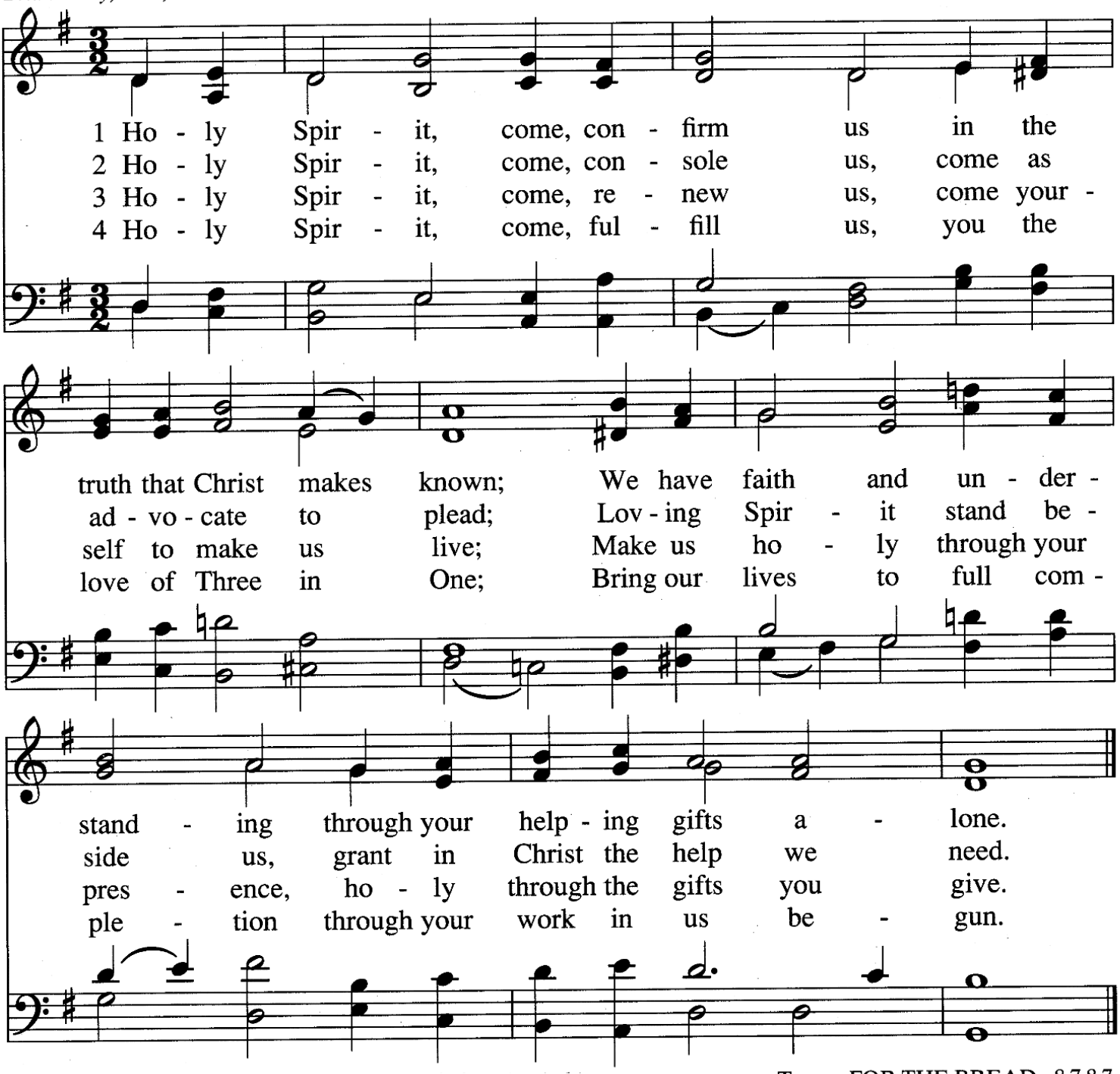
Pour light upon us from above
And fire our hearts with Thy strong love

Praise to the Father, and the Son
Through All the Ages as they run;
And to the Holy Paraclete
Be praise with them and worship meet.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 31)

Leader: The Risen Lord is with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: In You, O Lord, we have refuge and a sacred place to stand.
People: In Your righteousness, come and find us.
Leader: Hear our prayers and rescue us from our wandering ways
People: Be a rock under our feet and a fortress over our heads. Let us worship God.

