

# Concerts at First Church

presents

## Choral Evensong

September 20, 2020 4 o'clock p.m.  
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 20

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*All choral pieces and hymns were pre-recorded.*

Voluntary

Psalm-Prelude, Set. 1, No. 1

Herbert Howells  
(1892–1983)

*This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD, and was saved from every trouble.*  
—Psalm 34:6

*Please stand at the Entrance of the Choir and Clergy.*

Preces ("Gladden")

Kevin Jones  
(b. 1965)

*Precentor* O Lord, open thou our lips.

*Choir* And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

*Precentor* O God, make speed to save us.

*Choir* O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Precentor* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

*Choir* As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*Precentor* Praise ye the Lord.

*Choir* The Lord's name be praised.

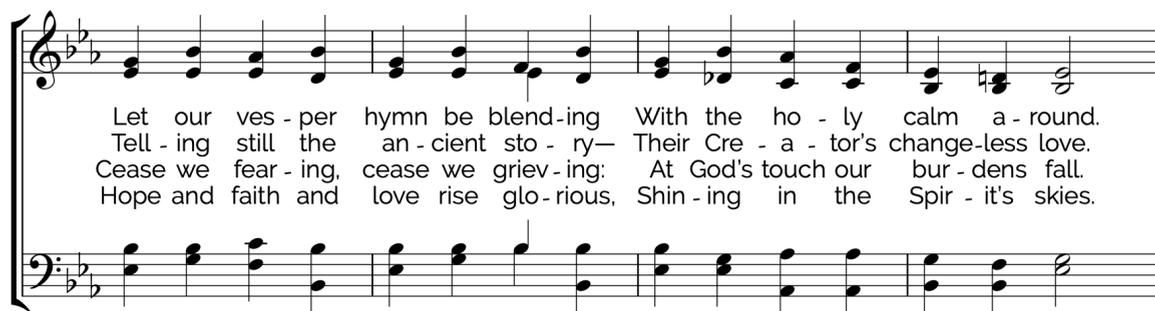
## Office Hymn

## Now From Land and Sea Descending

## Vesper Hymn



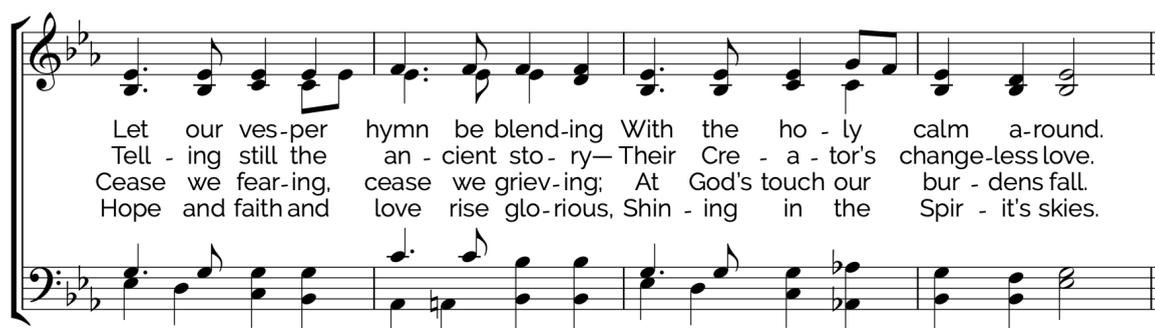
1. Now, on land and sea de-scend-ing, Brings the night its peace pro-found;  
 2. Soon as dies the sun - set glo - ry, Stars of heaven shine out a - bove,  
 3. Now, our wants and bur - dens leav - ing To God's care who cares for all,  
 4. As the dark-ness deep-ens o'er us, Lo! e - ter - nal stars a - rise;



Let our ves - per hymn be blend-ing With the ho - ly calm a-round.  
 Tell - ing still the an - cient sto - ry— Their Cre - a - tor's change-less love.  
 Cease we fear - ing, cease we griev - ing; At God's touch our bur - dens fall.  
 Hope and faith and love rise glo - rious, Shin - ing in the Spir - it's skies.



Ju - bi - la - te! Ju - bi - la - te! Ju - bi - la - te! A - men!



Let our ves - per hymn be blend-ing With the ho - ly calm a-round.  
 Tell - ing still the an - cient sto - ry— Their Cre - a - tor's change-less love.  
 Cease we fear - ing, cease we griev - ing; At God's touch our bur - dens fall.  
 Hope and faith and love rise glo - rious, Shin - ing in the Spir - it's skies.

