

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025

**Preaching Today** Karen McArthur, *Minister of Stewardship & Finance*  
**Liturgist** Ann McCann  
**Assisting in Worship** Kate Layzer, *Minister of Street Outreach*  
Lee Prouty, *Facilities Manager*  
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*

**Opening Voutary**  
*Plein Jeu - Pierre du Mage*

**Sermon Hymn**  
**225** Sweet Delight, Most Lovely

**Opening Hymn**  
**378** God, We Thank You for Our People

**Offertory**  
*God Be in My Head - J. Walford Davies*

**Anthem**  
*Lead Me, Lord - Wesley*

**Closing Hymn**  
**78** There Is Love All Around You

**Peace Hymn**  
**41** Sing Amen (Masithi)

**Voluntary**  
*Duo - du Mage*

**Reading**  
Luke 7:7-14

### 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)

### 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:*



### Worship returns to 11:00 a.m. NEXT SUNDAY, September 7.

Join us on September 7 for Regathering Sunday:  
Worship at 11:00 a.m.  
All-Church Luncheon at 12:15 p.m.

*Read all about it:*

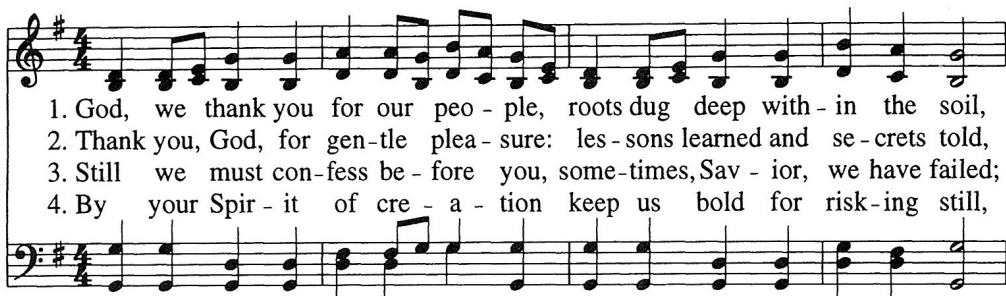
[firstchurchcambridge.org/regathering-season-2025/](https://firstchurchcambridge.org/regathering-season-2025/)



