



**The First Church of Monson, Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost/Communion Sunday  
Sunday, July 7, 2024**

*As a Christian community of faith and love,  
we at First Church strive to accept and respect all people.*

*- Core Values, 2022*

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## A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Based on Psalm 46

Martin Luther, 1483-1546

Tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1805-1890

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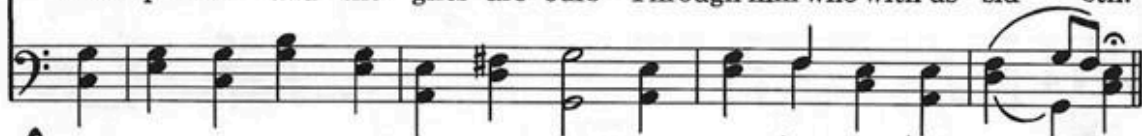
Melody by Martin Luther, 1483-1546



1 A might-y for-tress is our God, A bul-wark nev-er fail-ing;  
 2 Did we in our own strength con-fide, Our striv-ing would be los-ing,  
 3 And though this world, with dev-ils filled, Should threat-en to un-do us,  
 4 That word a-bove all earth-ly powers, No thanks to them, a-bid-eth;



Our help-er he a-mid the flood Of mor-tal ills pre-vail-ing.  
 Were not the right man on our side, The man of God's own choos-ing.  
 We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to tri-umph through us.  
 The Spir-it and the gifts are ours Through him who with us sid-eth.



For still our an-cient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are  
 Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je-sus, it is he; Lord Sab-a-oth his  
 The prince of dark-ness grim, We trem-ble not for him; His rage we can en-  
 Let goods and kin-dred go, This mor-tal life al-so; The bod-y they may



great, And armed with cru-el hate, On earth is not his e-qual.  
 name. From age to age the same, And he must win the bat-tle.  
 dure, For lo, his doom is sure: One lit-tle word shall fell him.  
 kill; God's truth a-bid-eth still, His king-dom is for-ev-er. A-men.



PILGRIMAGE AND CONFLICT

\*Those who are able are invited to stand.

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**Prelude**

*Arioso*

- J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Passing of the Lord's Peace**

**\*Call to Worship (responsive)**

**L:** Gracious God, we want to see you.

**P:** *We want to be known as the people who looked for Jesus.*

**L:** We want to be people who have your covenant written on our hearts.

**P:** *And so we humbly ask: come, gracious God and meet us now. Come Holy One, and meet us where we are.*

**\*Opening Hymn**

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

(Page 1)

**\*Prayer of Confession**

*Holy One, if we are carrying extra baggage on life's journey, teach us to travel more simply. If our possessions own us, free us to trust you and share with others. If our need for control keeps us anxious and demanding, help us to give it a rest. If we are carrying loads of guilt, may we hand them over to you, trusting you to forgive us. Holy One, make us simple: simple in trust, simple in life, simple in commitment to you. Prepare us for your mission. Allow us to join your*

*labor to heal the hurting, feed the hungry, and bring good news to the poor. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, in whose name we are baptized and sent on mission. Amen*

**\*Words of Grace and Assurance**

**\*Gloria Patri**

*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.*

**Giving of Ourselves  
Call to Offering**



Let us open our hands and hearts, and offer to God what we have come to give.

**Offertory**

*Amazing Grace*

(Page 6)

**\*Doxology**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

*Holy One, we dedicate these our tithes and offerings to you as we seek to serve you with love and justice in the world. Amen.*

**Scripture Readings**      *2 Corinthians 12:2-10*

<sup>2</sup>I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. <sup>3</sup>And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— <sup>4</sup>was caught up into

\*Those who are able are invited to stand.

Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. <sup>5</sup>On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup>But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, <sup>7</sup>even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. <sup>8</sup>Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, <sup>9</sup>but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. <sup>10</sup>Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

**Sermon**

“Sufficient”

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Invitation**

**Prayer of Consecration**

**Communion Hymn** *Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread* (Page 7)

**Sharing the Bread and Cup**

Please partake of the bread at the moment most meaningful to you. Please wait to partake of the cup until all are served; then we drink as one.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**\*Closing Hymn**

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

(Page 8-9)

\*Those who are able are invited to stand.

