

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2025

Preaching Today Mike Solberg, *Interim Senior Minister*
Liturgist Mary Martha Thiel, *Deacon*
Assisting in Worship Karen McArthur, *Minister of Stewardship & Finance*
Lee Prouty, *Facilities Manager*
Jennifer Velazquez, *guest musician*

Opening Vountary

Vater Unser im Himmelreich - Georg Böhm

Opening Hymn

54 For the Beauty of the Earth

Anthem

For I Am Persuaded - Mark Schweizer

Peace Hymn

375 Weave

Reading

Hosea 11:1-11

Sermon

God's Anger and Compassion

Sermon Hymn

89 Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

Offertory

O Taste and See - Thomas Pavlechko

Closing Hymn

318 (insert) Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Covenant Testimony

All: We believe that our covenant with God and each other calls us:
to love God with all that we are,
and our close and distant neighbors as ourselves;
to seek peace through justice and equity for all people;
to engage in nonviolent resistance to evil;
to respect and preserve God's earth;
to foster community across every barrier and division;
to attend to God's unfolding and reconciling Word;
to support each other in our frailties and strengths,
that we may embody that love which overcomes fear and death.
This we testify, confessing always our reliance on God's grace in Christ,
and on the power of the Holy Spirit.

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. Parsonage Discussion, Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)

New to First Church?

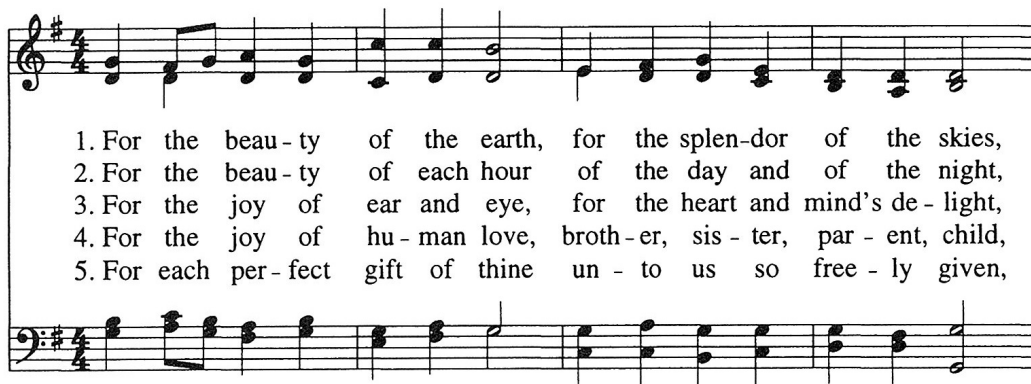
Have you just begun joining us for worship?
Consider filling out a **welcome card** found
on small clipboards in the pews or [online](#),
so that we might connect with you about
our community.

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:

