

**First Parish Church, Congregational
On the Village Green
Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts**

*Awaken to the Light and Love of God;
Be a Joyful Beacon to the World*

Rev. Dr. Mark Boyea, Minister
Dr. Herman Weiss, Director of Music and Organist

First Parish Church, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Worship Celebration
Memorial Day Sunday
Sunday, May 29, 2022
10:00 am

Prelude *"America the Beautiful"* Ward, arr. Hartman

Welcome

Reading of the Annual Meeting Warrant

Opening Hymn *"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"*
(printed in bulletin)

Opening Prayer (together)

Holy One, God of Peace, Lover of Souls;

May the memory of wars from times before and this one strengthen our
commitment and efforts on behalf of peace.

May the memory of those who died and die today to protect and defend the
vulnerable and defenseless move us to better serve the living.

May the memory of past and present devastation and destruction lead us to build
a better future for all.

May the first two world wars be the last world wars, and the wars of today be the
last of any kind.

We pray for this and all things in the name of Jesus - the One you sent to show
us and teach us the way to you; the One we call Prince of Peace. We pray
together now with the words he gave us...

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Solo

“General William Booth Enters Into Heaven”

Ives, text Lindsay

Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

Booth led boldly with his big bass drum (Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?). Hallelujah. Saints smiled gravely and they said, ‘He's come.’ (Washed in the blood of the Lamb?) Walking lepers followed rank on rank, lurching bravos from the ditches dank drabs from the alleyways and drug fiends pale.

Minds still passion ridden, soul flowers frail: vermin eaten saints with moldy breath, unwashed legions with the ways of Death (Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?)

Ev'ry slum had sent its half-a-score the round world over (Booth had groaned for more). Ev'ry banner that the wide world flies, bloomed with glory and transcendent dyes. Big-voiced lassies made their banjoes bang, bang, bang, made their banjos, tranced, fanatical they shrieked and sang: ‘Are you? Are you washed in the blood? In the blood of the Lamb, of the Lamb?’ Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Lord, Hallelujah, Lord, Hallelujah! It was queer to see bull-necked convicts, bull-necked convicts with that land make free. Loons with trumpets blowed a blare on, on, upward thro' the golden air! (Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb, in the blood of the Lamb, the Lamb of the Lamb, the Lamb?)

Jesus came from the court house door, stretched his hands above the passing poor. Booth saw not, but led his queer ones, round and round...

Yet! In an instant all that blear review marched on, marched on spotless, clad in raiment new. The lame were straightened, withered limbs uncurled and blind eyes opened on a new sweet world (Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?).

Prayer Intentions

Time of Silent and Spoken Prayer

Invitation to the Offering

Music Meditation *“Great is Thy Faithfulness”* Chisholm, arr. Howlett
Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

Prayer of Dedication

The Hebrew Scriptures 2 Samuel 11:14-17 Jane Pearson
(New Revised Standard Version Bible Translation)

¹⁴ In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. ¹⁵ In the letter he wrote, ‘Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die.’ ¹⁶ As Joab was besieging the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew there were valiant warriors. ¹⁷ The men of the city came out and fought with Joab; and some of the servants of David among the people fell. Uriah the Hittite was killed as well.

The Gospels Luke 8:26-33, 38-39
(New Revised Standard Version Bible Translation)

²⁶ Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee.

²⁷ As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, ‘What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me’— ²⁹ for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰ Jesus then asked him, ‘What is your name?’ He said, ‘Legion’; for many demons had entered him. ³¹ They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

³² Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁸The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹‘Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.’ So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

Message

Choir Anthem

“Canticle of Fellowship”

Courtney

text: Fawcett; Colossians 3:12-14

Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Forgive each other as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love.

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above. Before the throne we pour our prayers; our hopes are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts, that binds our hearts in love. We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear; and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear. When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain; we shall still be joined in, joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

Blest be the ties that binds our hearts, that binds our hearts in love. From sorrow, toil, and pain and sin we shall be free; and perfect love and joy shall reign throughout eternity.

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts, that binds our hearts in love.

Closing Hymn

“O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”

(printed in bulletin)

Blessing

Closing Song

“May the Road Rise Up to Meet You”

Lau

May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, may the shine warm upon your face, and the rain fall soft upon your fields.

And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand. And until we meet again, may God hold you in His hand. Amen.