## \*Benediction

## Postlude

*Amazing Grace* - Arr. by Fred Swann (1931-2022)

## CHURCH NEWS

**Recycling Event.** On Saturday, July 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. First Church will be hosting an electronic recycling event in our parking lot. All towns are welcome and it is a rain or shine event. Hard drives will be destroyed. Cash is preferred, but checks will be accepted for transactions over \$30. The cost to you:

- \$5 each for computers, laptops, video game consoles, DVD players, VCRs, small printers, stereos, radios, alarm clocks, speakers, table lamps, fans, hair dryers, curling irons, projectors, power tools, drills, cameras, clocks, trophies, frying pans, holiday lights, other small electronics
- \$10 each for small household appliances, vacuum cleaners/RoboVac, toaster ovens, ceiling fans, floor lamps, air fryers, electric grills, hot plates, small radiators, keyboard pianos, coffee makers, ice makers
- \$20 each for flat screen computer monitors, microwaves, dorm-sized refrigerators, dehumidifiers, air conditioners, water coolers, large printers/copiers, leaf blowers, chainsaws, heat lamps, artificial Christmas trees, fire extinguishers, propane tanks (empty)
- \$25 each for TVs up to 26", CRT monitors, outdoor grills, snow blowers, lawn mowers, rototillers, power washers, large yard equipment, water tanks
- \$30 each for TVs between 26-35", washing machines, dryers, stoves, dishwashers, other large appliances, treadmills, exercise equipment
- \$35 each for TVs over 36", large refrigerators, ride-on lawn mowers
- \$40 each for projection TVs
- **NO CHARGE** (Cash Donations Appreciated) cell phones, **bicycles in any condition**, video game media and accessories, wires, cables, chargers, VHS/DVDs, car/household batteries, keyboard, tablets

# 650 Amazing Grace!

G Bm<sup>7</sup> C C/E G D/F#

1. A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, That  
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And  
 3. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His  
 4. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
 5. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright

Em Bm Am/C D D<sup>7</sup> Bm/D G G/B

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that  
 word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and  
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me  
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to

C G G/B C G/D D<sup>7</sup> G

now am found; Was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!  
 por - tion be As long as life en - dures.  
 safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.  
 sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: St. 1-4, John Newton, 1725-1807; st. 5, attr. to John Rees, fl. 1859  
 Tune: NEW BRITAIN, CM; *Virginia Harmony*, 1831; harm. by John Barnard, b.1948, © 1982, The Jubilate Group  
 (admin. by Hope Publishing Company)

# Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

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James Montgomery, 1825; alt.

Luke 24:30-31, 35

1 Be known to us in break-ing bread, but do not then de - part;  
2 Here share with us in love di - vine, your bod - y and your blood;

O Sav - ior, stay with us and spread your ta - ble in our heart.  
That liv - ing bread, that heav-en-ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

*This hymn is sometimes found as the second and third stanzas of an American hymn, "Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless." Montgomery—Moravian poet, journalist, humanitarian, and author of more than 400 hymns—titled this hymn "The Family Table."*

Tune: ST. FLAVIAN C.M.  
Day, The Whole Booke of Psalms, 1562

## This Week in the Life of the Congregation

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| July 7, Sunday     | 10:00 a.m. - Worship (S)                              |
| July 8, Monday     | LOAVES & FISHES<br>3:00-4:30 p.m. - Girl Scouts (SSA) |
| July 9, Tuesday    | 4:00-5:00 p.m. - Barre Above Class (SSA)              |
| July 10, Wednesday | 6:00-8:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts (SSA)                     |
| July 13, Saturday  | 7:00-8:30 a.m. - AA (L)                               |
| July 14, Sunday    | 10:00 a.m. - Worship (S)                              |

C - Julie Sprague Chapel  
F - Fellowship Hall  
K - Kitchen  
L - Library  
PS - Pastor's Study  
S - Sanctuary  
SSA - Sunday School Auditorium  
SS - Sunday School Classroom  
SSC - Silver Street Chapel

\*Those who are able are invited to stand.