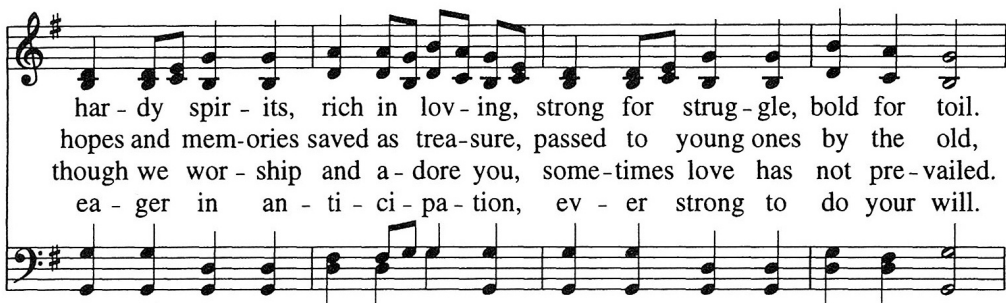
Regathering 2025



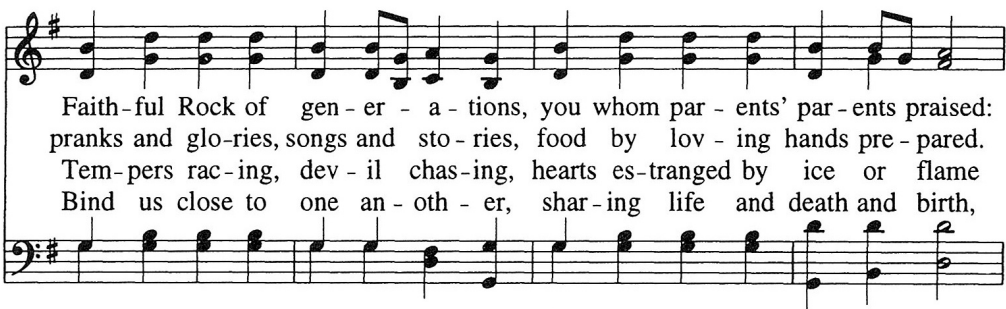
# 378 God, We Thank You for Our People



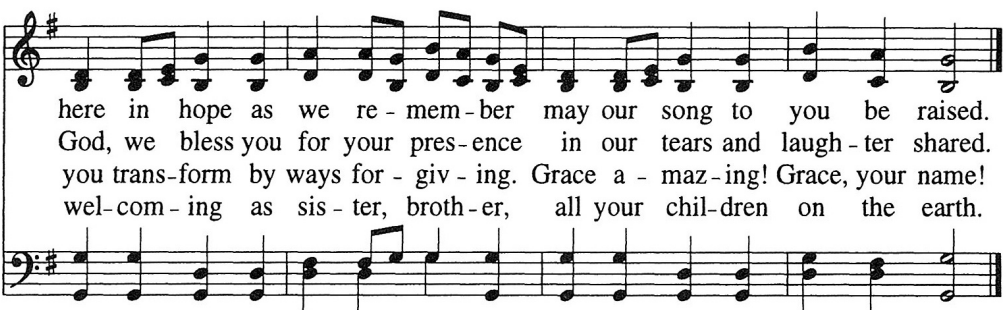
1. God, we thank you for our peo - ple, roots dug deep with - in the soil,  
 2. Thank you, God, for gen - tle plea - sure: les - sons learned and se - crets told,  
 3. Still we must con - fess be - fore you, some - times, Sav - ior, we have failed;  
 4. By your Spir - it of cre - a - tion keep us bold for risk - ing still,



har - dy spir - its, rich in lov - ing, strong for strug - gle, bold for toil.  
 hopes and mem - o - ries saved as trea - sure, passed to young ones by the old,  
 though we wor - ship and a - dore you, some - times love has not pre - vailed.  
 ea - ger in an - ti - ci - pa - tion, ev - er strong to do your will.



Faith - ful Rock of gen - er - a - tions, you whom par - ents' par - ents praised:  
 pranks and glo - ries, songs and sto - ries, food by lov - ing hands pre - pared.  
 Tem - pers rac - ing, dev - il chas - ing, hearts es - tranged by ice or flame  
 Bind us close to one an - oth - er, shar - ing life and death and birth,



here in hope as we re - mem - ber may our song to you be raised.  
 God, we bless you for your pres - ence in our tears and laugh - ter shared.  
 you trans - form by ways for - giv - ing. Grace a - maz - ing! Grace, your name!  
 wel - com - ing as sis - ter, broth - er, all your chil - dren on the earth.

# Sing Amen

(Masithi)

41

(Sing a-men:) A-men, we praise your name, O God. (Sing a - men:)  
 (Ma - si - thi:) A-men, si - ya - ku - du - mi - sa. (Ma - si - thi:)

A-men, we praise your name, O God. (Sing a - men:) A - men, a - men,  
 A - men, si - ya - ku - du - mi - sa. (Ma - si - thi:) A - men, Ba - wo,