- **On this Memorial Day Sunday, we welcome members of the American Legion to our Worship this morning.**
- The flowers on the altar are given by the Amaral Bailey Post #113 of the American Legion in honor of the men and women who have given their lives in our wars and conflicts.
- Our Deacon this morning is Paul Gudonis.
- TODAY'S MUSIC features one of America's first composers of international renown, Charles Ives (1874–1954). Ives is often regarded as the first “modernist” composer, employing experimental techniques such as polytonality, polyrhythms, and tone clusters. He also frequently incorporated well-known melodies, including hymns, folk tunes, and patriotic songs. His music was largely unknown during much of his life, but was championed by such luminaries as Aaron Copland, Arnold Schoenberg, and Leonard Bernstein - bringing Ives international regard today as one of America's leading composers of the 20th century.

“General William Booth Enters Into Heaven,” composed in 1914, is a complex piece in which Ives sets Vachel Lindsay's epic poem of the same name, which eulogizes the founder of the Salvation Army. William Booth (1829-1912) was an English Methodist preacher who, along with his wife Catherine, founded that international Christian humanitarian organization in 1878. “General” Booth's fame was such that, at his death, he lay in state for three days garnering 150,000 visitors. His London funeral service was attended by 40,000 including Queen Mary, and his funeral procession was led by 10,000 “Salvationists” and 40 bands. The controversial poet-performer, Vachel Lindsay (1879-1931), vividly depicts Booth's entry into heaven accompanied by the “unwashed legions” of his followers—drug addicts, convicts, prostitutes—all seeking salvation. Lindsay wrote the poem to fit the hymn tune “Washed in the Blood of the Lamb” and famously recited it (and many of his works) in a sing-song manner.

Together, Lindsay and Ives express the chaos and cacophony of those outcast crowds, the fervor of their “General,” and even some of their ridiculousness. What shines through are the sincerity of their efforts and the redeeming grace awaiting them all.

Notes by Rebecca Shrimpton

- ***Bible Study*** will be held this **Thursday, June 2** at 4pm on Zoom.
- ***Prayer and Meditation*** will next take place on **Thursday, June 9** on Zoom at 7pm.
- Our current ***Spiritual Exploration*** unit resumes this week:

“These Things”: Considering Your Life Testament

Tuesdays: May 31; June 7, 14 and 21 (additional weeks as needed)

7:00pm – 8:30pm on Zoom

Based on a spiritual exercise crafted by Jesuit priest and author Father Anthony de Mello, this unit will involve considering and sharing our responses and insights regarding a number of “*these things*” statements – for example: “*These things I have loved in life:*” and “*These experiences I have cherished:*” It promises to be a time of deep spiritual reflection, challenge, clarity and growth. After the first session, one or more “*these things*” prompts will be provided as “homework” in preparation for the following session.

Each session can be participated in on its own for those concerned about missing one or more evenings.

The homework prompts for the session on **Tuesday, May 31** are:

“These Beliefs I Have Outgrown

“These Risks I Took...”

Remember:

1. Write as many responses as you can.
2. Avoid “self-editing”

- The Outreach and Service collection continues for The Open Door and Grace Center. Bring items to the Chapel or Church. There is a box outside by the Church Office at the Chapel:
 - Baking Mixes - Cake, Brownie, Cookie, Muffin, Pancake
 - Peanut Butter
 - Canned Tuna, Chicken, and Turkey
 - Healthy Snack Items
 - 100% Juice/Juice Boxes
 - Breakfast Cereal
 - Hearty Soups, Canned Vegetables and Fruits
 - Spaghetti Sauce
 - Macaroni and Cheese
 - Rice, Noodles, Pasta
 - Pet Food
 - Gift cards from local grocery markets
- **From the Open Door and the Outreach and Service Committee**
 - Volunteers needed Fridays
 - Fulfillment Center, 11-1pm
 - Fulfillment Center, 1-3pm
 - Pick-Up Assistant, 3-5pm
 - No Contact Deliveries, 3-5pm
 - Visit VolunteerHub to claim your spot now:
<http://foodpantry.volunteerhub.com/>
- **Announcing a new Outreach and Service opportunity!**


Each month the American Legion in Manchester collects items for *Operation Troop Support*, an organization that focuses efforts on helping our deployed troops as well as their loved ones back home. The troop items requested for May are sunscreen, foot powder and deodorant; for June they are powdered drink mixes (Gatorade, iced tea, lemonade)
- **Book Group will meet TOMORROW night, Monday, May 30 at 6:30 PM** at Lauren Gudonis' home, 56 Masconomo St. Manchester. We will be discussing "Wish You Were Here" by Jodi Picoult.