# What a Friend We Have in Jesus

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Joseph Scriven, 1855; alt.

Phil. 4:6-7

1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, bur - dened with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!  
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to our God in prayer!  
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, take it to our God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need - less pain we bear,  
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful, who will all our sor - rows share?  
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to our God in prayer!

All be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer.  
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to our God in prayer!  
 Je - sus' arms will take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.

*No stranger to sorrow himself, Joseph Scriven wrote this hymn to comfort his mother in Ireland. Scriven, who moved to Canada as a young man, attempted to follow literally the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount.*

Tune: ERIE 8.7.8.7.D.  
 Charles C. Converse, 1868

## Serving You Today

### Worship Leaders

Ministers of the Congregation	All Members of First Church
Pastor	Rev. Jack Kraaz
Director of Music Ministries	Kiel Krommer
Greeters/Ushers	Roger & Judy Tirrell
Lay Reader	Keith Obert

### Officers

Moderator	Cindy DeSellier
Clerk	Carol Mullen
Treasurer	Suzanne Kelley
Chair, Board of Deacons	Jeanne Dill
Chair, Board of Trustees	David Sanborn

### Members at Large

Lynn Galica  
Elaine Harris  
Mary Newland

### Staff

Church Administrator	Lee Brahen
Sunday School Superintendent	Erin Greene Wallace
Custodian	Linda Whippie

### Office Hours, Pastoral Care, and Contact Information

The office is open Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Pastor Jack is in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and at other times by appointment. You can always leave a message on the church answering machine at 413-267-3312 when the office is not staffed or contact the office by email at [office@firstchurchmonson.org](mailto:office@firstchurchmonson.org).

## IN OUR LOVE AND PRAYERS

Please complete a Prayer Request Form and place it in the offering plate if you wish to include a name in next Sunday's bulletin. Your loved one will remain on the prayer list for one month, after which you may resubmit a request if necessary.

### **For healing and support:**

Kwaku Darko Mensah

Julie

Mike Kurasinski

Jean Taylor

Annie M.

Mary

Martha Warren

Jeannette

Douglas Maliar

Buddy Richardson

Pam Sliva

Jeff Lord

### **For comfort in grief:**

The Family of James Andrew Hamel

The Family of Francis Beaulieu

### **For strength and comfort during war:**

The people of Ukraine

The people of Israel and Gaza

### **For all service people, wherever they may be:**

Chelsea Carr

Tim Olson, USN

Michael Wales, USN

Stephen Dill, USN

Malik Pugh, USMC

# Welcome to First Church



**Welcome!** If this is your first or second Sunday with us, we are grateful that you've come to be with us this morning. It is our hope that you experience the love of Christ and God's presence during our worship. If you have any questions at all about where to go or what to do, our deacons, ushers, and church members are here to assist in making you feel right at home, so please do not hesitate to ask.

**All members and guests** are encouraged to wear name tags. Guests may obtain a temporary adhesive name tag from an usher.

**The Sacrament of Communion** is offered the first Sunday of the month. All are welcome to partake of the Lord's Supper. It is up to parents to decide whether their children are ready to receive this Sacrament.

**Handicapped parking** and a wheelchair ramp to the church and Fellowship Hall are on the High Street side of the building. Hearing assistive devices are available from the ushers.

**Fellowship Hour** begins after worship in Fellowship Hall (just follow the crowd). Please join us for refreshments and conversation.

**Our Let's Eat breakfast** is over for the Summer. Please join us on Welcoming Sunday, September 15, for the return of Let's Eat Breakfast.

**Learn more.** If you would like to learn more about First Church, please call us at (413) 267-3312, email to [office@firstchurchmonson.org](mailto:office@firstchurchmonson.org), or visit our website at <http://www.firstchurchmonson.org>.

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*