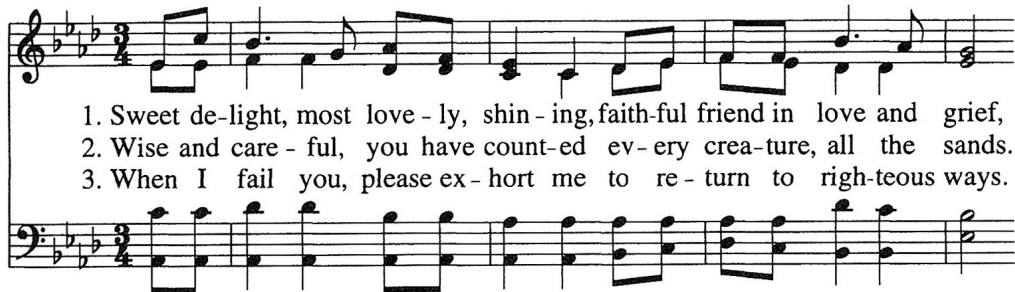
a - men, a - men, a - men, we praise your name, O God.  
 a - men, Ba - wo, a - men, si - ya - ku - du - mi - sa.

WORDS: South African hymn  
 MUSIC: Attr. S. C. Molefe; arr. Dave Dargie, *Lumko Songbook*

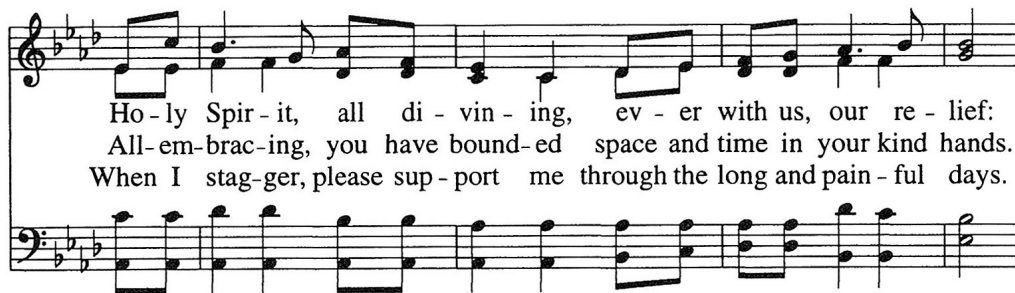
MASITHI  
 LM  
 © Lumko Institute

225

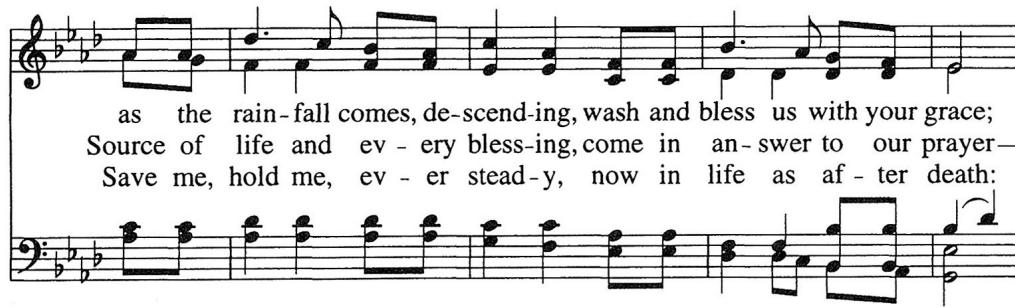
# Sweet Delight, Most Lovely



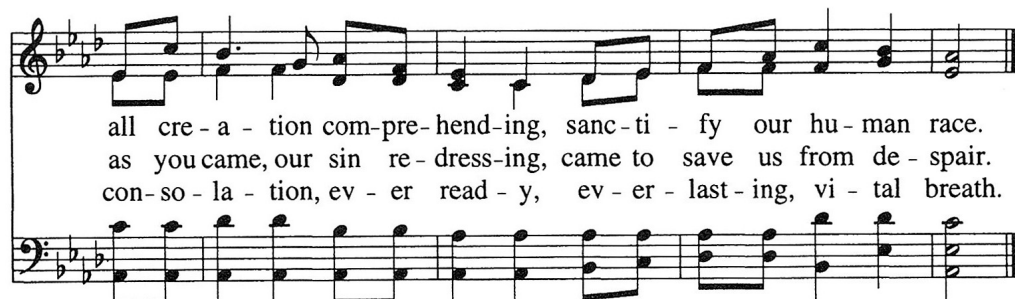
1. Sweet de-light, most love - ly, shin - ing, faith-ful friend in love and grief,  
 2. Wise and care - ful, you have count-ed ev-ery crea-ture, all the sands.  
 3. When I fail you, please ex - hort me to re - turn to righ-teous ways.



