

## SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2025

**Preaching Today** Karen McArthur, *Minister of Stewardship & Finance*  
**Liturgist** Leslie Pelton-Cairns  
**Assisting in Worship** Sarah Higginbotham, *Director of Communications & Christian Formation*  
Lee Prouty, *Facilities Manager*  
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*

### Opening Voutary

*Prelude in G Major* - Mendelssohn

### Reading

Luke 10:38-42

### Opening Hymn

**404** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

### Sermon Hymn

**330** You Are Called to Tell the Story

### Anthem

*Grace Divine* - arr. Roger Price

### Offertory

*Day By Day* - Mark Schweizer

### Peace Hymn

**527** For the Fruit of All Creation

### Closing Hymn

**520** Restless Weaver

### Reading

Amos 8:1-8, 11-12

### Closing Voluntary

*Fugue in G Major* - Mendelssohn

### Today's Programs and Events

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
10:00 a.m. Multigenerational Morning Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)  
11:15 a.m. Refreshments on the Lawn (weather permitting)  
11:30 a.m. Visit to the Museum of African American History & African Meeting House, meet on the church lawn

### New to First Church?

Have you just begun joining us for worship? Consider filling out a **welcome card** found on small clipboards in the pews or [online](#), so that we might connect with you about our community.

### Contact a Pastor or Staff Member

Find [contact information](#) for our ministerial, program, and building staff on our website.  
For general information and inquiries: [info@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:info@firstchurchcambridge.org)

### Minister On Call

If you have an urgent pastoral need, please call 617-547-2724 ext. 222. Your call will be routed to a First Church minister based on a rotating schedule that covers staff time off.

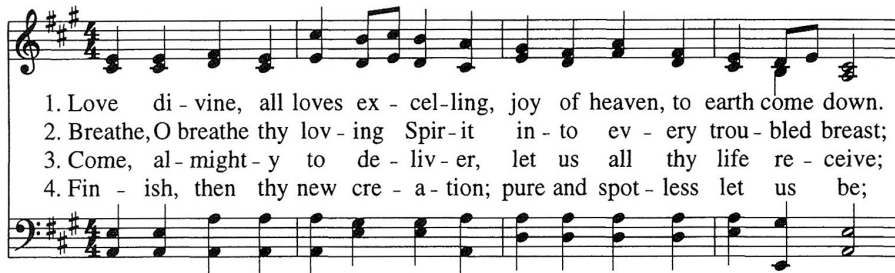
*Our offering supports the many ministries of our church,  
with 10% for missions in the community and beyond.  
Please use our new [all-in-one link](#) for gifts from your  
bank account or by credit/debit card:*



# OPENING HYMN

404

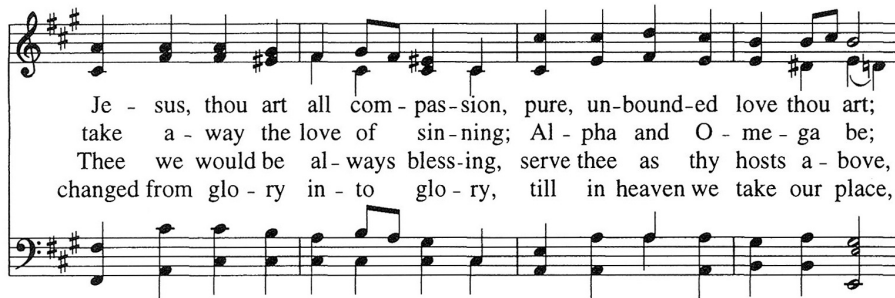
## Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



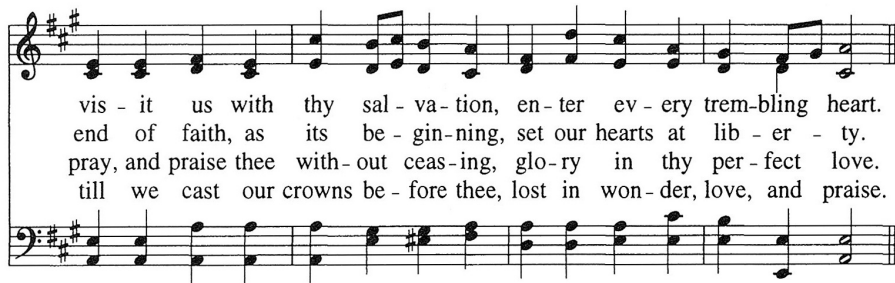
1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel-ling, joy of heaven, to earth come down.  
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;  
 3. Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;  
 4. Fin - ish, then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be;



fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy faith-ful mer - cies crown;  
 let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find thy prom-ised rest;  
 sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er-more thy tem - ples leave.  
 let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee;



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas-sion, pure, un-bound-ed love thou art;  
 take a - way the love of sin-ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;  
 Thee we would be al - ways bless-ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,  
 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,



vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem-bling heart.  
 end of faith, as its be - gin-ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 pray, and praise thee with - out ceas-ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.


WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1747, alt.  
 MUSIC: John Zundel, 1855

BEECHER  
 87.87D


This hymn is sung by every major denomination. Charles Wesley, brother of John, wrote the text as a spiritual parody of a Dryden poem.

527


# For the Fruit of All Creation




1. For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
 2. In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
 3. For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.  
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are  
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -  
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -



sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
 spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
 found us, most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

WORDS: Fred Pratt Green, 1970

MUSIC: Traditional Welsh melody, *Musical Relicks of the Welsh Bards*, Dublin, 1784

AR HYD Y NOS

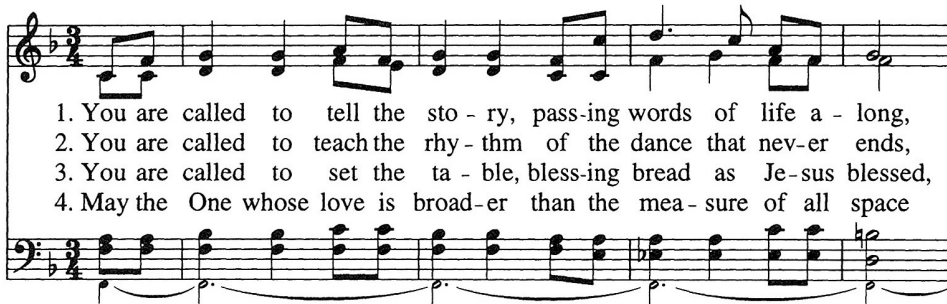
84.84.888.4

Though published in the English *Methodist Recorder* only in 1970,  
 by 1982 Fred Pratt Green's words had already appeared in fourteen  
 hymnals around the world.

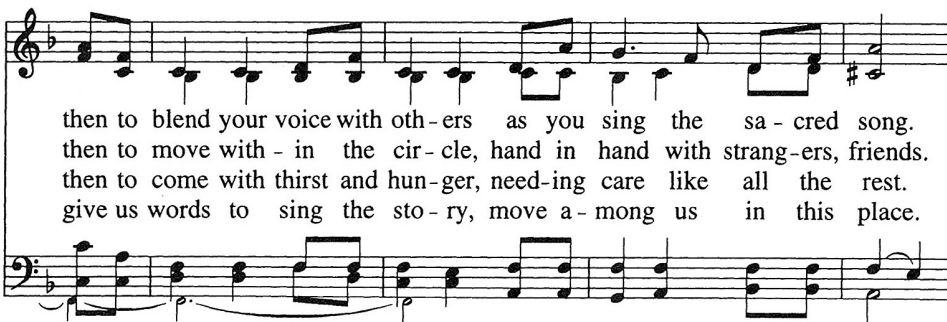
Words © 1970 Hope Publishing Co.

330

# You Are Called to Tell the Story



1. You are called to tell the sto - ry, pass-ing words of life a - long,  
 2. You are called to teach the rhy - thm of the dance that nev - er ends,  
 3. You are called to set the ta - ble, bless-ing bread as Je - sus blessed,  
 4. May the One whose love is broad - er than the mea - sure of all space



then to blend your voice with oth - ers as you sing the sa - cred song.  
 then to move with - in the cir - cle, hand in hand with strang - ers, friends.  
 then to come with thirst and hun - ger, need-ing care like all the rest.  
 give us words to sing the sto - ry, move a - mong us in this place.



Christ be known in all our sing - ing, fill - ing all with songs of love.  
 Christ be known in all our danc - ing, touch - ing all with hands of love.  
 Christ be known in all our shar - ing, feed - ing all with signs of love.  
 Christ be known in all our liv - ing, fill - ing all with gifts of love.

WORDS: Ruth Duck, 1991  
 MUSIC: David Hurd, 1974, adapt.

UCC minister Ruth Duck co-edited an early inclusive-  
 language hymn collection *Everflowing Streams*.


JULION  
 87.87.87

Words © 1991, music © 1974  
 GIA Publications, Inc.