***HYMN** *Holy Spirit, Come, Confirm Us* FOR THE BREAD

Brian Foley, 1971; alt. *John 14:25–27; 15:26–16:15*

Tune: FOR THE BREAD 8.7.8.7.
V. Earle Copes, 1960

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***OPENING PRAYER (Unison)**

O God, we are standing on holy ground eager for a Word that is truer than our own. By Your Spirit, clear the thickets of our distraction and open our eyes to Your presence. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirt; one God forever and ever. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI 513

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end, A-men, A-men.

GREETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN MOMENT Bill and Brooks Thompson

ANTHEM *Be Filled With the Spirit* C. Courtney *(*1954)*
CHANCEL CHOIR
ELIZABETH ENGLAND, OBOE

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

INTRODUCTION OF CONFIRMANDS AND MENTORS
INVITATION AND SCRIPTURE
QUESTIONS OF THE CONFIRMANDS

STATEMENT OF FAITH OF THE CLASS OF 2026

We believe in God, the Creator of all life. God is always there with unconditional and everlasting love. God is our unifier continually bringing people together. God calls us to love one another and to live in peace.

Jesus Christ, Son of God, our Savior and mentor Who gave us wisdom and hope. God brought Jesus to earth as a messenger of love and to guide us to be patient and to bring peace, compassion, and joy to all. We are inspired by His great sacrifice and are committed to spreading His word of love and acceptance (continued)

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the unseen Spirit inside us and the presence of God in nature. As part of the Holy Trinity, the Holy Spirit is the spiritual guidance of God leading us to peace, love, and joy.

Church is a community of people connected to God through worship, prayer, and music. Church is a safe place bringing peace, love, warmth, and acceptance to everyone. Our Church is a wonderful place to gather for fellowship, pray with our church family, and invite the community to join us.

Our mission is to help others by being there for them. Our ministries provide opportunities to learn, heal, and love one another. We can spread the Word of God and the power of peace and love through our time and energies. It brings us great joy knowing that teaching and helping others is making our community and the world a better place.

As the Confirmation Class of 2026, we will live by our Statement of Faith every day with the help of God. Amen

ACT OF CONFIRMATION AND PRESENTATION OF PRAYER SHAWLS

WORDS OF WELCOME BY THE CONGREGATION (Unison)
We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

CONFIRMANDS PRAYER (Confirmation Class)
O God, my God, known to me in Jesus Christ, I give myself to You as Your own, to love and serve You faithfully all the days of my life. Amen

THE CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2026

Confirmands	Mentors
Stephanie Faith Dohoney	Fred Daniels
Nate Fauteux	Peter Chaloner
Carolina McNamara	Holly Columbus
Ethan Moore	Pat Harris
Zoe Ostermiller	Whitney Dodge
Alaina Ann Small	Stacey Plummer
Isabella Steeves	Abby Adasczik
Sienna Steeves	Abby Adasczik

The Confirmation class of 2026 wishes to thank those who have supported them throughout this year's experience: their parents, mentors, congregation, the ministers, and Confirmation Advisor: Fred Daniels.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Exodus 3:1-12**

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters.

Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

John 14:1-7

"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."

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

GRATIA TIBI *Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet* H. Porter
(1897 – 1960)

SERMON "Who Am I?" Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYERS and PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God of our light and our source of longings, we confess that we have often walked past Your open doors. You invite us to taste Your goodness, but we have cultivated an appetite for lesser things. You offer Yourself as our refuge, yet we seek security in our own strength. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let Your face shine upon us until we reflect Your light. Help us grow into the salvation You have already won for us though Christ our Lord. Amen.

A time of silence for personal confession

KYRIE 545 *Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us* J. Merbecke
CONGREGATION JOINS IN SINGING *(1510 – 1585)*

Lord, have mercy upon us;
Christ have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news: Once you were "not a people," but now you are God's people. Once you had not received mercy, but now mercy has found you. You are a chosen race—a community drawn from every corner of the earth. In Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are built on the Rock. Stand up and live.

People: Thanks be to God.