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

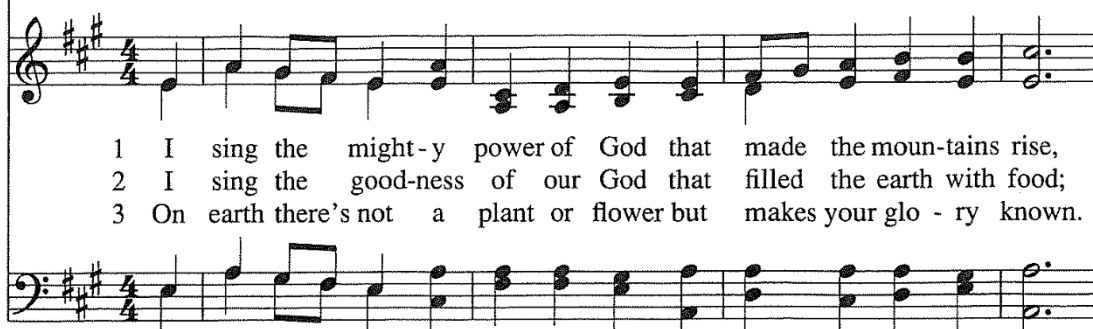
Ps. 136:5-9; James 1:17

Isaac Watts, 1715; alt.



Descant



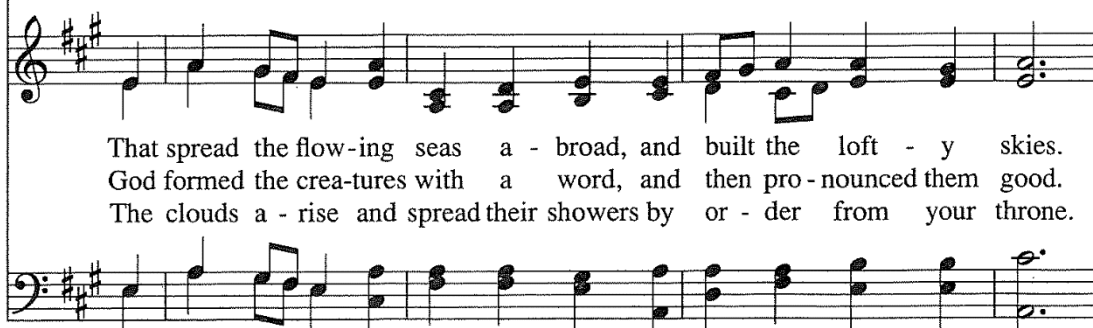
3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.





1 I sing the might-y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
2 I sing the good-ness of our God that filled the earth with food;
3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.



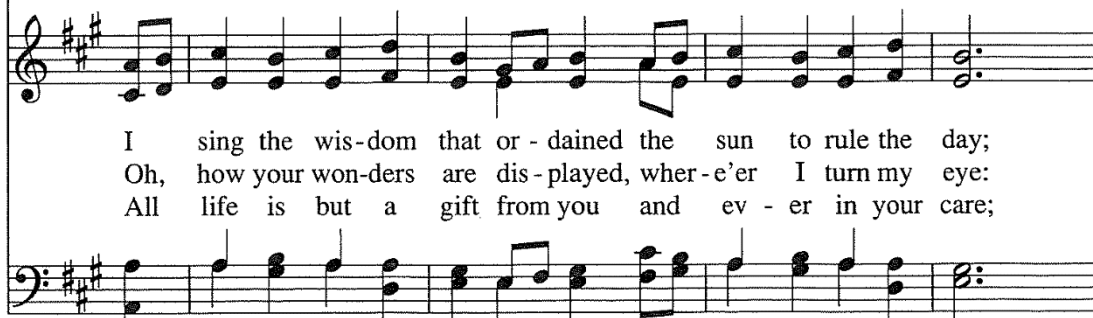
The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.




That spread the flow-ing seas a - broad, and built the loft - y skies.
God formed the crea-tures with a word, and then pro - nounced them good.
The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.



All life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;



I sing the wis-dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;
Oh, how your won-ders are dis - played, wher - e'er I turn my eye:
All life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;



The tune Ellacombe was named for a place in Devonshire, England. It was first published in a collection of tunes used in the private chapel of the Duke of Wirtemberg, and was possibly sung with the text "Ave Maria, klärer."

Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D.
Gesangbuch der herzoglichen
Wirtembergischen katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784
Descant, The New Century Hymnal, 1993



Wher - ev - er peo - ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres - ent there.