Ho - ly Spir - it, all di - vin - ing, ev - er with us, our re - lief:  
 All-em-brac-ing, you have bound-ed space and time in your kind hands.  
 When I stag-ger, please sup - port me through the long and pain - ful days.



as the rain-fall comes, de-scend-ing, wash and bless us with your grace;  
 Source of life and ev - ery bless-ing, come in an - swer to our prayer—  
 Save me, hold me, ev - er stead-y, now in life as af - ter death:



all cre - a - tion com-pre-hend-ing, sanc-ti - fy our hu - man race.  
 as you came, our sin re-dress-ing, came to save us from de - spair.  
 con-so - la - tion, ev - er read - y, ev - er - last - ing, vi - tal breath.



78

# There Is Love All Around You

1. There is love all a - round you, there is  
 2. There is peace if we seek it, there is  
 3. There are tears all a - round you, there are  
 4. Like a stream grow - ing strong - er, love is

joy on the wind. Stretch your hand to your  
 truth that will win. There is God in our  
 souls with - out friend. Feel the pain of an -  
 shared friend to friend and flows on to the

broth - er, and new life will be -  
 sis - ter; God is love; let love  
 oth - er, and let love bloom a -  
 Mak - er, love is life with - out

gin. Stretch your hand to your  
 in. There is God in our  
 gain! Feel the pain of an -  
 end. Love flows on to the

sis - ter, and new life will be - gin!  
 broth - er; God is love; let love in!  
 oth - er, and let love bloom a - gain!  
 Mak - er, love is life with - out end!

WORDS: Betty White, 1975, alt.  
 MUSIC: Betty White, 1975

Betty White served as Director of Music of St. Matthew  
 Episcopal Church, Houston TX, for five years.

LOVE  
 76.76.76

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Beth Spaulding and her father Bob, as Bob was readmitted to the hospital this past week.
- We pray for Amani and Amini Mataboro Tom as they transition into life in Kenya and continue their human rights work in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- We celebrate with grandparents Kate Layzer and Don Johnson the birth of Oscar Murdo Chiswick, son of Faith Ross and Larry Chiswick, on August 15.
- We pray for Cathy Patton's friend Elmo, whose mother Margaret Mickel died recently following a stroke. We also pray for Radley, another friend of Cathy, who is recovering after a hospitalization.
- 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's father, who has atypical Parkinsonism. We also pray for those in treatment for cancer: Mary Martha Thiel, Betsy Opitz; Tim Schoenfield, Henry's brother; 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 all those impacted by the school shooting in Minneapolis this past week, and for all who have experienced gun violence in their lives.
- In this tense time in our country, we pray for all those resisting 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 detention, disappearance, and deportation initiatives that ignore rights guaranteed by our nation's constitution. We pray for city leaders responding to unwanted federal deployments of national guard and other military servicemembers.
- 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. 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 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.

*-Insert 2-*

## REGATHERING AT FIRST CHURCH

### Prayers for Liberty Labor Day Walk TOMORROW

**Monday, September 1, 9:00 - 5:00 p.m., Lexington to Boston**

On May 30, [Prayers for Liberty](#) held an interfaith clergy march from Lexington to Boston. Hundreds of faith leaders from all different sects and creeds, including our own Pastor Mike, came together in support of democracy and human rights. The organization is now planning to march again. And this time they're inviting as many lay people as possible to join for all or part of the walk, which will begin at the Lexington Battle Green and end at the statue of The Embrace in Boston Common. The walk will take place on Labor Day, all day from 9:00 to 5:00. We understand that this is a lot of effort for a day traditionally spent holidaying, but we believe the times demand this of us. [Register for the walk here](#), and let [Sarah Higginbotham](#) know that you've registered, so that we can look for and connect First Church folks to each other during the walk.