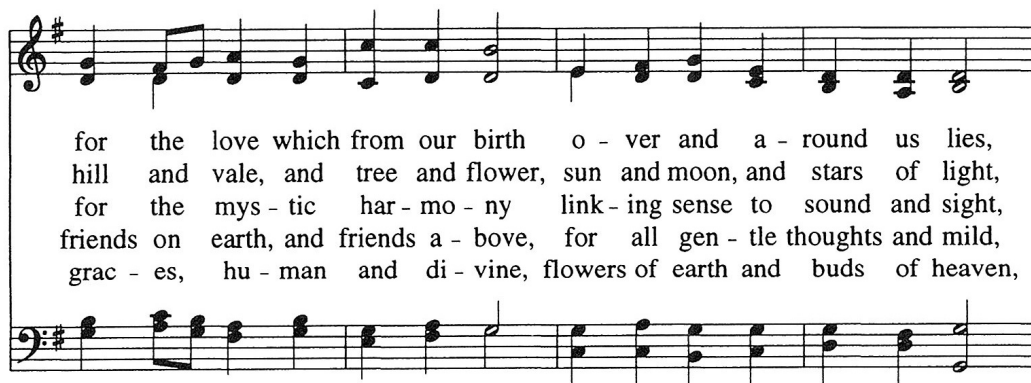


54

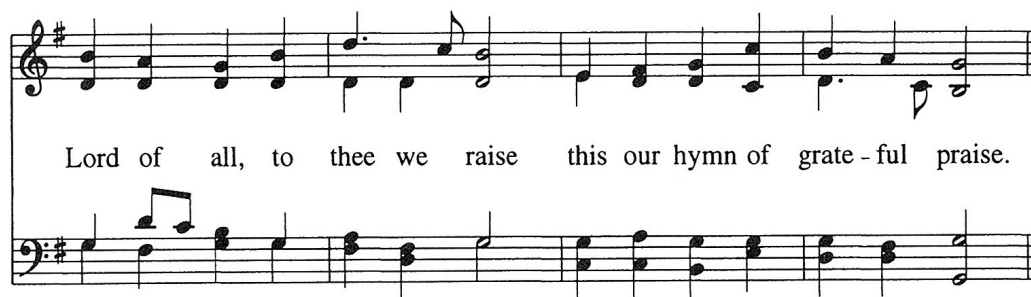
For the Beauty of the Earth



1. For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,
 2. For the beau-ty of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de-light,
 4. For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
 5. For each per-fect gift of thine un-to us so free-ly given,



for the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
 for the mys-tic har-mo-ny link-ing sense to sound and sight,
 friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,
 grac-es, hu-man and di-vine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven,



Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

Weave

375

Unison

Weave, weave, weave us to-gether. Weave us to-gether in

u-ni-ty and love. Weave, weave, weave us to-gether.

Weave us to-gether, to-gether in love.

WORDS and MUSIC: Rosemary Crow, 1979. © 1979

Rosemary Crow's hymn pulses with the rhythm of the weaver at work.

WEAVE
7 11.7 10

Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

89



1. Like a moth - er who has borne us, held us
 2. Like a fa - ther who has taught us, grasped our
 3. Though as chil - dren we have wan - dered, placed our
 4. When we of - fer food and com - fort, grasp our

close in her de - light, fed us free - ly from her
 hand and been our guide, lift - ed us and healed our
 trust in power and might, left be - hind our broth - ers,
 neigh - bor's hand in love, tread the path of peace and

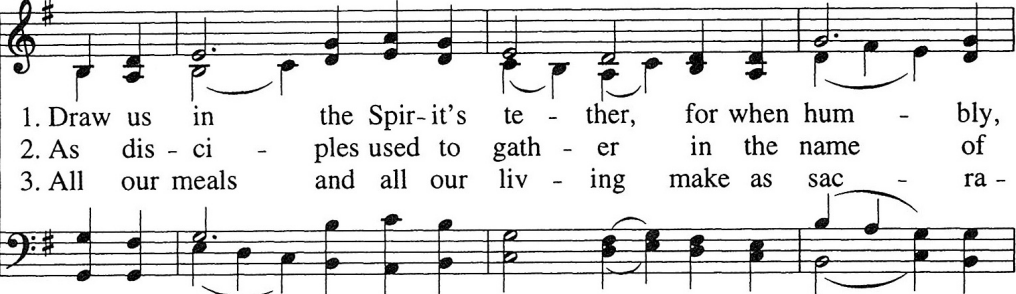
bod - y, God has called us in - to life.
 sor - rows, God has walked with us in life.
 sis - ters, God still calls us in - to life.
 jus - tice, God still walks with us in life.

WORDS: Daniel R. Bechtel, 1986
 MUSIC: William P. Rowan, 1992, adapt.