OFFERTORY *O Holy Spirit, Praise to You* H. Helvey
Laus Tibi, Sanctus Spiritus *(*1968)*

***THE DOXOLOGY 515** OLD HUNDRETH LM

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)**

Almighty God, You have promised to prepare a place for us, even as You make Your home with us in a messy world. How You manage this is beyond our understanding. So we thank you for your grace and ask that you use these gifts to build a shelter for the broken and a home for the wandering. May our ministry reflect the hospitality of Your kingdom. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

THE COMMUNION

It is a tradition at The First Church that we eat the bread and drink the cup together as the people of God renewing our covenant. We serve grape juice and gluten free bread.

INVITATION, SURSUM CORDA AND COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to God.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
Leader: Let us pray.

SANCTUS 550 S. Wesley
(1766 – 1837)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory:
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. A-men.

INSTITUTION AND SHARING OF THE BREAD

Communion Service in D Major (Missa Brevis) E. Titcomb
(1884 – 1968)

Kyrie Eleison
(Lord Have Mercy)

INSTITUTION AND SHARING OF THE CUP

Communion Service in D Major — E. Titcomb

Agnus Dei
(Lamb of God)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING and 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.

***HYMN** — *Because He Lives* — RESURRECTION
(see end of worship order)

***BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTUS — *Praise to the Trinity* — CONDITOR ALME
9th century
arr. Olefirowicz

POSTLUDE — *Fanfare and Celebration* (2025) — P. K. Robinson
*(*1947)*

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

AV TEAM: Craig Neth and Lee Hauenstein

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

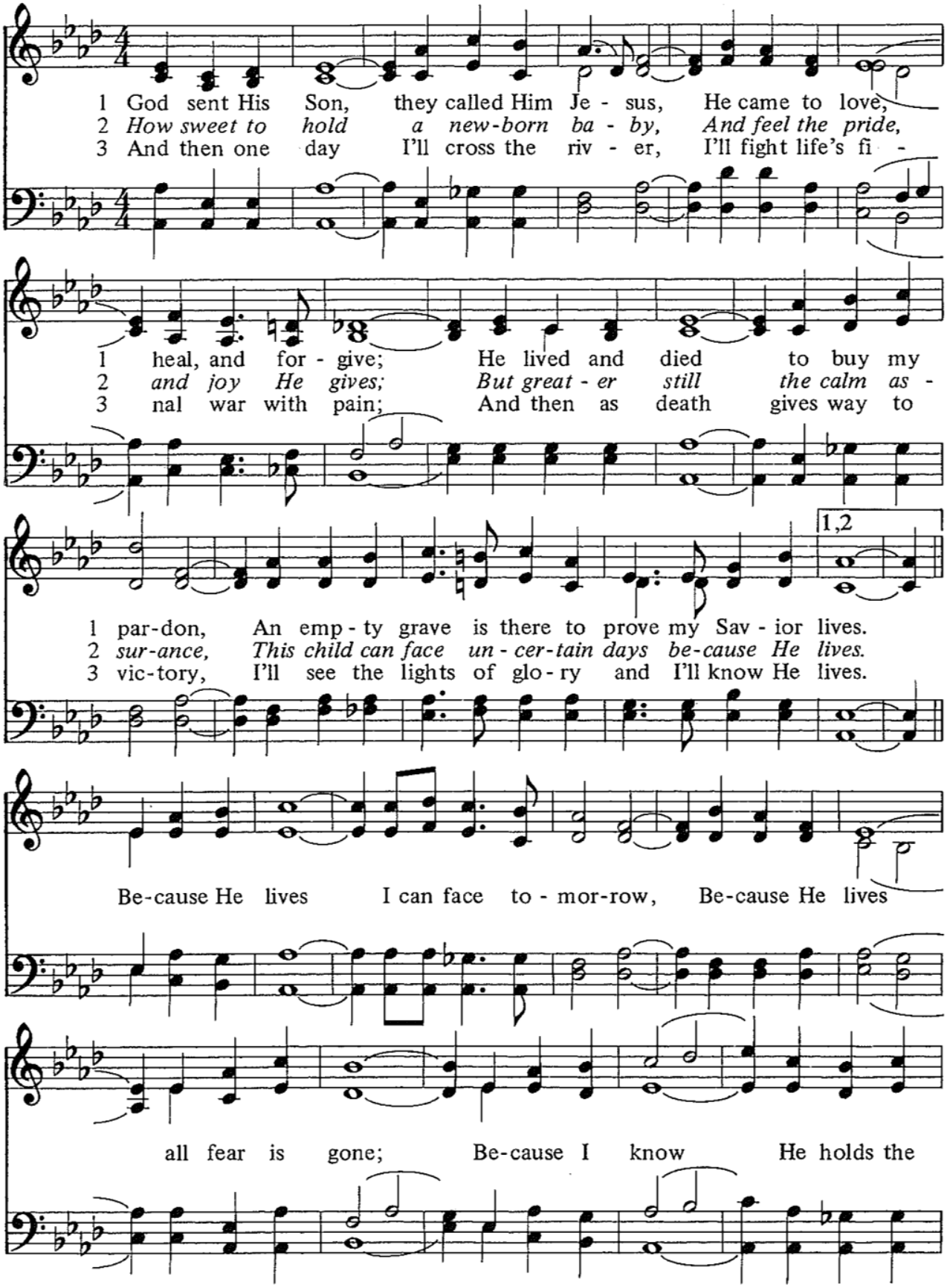
SCRIPTURE: NRSV reprinted by permission of the National Council of the Churches of Christ.