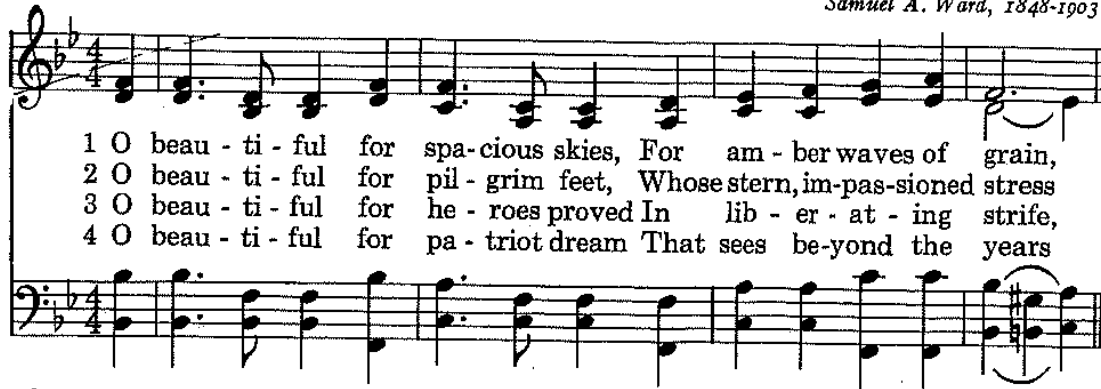
The moon shines full at God's com - mand, and all the stars o - bey.
If I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
Wher - ev - er peo - ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres - ent there.



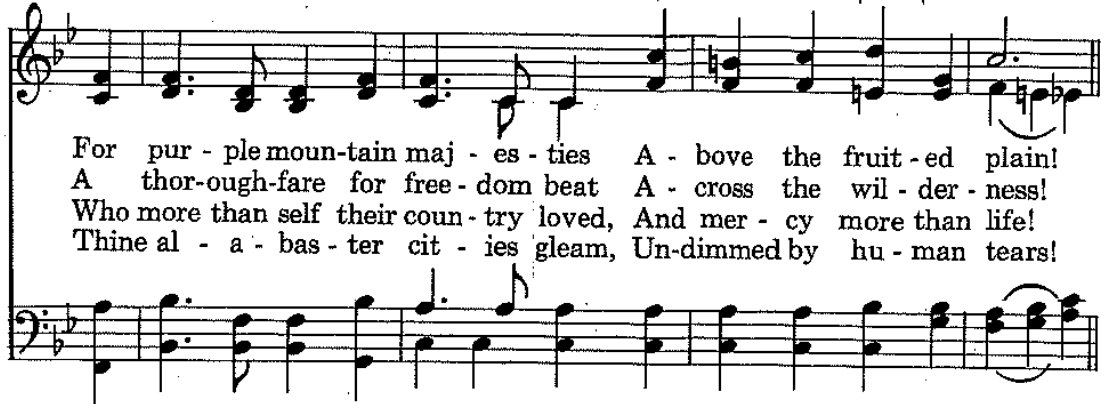
O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

Katharine Lee Bates, 1859-1929

MATERNA C.M.D.
Samuel A. Ward, 1848-1903



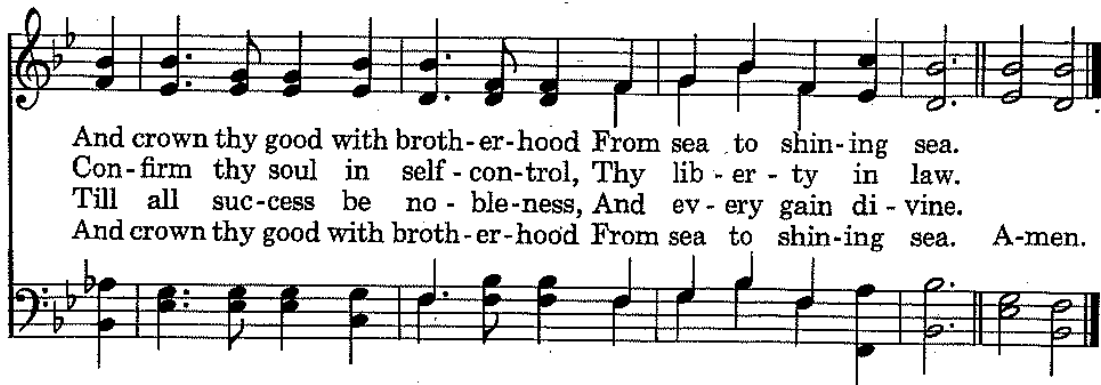
1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, For am - ber waves of grain,
2 O beau - ti - ful for pil - grim feet, Whose stern, im - pas - sioned stress
3 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved In lib - er - at - ing strife,
4 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream That sees be - yond the years



For pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties A - bove the fruit - ed plain!
A thor - ough - fare for free - dom beat A - cross the wil - der - ness!
Who more than self their coun - try loved, And mer - cy more than life!
Thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, Un - dimmed by hu - man tears!



A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,



And crown thy good with broth - er - hood From sea to shin - ing sea.
Con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, Thy lib - er - ty in law.
Till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, And ev - ery gain di - vine.
And crown thy good with broth - er - hood From sea to shin - ing sea. A - men.