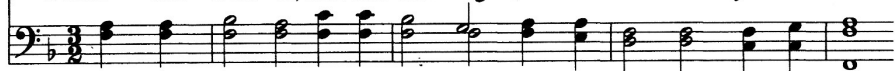

# CLOSING HYMN

520



## Restless Weaver





1. Rest - less Weav-er, ev - er spin-ning threads of jus - tice and sha - lom;  
 2. Where earth's frag - ile web is rav - eling help us mend each bro - ken strand.  
 3. When our vio - lent lust for pow - er ends in lives a - bused and torn,  
 4. Rest - less Weav-er, still con - ceiv - ing new life—now and yet to be—

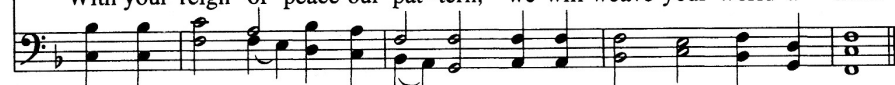
dream-ing pat - terns of cre - a - tion where all crea - tures find a home;  
 Bless our ur - gent, bold en - deav - ors cleans-ing wa - ter, air, and land.  
 from com-pass-ion's stur-dy fab - ric fash-ion hope and trust re - born.  
 bind-ing all your vast cre - a - tion in one liv - ing tap - es - try:

gath-ering up life's var-ied fi - bers—ev - ery tex - ture, ev - ery hue:  
 Through the Spir-it's in - spi - ra - tion—of-f'ring health where once was pain—  
 Where in - jus-tice rules as ty - rant, give us cour - age, God, to dare  
 you have called us to be weav-ers. Let your love guide all we do.

grant us your cre - a - tive vis - ion. With us weave your world a - new.  
 strength-en us to be the stew-ards of your world knit whole a - gain.  
 live our dreams of trans-for - ma - tion. Make our lives in - car - nate prayer.  
 With your reign of peace our pat - tern, we will weave your world a - new.



WORDS: O. I. Cricket Harrison, 1988, rev. 1993  
 MUSIC: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. FCC, 1997

Text writer Harrison served on the Development Committee for the 1995 *Chalice Hymnal* (Disciples of Christ). *The Sacred Harp* of 1844, in which this folk tune is first found, started a singing tradition. Groups throughout the south keep the tradition alive today using the latest (1991) revision.

BEACH SPRING  
 87.87D

Words © 1995 Chalice Press  
 Harm. © 1998 FCC Houston TX



## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Holly Marple's mother Margaret, who is recovering from a recent heart attack; and we pray for Holly as she cares for her mother at home.
- We pray for grieving family and friends of Joan Whitaker, one of the original founders of the First Church Shelter, who passed away last week.
- We pray for Lia Ingersoll and her family as they adjust to her new diagnosis of Type 1 Diabetes.
- We pray for all who are living with significant health challenges and their families and caregivers: Poppy Coffin, who is experiencing Alzheimer's Disease; Carter West, who is experiencing a chronic neurological disorder; and Keith Manville, who has atypical Parkinsonism. We also pray for those in treatment for cancer: Betsy Opitz; Louise Higginbotham, Sarah's mother; Dana Hunt, Claire Morgan's mother; Ellen Smith, Devin Hansen's aunt; Judith Semmler, Alice Napoleon Jones's mother; Karen Anne Zee's daughter Becky Collet and her son-in-law Stewart Bailey; and Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters.
- We pray for those impacted by catastrophic flooding in central Texas that caused tragic deaths and destruction. We mourn with those who lost family members and friends, and we pray for local, state, and national leaders as they respond to the crisis.
- We pray for all those who will lose services and supports as the recently passed national budget bill takes effect in the coming months and years.
- In this tense time in our country, we pray for all those standing up, in their homes or on the streets, to resist all abuses of power, especially those paying significant personal costs. We pray for strength to not turn away from our neighbors in need, even as our government dramatically expands funding for detention, disappearance, and deportation initiatives that ignore rights guaranteed by our nation's constitution.
- We lift up the Harvard University community, including people from our congregation, in the midst of a confrontation with the federal government over academic independence and freedom of speech.
- We continue to celebrate the dignity and worth of our trans and gender non-conforming siblings who are experiencing an onslaught of prejudicial discrimination condoned by the current administration and encouraged by recent rulings by the Supreme Court. We affirm that all of us are beloved in the eyes of God, just as we are.
- We pray for people around the world trapped in cycles of violence, especially all the innocent victims of the deadly power games of political rulers: in the Middle East, including the wars between Israel and Gaza, and between Israel and Iran; in Ukraine; in Haiti; and in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In these seemingly intractable situations, may a love of God and respect for human life lead anew to peace for all.
- We continue to pray for our earth and for all creation in the face of the climate crisis.
- We pray for all those giving and receiving care, compassion, and needed services from First Church's homeless ministries, both in the First Church Shelter and at the Friday Café. We continue to pray and work for a just society where housing is recognized as a human right.