STAFF SINGERS: Janet Poisson-soprano; James Brown-countertenor
Joshua L. Gore-tenor; Mark A. Cleveland-bass

Because He Lives

RESURRECTION

Gloria Gaither
William J. Gaither

William J. Gaither
Final chorus arranged by Ronn Huff

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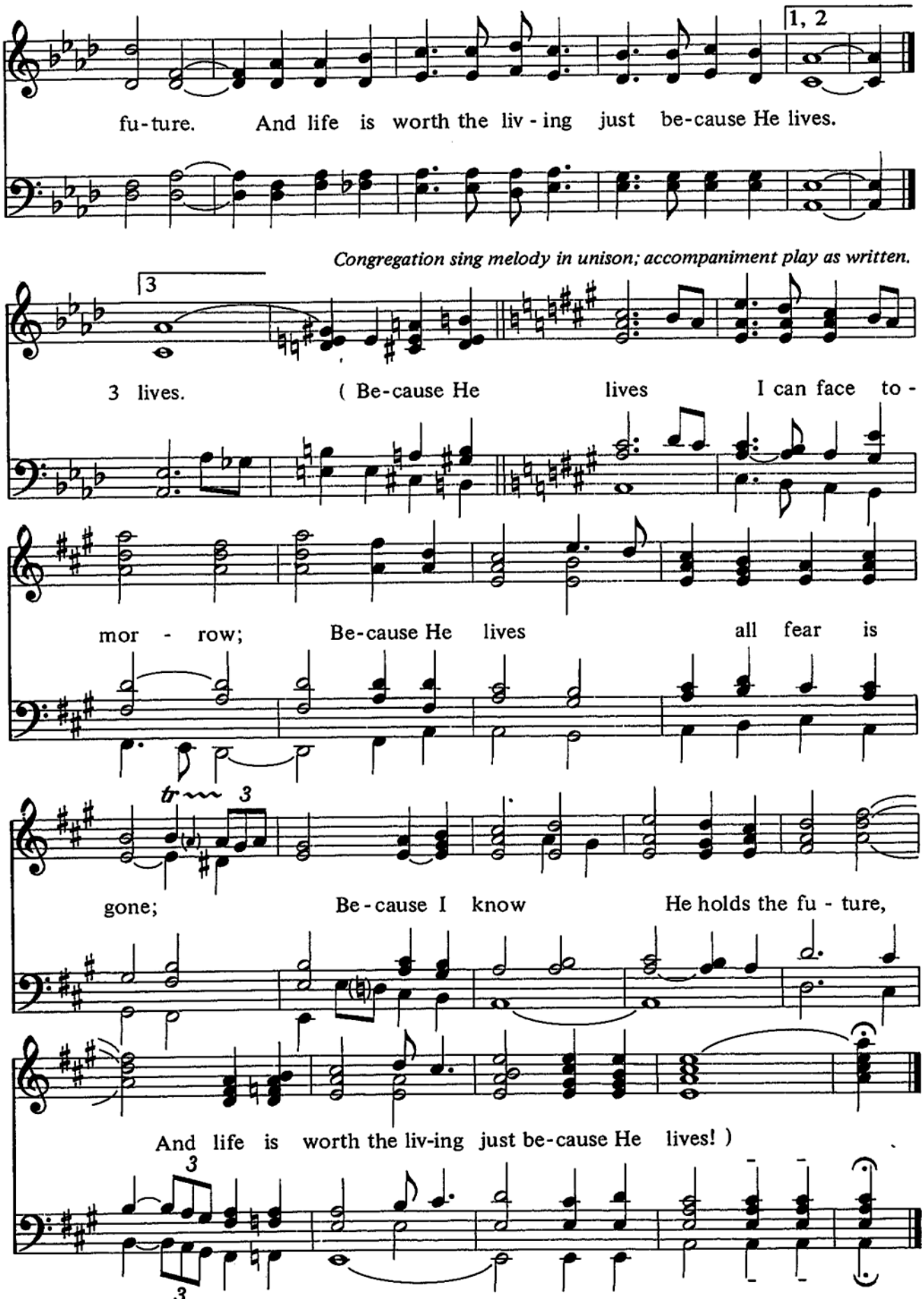
EASTER