Welcome

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston

*Please be seated as the Choir chants the psalm appointed for this day.*

- 1 I will alway give thanks unto the Lord: his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
- 2 My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.
- 3 O praise the Lord with me : and let us magnify his Name together.
- 4 I sought the Lord, and he heard me : yea, he delivered me out of all my fear.
- 5 They had an eye unto him, and were lightened : and their faces were not ashamed.
- 6 Lo, the poor crieth, and the Lord heareth him : yea, and saveth him out of all his troubles.
- 7 The angel of the Lord tarrieth round about them that fear him and delivereth them.
- 8 O taste, and see, how gracious the Lord is : blessed is the man that trusteth in him.
- 9 O fear the Lord, ye that are his saints : for they that fear him lack nothing.
- 10 The lions do lack, and suffer hunger :  
    but they who seek the Lord shall want no manner of thing that is good.
- 11 Come, ye children, and hearken unto me : I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
- 12 What man is he that lusteth to live : and would fain see good days?
- 13 Keep thy tongue from evil : and thy lips, that they speak no guile.
- 14 Eschew evil, and do good : seek peace, and ensue it.
- 15 The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous : and his ears are open unto their prayers.
- 16 The countenance of the Lord is against them that do evil :  
    to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.
- 17 The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth them :  
    and delivereth them out of all their troubles.
- 18 The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a contrite heart :  
    and will save such as be of an humble spirit.
- 19 Great are the troubles of the righteous : but the Lord delivereth him out of all.
- 20 He keepeth all his bones : so that not one of them is broken.
- 21 But misfortune shall slay the ungodly :  
    and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.
- 22 The Lord delivereth the souls of his servants :  
    and all they that put their trust in him shall not be destitute.

*At the end of the psalm, please stand as the Choir sings:*  
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. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## The First Reading

Esther 3:1—4:3

After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him and set his seat above all the officials who were with him. And all the king's servants who were at the king's gate bowed down and did obeisance to Haman; for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai did not bow down or do obeisance. Then the king's servants who were at the king's gate said to Mordecai, "Why do you disobey the king's command?" When they spoke to him day after day and he would not listen to them, they told Haman, in order to see whether Mordecai's words would avail; for he had told them that he was a Jew. When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down or do obeisance to him, Haman was infuriated. But he thought it beneath him to lay hands on Mordecai alone. So, having been told who Mordecai's people were, Haman plotted to destroy all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.

In the first month, which is the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur—which means "the lot"—before Haman for the day and for the month, and the lot fell on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar. Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered and separated among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from those of every other people, and they do not keep the king's laws, so that it is not appropriate for the king to tolerate them. If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued for their destruction, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who have charge of the king's business, so that they may put it into the king's treasuries." So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. The king said to Haman, "The money is given to you, and the people as well, to do with them as it seems good to you." Then the king's secretaries were summoned on the thirteenth day of the first month, and an edict, according to all that Haman commanded, was written to the king's satraps and to the governors over all the provinces and to the officials of all the peoples, to every province in its own script and every people in its own language; it was written in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the king's ring. Letters were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces, giving orders to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all Jews, young and old, women and children, in one day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods. A copy of the document was to be issued as a decree in every province by proclamation, calling on all the peoples to be ready for that day. The couriers went quickly by order of the king, and the decree was issued in the citadel of Susa. The king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city of Susa was thrown into confusion. When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went through the city, wailing with a loud and bitter cry; he went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one might enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. In every province, wherever the king's command and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and most of them lay in sackcloth and ashes.

*Officiant* Here ends the reading.  
*People* Thanks be to God.

*Please stand.*

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

Lee Hoiby  
(1926–2011)

MY soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is upon them throughout all generations. He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory to the Father, glory to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

The Second Reading

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

*Officiant* Here ends the reading.  
*People* Thanks be to God.

*Please stand.*

Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon)

Hoiby

LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people, To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory to the Father, glory to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed, *said together, standing*

I BELIEVE IN GOD the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.

The Responses

Jones

*Precentor* The Lord be with you.

*Choir* And with thy spirit.

*Precentor* Let us pray.

*Please be seated during the slight pause.*

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

*Then the Congregation and Choir will sing the Lord's Prayer on a monotone.*

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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. Amen.

*Precentor* O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

*Choir* And grant us thy salvation.

*Precentor* O Lord, save the State.

*Choir* And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

*Precentor* Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

*Choir* And make thy chosen people joyful.

*Precentor* O Lord, save thy people.

*Choir* And bless thine inheritance.

*Precentor* Give peace in our time, O Lord.

*Choir* Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

*Precentor* O God, make clean our hearts within us.

*Choir* And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collect of the Day

Grant us, O Lord, not to mind earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to cleave to those that shall abide; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Collect for Peace

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Collect for Aid against all Perils

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Anthem

Seek Him That Maketh the Seven Stars

Jonathan Dove

(b. 1959)

Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion and turneth the shadow of death into the morning. Alleluia, yea, the darkness shineth as the day, the night is light about me. Amen.  
—Amos 5:8; Psalm 139

Prayers of Intercession

Rev. Livingston

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom, *said together*

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise, that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests; Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

Welcome and Offering Invitation

The Grace, *said together*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

*Please stand.*

Closing Hymn

The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, Is Over  
(The closing hymn is found on the next page)

St. Clement

During the singing of the Closing Hymn, we invite you to support the First Church Choir's 2022 Winchester Cathedral Tour Fund. To give electronically, please use this QR code for the link, or [www.first-church.org/give.aspx](http://www.first-church.org/give.aspx), and choose "Choir Tour Fund" for your donation. Thank you for your generosity.