*Join the [First Church List](#) to see and offer up more community prayer requests.*

## SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH



**Visit the Museum of African American History & African Meeting House Today, July 20, leaving First Church at 11:30 a.m.**

Connect with First Church friends on the journey of becoming an antiracist church with a visit to the [Museum of African American History](#) and a guided tour of the [African Meeting House](#), built in 1806 and considered the oldest extant Black church building in America. After a quick stop on the lawn for refreshments, meet up to head for the train in Harvard Square. We will travel to the Charles Street stop, walk up Cambridge Street toward the Museum, stopping for lunch along the way at Ana's Taqueria. In addition to visiting the Museum, we will have a guided tour at 1:30 p.m. of the African Meeting House.

**Tickets:** You may [purchase tickets in advance online](#), or at the door. If online, choose the 1:30-2:30 pass. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$8 for children and seniors. Financial aid is available. Questions? Contact Susan Redlich ([sredlich2010@hotmail.com](mailto:sredlich2010@hotmail.com)).



*[purchase tickets here](#)*



### **Parsonage Discussions**

**Sunday, August 3, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)**

**Wednesday, August 6, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., [via Zoom](#)**

In its report presented at the Special Congregational Meeting on June 22, the Parsonage Working Group recommended three options for how First Church can best meet our obligation to provide appropriate housing support

for our senior minister and determine the future of the property at 44 Garden Street:

- 1) **renovate the property** and keep it as a single family home;
- 2) **redevelop the property** into a multiple (2-3) unit building, with one unit serving as ministerial housing; or
- 3) **sell 44 Garden and buy a new property** to serve as ministerial housing, with any remaining sales revenue going into long term investments.

The rich discussion during the meeting affirmed that these were the most realistic options and indicated the desire to have some additional discussion about the specific implications of each option in terms of finances, timelines, etc. If you would like an opportunity to hear more detailed information and to talk through the three options in a focused way, please join us on Sunday, August 3, after worship or on Wednesday evening, August 6.

These will be the last sessions held for group discussion as we prepare to make a decision as a congregation in September, but you are always welcome to reach out to one or more of the Working Group members (Jim Cairns, Laurie Burt, Chris Baker, Audrey Bellinger, and David Torrey) with your questions or perspectives.



*[find Zoom links on the calendar](#)*

## SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH



### Harbor Islands Field Trip

**Sunday, July 27, 11:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

The Young Adults Group is planning to pick up lunch, hop on the T, and catch the Boston Harbor Islands Ferry after worship on July 27. We'll enjoy a hike with unmatched views of the city and some of the best access to wildlife in the area. Expect to be back in Cambridge around 5:00 p.m. ***This outing is open to ALL ages, not***

***just Young Adults.*** To RSVP, send an email to: [youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org) or speak to Phil Servello-Jones and Casey Marsh.



### Pastoral Care Cards This Summer

During the summer months, we invite you to support our Pastoral Care ministry by writing a simple note to First Church members who are on our weekly prayer list. It may be to share congratulations, condolences, or "get well soon" wishes. Look for the "card table" at Coffee Hour each Sunday, where you'll find the weekly list of pastoral care needs and/or the Sunday bulletin prayer section, blank cards, pens, and a Church Directory with addresses. [Read more here.](#)



*scan for  
more details*



### Breaking Bread Together: Stewardship Meals

The Stewardship Committee is organizing a series of meals to help foster community, connection, and a sense of belonging. A few folks have kindly agreed to host - now we just need to

find friends to join in! If you would be interested in sharing a meal and connecting with about 8-10 others from First Church, please express your interest by completing [this form](#). All you need to do is indicate your interest and whether you are available on the dates noted, and the Stewardship Committee will follow up to confirm your date, time, location, and coordinate a potluck sign-up!



*scan to sign up*



### Transition at First Church

Stay up to date on all the details of our time of pastoral transition on our [Transition webpage](#), where you can read the Discovery Team's report, review the options presented by the Parsonage Working Group, pray for the work of the Pastoral Search Committee, and more.



*scan to visit our Transition webpage*