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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.

Flowers in the pulpit are given in celebration of the Confirmation Class of 2026 and in loving memory of Wendy Brown from Pat Harris and Abby Adasczik.

Worship Schedule

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

Christian Formation Corner

MAY 3, 2026 - Today is the Fifth Sunday of Easter, Confirmation, Communion Sunday and the liturgical color is white.

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.

HONORING OUR GRADUATES- If you have a High School Senior (or College Graduate), we want to be able to honor them at the 10 am worship service on Sunday, May 10th. Please contact the office with their information (Name, School, degree, future plans); tdrew@tfcucc.org or (603) 882-4861.

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

THE FIRST CHURCH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN-COMMITMENT SUNDAYS

Over the last several months you've received information about the capital campaign in the form of mailings, videos, articles and briefings. You've also had time to think and pray about your response to our church's ongoing needs. Now it's time step out in faith and commit – **next Sunday, May 10th and May 17th are "Commitment Sundays" – the time to make your pledge.** On both those dates, personalized letters of intent (LOI) will be available for you to pick up and fill out. There will be a private space available for you to document and sign your LOI, put it in a sealed envelope, and then deposit it in the locked "ballot box" nearby. Please "cast your ballot (LOI)" right then – this will save the Capital Campaign team time in follow up and allow for accurate "week by week" progress reports during May. As they say on Election Day, your vote (Pledge) counts. All gifts are a blessing that both honor First Church's past and support it as we grow into God's future together.

Visit our Capital Campaign webpage for all updates and news!
https://tfcucc.org/capital-campaign/

THE FIRST CHURCH THRIFT SHOP is open on **Thursdays, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM (Open Sat. June 6th from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM).** Donations of women's and children's clothing is being accepted. Leave items in the bin at the courtyard entrance. All proceeds go to community outreach. Thank you for all of your support!!

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION-Come see the new and improved T-Bones in Hudson. The Woman's Association invites all First Church ladies for lunch on **Saturday, May 16th.** We will meet in the church parking lot at 11:00 A.M. and carpool to the restaurant for arrival at 11:30. **Sign-up at the Welcome Center by Sunday, May 10th.** If you have any questions, please reach out to Trish Stone or Susie Boyd. We look forward to the gathering.

Choirs in Worship Next Week

Sunday, May 10, 2026 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:15 Organ

10:00 Joyful Noise

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

SUN MAY 3	8:15 am	Worship (Chapel)
	10:00 am	Worship, Livestream
		Radio Broadcast, First Church Kids
MON MAY 4	9:30 am	Bible, Friends & Coffee (Ladies Parlor)
	7:00 pm	All Boards
TUE MAY 5	4:00 pm	Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter
	4:30 pm	Joyful Noise
WED MAY 6	8:30 am	Men's Group (Room 10)
	10:00 am	Women's Association (room 15)
	11:45 am	BNI (dining room)
	6:45 am	Chancel Choir
THU MAY 7	10:00 am	Thrift Shop
	6:45 pm	Decibells
FRI MAY 8	3:00 pm	Hunt Community Service
SAT MAY 9	11:00 am	Sisters in Sobriety (dining room)

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 10th – 8:15 am and 10 am worship

Sunday, May 17th – 10 am worship ONLY
(Let's all enjoy Children and Youth Sunday!!)