Voluntary

*Allegro assai vivace* (Sonata in F Minor, Op. 65, No. 1)

Felix Mendelssohn  
(1809–1847)

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## Leadership in the Liturgy

The Reverend Dr. Nancy Livingston, *officiant*

Mark S. Williams, *verger*

Justin Meyer, *precentor*

The First Church Choir

Kevin Jones, *conductor/voluntary organist*

Tyler W. Robertson, *organist*

Peter Murray, *livestream engineer*

1. The day Thou gav - est, Lord, is end - ed, The dark - ness  
 2. We thank Thee that Thy church un - sleep - ing, While earth rolls  
 3. As o'er each con - ti - nent and is - land The dawn leads  
 4. The sun that bids us rest is wak - ing Thy chil - dren  
 5. So be it, Lord; Thy throne shall nev - er, Like earth's proud

falls at Thy be - hest; To Thee our morn - ing  
 on - ward in - to light, Through all the world a  
 on an - oth - er day, The voice of prayer is  
 'neath the west - ern sky, And hour by hour fresh  
 em - pires, pass a - way; Thy king - dom stands, and

hymns as - cend - ed, Thy praise shall hal - low now our rest.  
 watch is keep - ing And rests not now by day or night.  
 nev - er si - lent, Nor dies the strain of praise a - way.  
 lips are mak - ing Thy won - drous do - ings heard on high.  
 grows for - ev - er Till all Thy crea - tures own Thy sway.

# The First Church Choir

Kevin Jones, *Minister of Music*

*Soprano:* Marti Baumer, Brianna Burkett, Candace Cummings,  
Jennifer Fry, Melissa Lawson, Joan Lombardi, Susan Pusecker,  
Megan Smith, Lissa Wade, Margaret Wells, Lexi White

*Alto:* Janet Axt, Jamie Blair, Cari Brackett, Susan Brooks,  
Cindy Deliman, Allison Ellenberger, Marcia Essig, Brad Findell, Cheryl Hoskinson,  
Mary Anne Jacobson, Sarah Lange, Nancy Loy, SallyJane Mathias,  
Dora Paolucci, Cathy Redenbarger, Jan Wade

*Tenor:* Bill Catus, Kevin Cubick, Jim Griffin, Dustin Jarred,  
Bill Lange, Justin Meyer, Pavan Peter, Rick Sayre

*Bass:* Joseph Bellissimo, Jonathan Bethke, Jeff Corzine,  
John Deliman, Jim Gieseke, Christopher Humbert,  
Ryan Jones, Sebastian Knowles, David Stang

Please join us next Sunday, Sept. 27, at  
4 p.m. as Concerts presents organist

## Kevin Jones

playing music of Bach, Franck, and Vierne

See the webcast of this event at:

[www.concertsatfirstchurch.org/webcasts](http://www.concertsatfirstchurch.org/webcasts)



*THANK YOU for supporting Concerts at First Church. Through your generosity we can offer programs that feature our outstanding organs and choirs, and that offer the congregation at First Congregational Church, UCC, and the greater Columbus community both musical variety and excellence.*

*We thank the many donors who have already given in support of this year's concert series. Without you, none of this music could happen. This year's donor list is in process. Please check back in October for updates. If you would like to donate to the series, and would like a card and a brochure mailed to you, please contact Amy Wagner at [awagner@first-church.org](mailto:awagner@first-church.org)*

**THANK YOU!**

## Welcome Statement

You are welcomed, affirmed, and loved here; our faith informs us that you are a child of a loving God. Your characteristics and gifts will enrich our congregation. In this community, you will be celebrated, embraced, and honored, no matter how you identify or how your identity may evolve. Wherever you are on your faith journey, we invite you to join us in our diverse yet united experience.

## Open and Affirming Statement

We, the members of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio, welcome and affirm all. We believe we are all created in God's image and called to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us. We believe we are many members, but one body in Christ, called to unite all people in God's love. We are a community seeking God's presence and love in our lives. We seek to unite persons of all ages, races, nationalities, ethnicities, sexual orientations, sexes, gender identities and expressions, family structures, mental, intellectual and physical conditions, economic circumstances, political, theological and faith backgrounds. Together in our diversity, and being empowered and directed by the Holy Spirit, we will "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8)

—Adopted September 8, 2002 by the congregation  
Revisions adopted January 27, 2019 by the congregation

## First Church is a faith community:

- † Called together by God, the Creator and Sustainer of life, to worship, pray and serve;
- † Led by Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior, to learn the faith and welcome all God's children;
- † Empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness to God's love and justice between ourselves, and throughout the world.



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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
444 EAST BROAD STREET, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-3885  
PHONE: 614.228.1741 FAX: 614.461.1741  
[WWW.FIRST-CHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.FIRST-CHURCH.ORG)

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