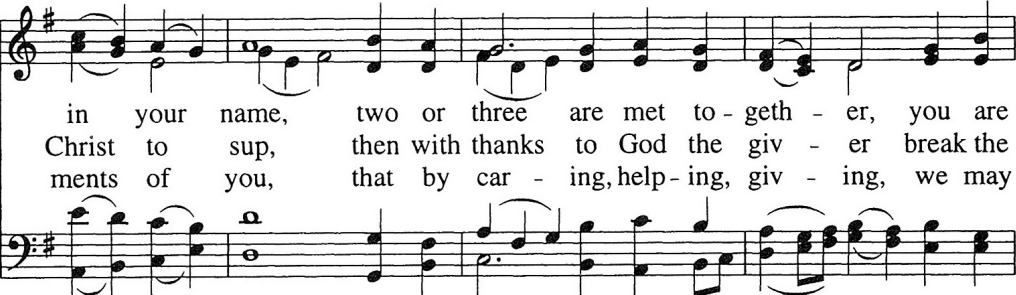
AUSTIN
 87.87

318

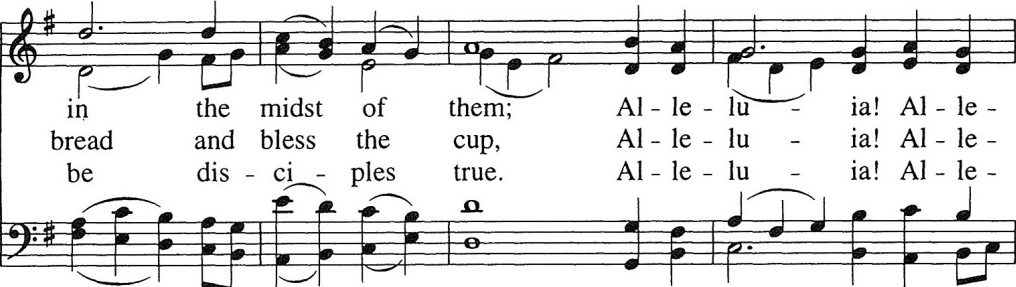
Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether



1. Draw us in the Spir-it's te - ther, for when hum - bly,
 2. As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
 3. All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -



in your name, two or three are met to - geth - er, you are
 Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er break the
 ments of you, that by car - ing, help - ing, giv - ing, we may



in the midst of them; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
 lu - ia! So now bind our friend - ship up.
 lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

WORDS: Percy Dearmer, *Enlarged Songs of Praise*, 1931, alt.
 MUSIC: Harold Friedell, 1957; adapt. Jet Turner, 1967, alt.

UNION SEMINARY
 87.87.44.7

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Linda Ziebell and her family as they mourn the loss of Ken Ziebell, a beloved First Church member, who died last week after a long decline in health.
- We pray for Mary Martha Thiel as she prepares for surgery for breast cancer this week.
- We pray for Henry Schoenfield's brother Tim, who was recently diagnosed with stage 4 bladder cancer.
- 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; Katy Bauer, Sunnessa Schettler's mother, who is experiencing COPD; and Keith Manville, Kirsten Manville's father, 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 the mass stabbing incident at a Michigan Walmart and for those grieving after the mass shooting in New York City this past week.
- 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 in Gaza, where the lack of safe access to food is causing mass starvation; in Ukraine; in Haiti; and in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- 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.



In Memoriam

A service of celebration and remembrance of the life of Ken Ziebell will take place on Saturday, August 16, at 11:00 a.m., in the Sanctuary and via livestream, followed by a light lunch reception in Margaret Jewett Hall.

SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH



Parsonage Discussions

Today, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Harter Room & [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 today 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



Camberville GBIO Relational 1:1 Social Hour

Wednesday, August 6, 6:30 - 7:45 p.m., Reservoir Church Chapel
170 Rindge Ave., North Cambridge

As the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) builds toward its next big campaign, we have been connecting with one another to take the pulse of which issues are most important to us, not just within First Church but in other congregations, too. If you've missed these

opportunities (or were left wanting more!), you can join FCC folks at Reservoir Church in North Cambridge as we pair up with members of other GBIO-affiliated Cambridge/Somerville congregations to intentionally deepen our relationships through one-to-one conversations.

[Register here](#), or reach out to Will Erickson (wericks2002@gmail.com) or Phil Servello-Jones (p.robennolt.jones@gmail.com).



register here