Sunday, May 24th – 10 am worship ONLY
(due to Memorial Day weekend)

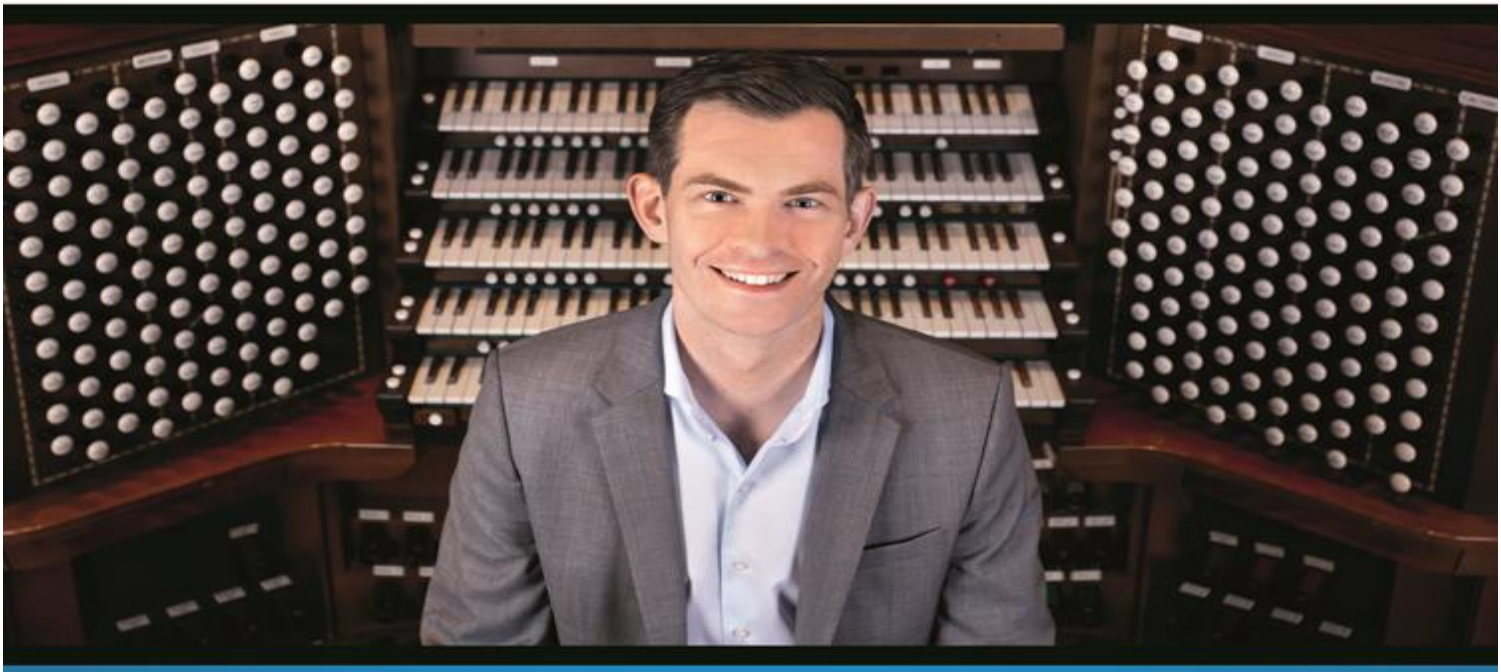
Sunday, May 31st – 9 am SUMMER WORSHIP begins,
ONE service through mid-September

FIRST MUSIC
FM
CONCERT SERIES 2025 – 26 SEASON

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

HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY!
POPS FOR PIPES

JAMES KENNERLEY
MUNICIPAL ORGANIST OF PORTLAND, MAINE



FRIDAY MAY 15

FREE ADMISSION
ALL ARE WELCOME

7:30 PM

THE FIRST CHURCH

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

THE FIRST CHURCH

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
Communication/Copyright/Marketing Coordinator, *Jim Ferguson III*, jferguson@tfcucc.org
Office Manager, *Tasha Drew*, tdrew@tfcucc.org
Sexton, *James Halstead*, jhalstead@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 The 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 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.

All use of the building must be scheduled by the Office Manager.

One Concord Street - Nashua, New Hampshire 03064 - 603-882-4861
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-noon and 1:00-4:00pm
Friday 9:00 am - noon
www.tfcucc.org

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