[register here](#)

### Men's Breakfast

**Saturday, September 6, 8:00 - 9:30 a.m., Harter Room**

The Men's Breakfast is a forum for any and all who identify as men at First Church. We meet monthly to share breakfast and to share experiences. We prepare breakfast and participate with a rotating monthly leader. All are welcome! If you would like to be added to the Men's Breakfast email list to receive reminders of these gatherings, please contact Peter Byerly: [p.byerly@comcast.net](mailto:p.byerly@comcast.net)



#### MEN'S BREAKFAST

a monthly gathering  
for sharing our stories and reflections



### Growing Closer to God: Regathering Season 2025

The Discovery Team wrote in their comprehensive report last spring that First Church *"stands at a tender and transformative moment in its life together. This time of transition invites us to reflect deeply on who we are, what we value, and where we feel called to go as a community of faith."* The report highlights that many within our congregation are seeking more spiritual grounding and growth, especially to support us as we live out our values of social justice and anti-racism. And, at the same time, people are not sure exactly what spiritual grounding and growth might look like! With that in mind, this fall we will center our regathering around a question:

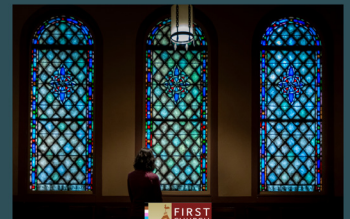
***What does it mean to grow closer to God, as individuals and as a church community?***

We'll be exploring a range of possible responses to this question, both from an individual and a communal perspective, and also simply affirming that this is a good discussion to have! Join us in worship, small groups, Bible study, and multigenerational formation as we practice our faith together.

-Insert 3-

#### GROWING CLOSER TO GOD

Regathering Season 2025



## REGATHERING AT FIRST CHURCH



### Friday Café Season 12

The Friday Café returns to full operation on Friday, September 5, offering a full cooked meal, along with a variety of other resources. Come visit our thriving community, and consider [signing up to volunteer](#) in person or to cook a dish for our weekly potluck-style menu.



*sign up*



### Night Song Returns to Sunday evenings, 7:30 - 8:15p.m. Sanctuary and via livestream

Night Song is a worship opportunity that offers stillness and sublime music in a darkened sanctuary for respite and reset. Night Song is a hybrid offering of First Church for in-person attendance in the Sanctuary and viewing via livestream or listening at another time on the Night Song YouTube channel.

[Learn more about Night Song.](#)



*learn more*



### Register for Church School 2025-26

Church School classes begin on September 14! You can read all the details on the [Faith Formation for Children & Youth](#) page on our website. Registering your children helps us to prepare for them, but drop-ins are always welcome. [Please complete this registration form](#) to let us know a bit about your children.



*register here*



### Register for the All-Church Fall Retreat Friday, September 26 - Sunday, September 28, 2025

The retreat is an amazing opportunity to spend time with our multigenerational church community in a glorious location on the Cape. [Register here!](#)



*register here*



### Newcomers Gathering

#### Sunday, September 14, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m., Harter Room

Feeling new here at First Church? Thinking about becoming a member? Either way, come join us for a newcomers' gathering after worship on September 14. Come meet other folks who are new, connect with staff and a few members of the church, learn a bit more about membership, and ask any questions you might have. We'll even provide lunch!



### Faith & Life Groups: Fall 2025 - Call for Leaders!

Are you interested in leading a small group over Zoom or in person this Fall? Contact Beth Spaulding ([bspaulding68@gmail.com](mailto:bspaulding68@gmail.com)) to discuss your idea for the next round of Faith & Life Groups, running in October/November, with registration happening in September.