



**The First Church of Monson, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 28, 2024**

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

- Core Values, 2022

Now the Green Blade Rises

Em A Em A Bm Em

1. Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2. In the grave they laid him, Love by ha - tred slain,
3. Forth he came at East - er, like the ris - en grain,
4. When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

F#m Em Am D Em

Wheat that in the dark earth man - y days has lain;
 Think - ing he would nev - er wake to life a - gain,
 Spring - ing from the grave where three days he had lain;
 By your touch you call us back to life a - gain,

Am D Bm Em Am Bm B/D#

Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
 Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 Raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
 Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;

Em A Bm Em F#m Bm Em

Love is come a - gain, like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John M. C. Crum, 1872-1958, *Oxford Book of Carols*, alt., © Oxford University Press
 Tune: NOËL NOUVELET, 11 11 10 11; French carol; harm. by Thomas Foster, b.1938, © 1986, GIA Publications, Inc.

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Prelude *Four Variations on Kelvingrove* – Denis Bedard (b. 1950)

Welcome and Announcements

A Time for Children

Introit

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

***Call to Worship**

L: The Holy One made this day.

P: *Let us rejoice and be glad.*

P: The God who raised Jesus Christ from the dead raises us to new life daily.

P: *Glory be to God our creator, to Jesus our risen Christ, and to the Spirit our comfort.*

***Opening Hymn** *Now the Green Blade Rises* (Page 1)

***Morning Prayer**

Holy One, you are the source of our life. Gather us now together, we pray. Form us into a holy community of your own people. Mold us by the breath of your Holy Spirit, and reveal in this corporate body the face of your anointed Christ. Amen.

***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. Amen.*

Anthem

In God Alone

- Taizé

Giving of Ourselves

Call to Offering

Let us offer to God the tithes and offerings we bring
as a sign and symbol of our participation in the work
of God's realm in this time and place.

Offertory

The Summons

(Page 6)

***Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

***Prayer of Dedication**

*Holy One, we dedicate our offering to you, trusting that
it will be used to further your realm in this place. Amen.*

Scripture Reading

1 John 4:7-21

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from
God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is

love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God
sent his only Son into the world so that we might live
through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but

that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world.

¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

***Sermon Hymn**

Ubi Caritas

(Page 7)

Sermon

“Love Prevails/Hold On”

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father and Mother, 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.

***Closing Hymn** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (Page 8)

***Benediction**

Postlude *'Hyfrydol'* - Robin Dinda (b. 1959)

Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons



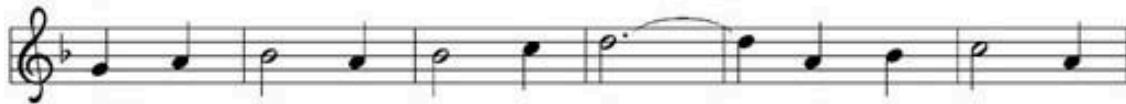
1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



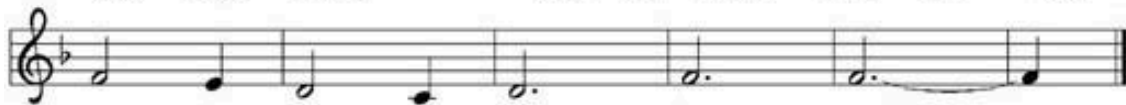
know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
 Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional
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*Those who are able are invited to stand.

Ubi Caritas / Live in Charity

The musical score is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The first system contains the lyrics "Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,". The second system contains the lyrics "live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.". The score includes various musical notations such as chords, stems, beams, and a triplet of eighth notes in the second system. The lyrics are written in a serif font and are centered under the corresponding notes.

Text: 1 Corinthians 13:2-8; *Where charity and love are found, God is there*; Taizé Community, 1978
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
© 1978, 1980, 1981, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL 87 87 D

F C Dm7 Gm F C C7 F

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
2. Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er, Let us
3. Fin - ish then your new cre - a - tion, Pure and

F Bb C7 F C Dm7

1. heav'n to earth come down, Fix in us your
2. all your life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re -
3. spot - less, gra - cious Lord. Let us see your

Gm F C C7 F C F Bb C7 F

1. hum - ble dwell - ing, All your faith - ful mer - cies crown.
2. turn and nev - er, Nev - er - more your tem - ples leave.
3. great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly in you re - stored,

Am D Gm C F

1. Je - sus, source of all com - pas - sion, Love un -
2. Lord, we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve you
3. Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in

Dm Bb B° Csus C F C

1. bound - ed, love all pure, Vis - it us with
2. as your hosts a - bove, Pray, and praise you
3. heav'n we take our place, Till we sing be -

F C Bb/D C/E F F7 Bb F/A Bb F/C C7 F

1. your sal - va - tion; Let your love in us en - dure.
2. with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in your pre - cious love.
3. fore - th'Al - might - y, Lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

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	Janice Muldrew & Donna Okskin
Lay Reader	Suzanne Kelley
Fellowship	Crystal Kofke

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.

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

Martha Warren

Jeannette

Douglas Maliar

Buddy Richardson

For comfort in grief:

The family of Glenn Putek

The family of Ricky Nash

The family of Noah DuPont

The family of Ara Olander

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

This Week in the Life of the Congregation

April 28, Sunday	10:00 a.m. - Worship (S) 11:00-11:30 a.m. - Fellowship (F) 7:00-9:00 p.m. - Taizé Service
April 29, Monday	11:00-2:00 p.m. - Priscilla Martin Funeral (S/K/F) 3:00-4:30 p.m. - Girl Scouts (SSA)
April 30, Tuesday	10:00-12:00 p.m. - Olander Funeral (S/F/K)
May 1, Wednesday	6:00-8:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts (SSA) 6:00-7:00 p.m. - Search Committee (L)
May 2, Thursday	5:30-6:30 p.m. - Zumba Class (SSA) 6:30-8:30 p.m. - Prayer Shawl (F) 6:30-8:00 p.m. - Choir Practice (C)
May 3, Friday	5:00-10:00 p.m. - Family Movie Night (SSA/F)
May 4, Saturday	7:00-8:30 a.m. - AA Meeting (L)
May 5, Sunday	10:00 a.m. - Worship (S) 11:00-11:30 a.m. - Fellowship (F) 12:00-1:30 p.m. - Reading with Erin (S)

C - Julie Sprague Chapel

F - Fellowship Hall

K - Kitchen

L - Library

PS - Pastor's Study

S - Sanctuary

SA - Sunday School Auditorium

SS - Sunday School Classroom

SSC - Silver Street Chapel

Church News

Homeless Package Collection. The Sunday School children are putting together homeless care packages and need your assistance. They would like to assemble 20 bags with the following items: feminine products, deodorant, toothpaste/toothbrush, hand sanitizers, socks, gallon-size ziploc bags, bottled water, cross key chain, pocket-sized bible, and sanitizing wipes. If they collect more items, they will create more bags. Items may be left in Fellowship Hall in the donation box. Please donate what you can!

Tag Sale/Craft Fair. Have you done spring cleaning and wish you could have a tag sale, but you don't have a good location? Set up a tent in our parking lot in the center of town. Have a lot of stuff, rent 2 spaces. Been working all winter making crafts? Here's your chance to sell them. If you have items and/or crafts for sale, please sign up for a site at the First Church parking lot. We have approximately 25 10'x10' spots available for \$25 each to set up your tag sale and/or craft booth. This event is a **Fundraiser for First Church Outreach Missions**. The event will be from 10am to 3pm on **Saturday, May 11, 2024** (rain date May 18) and you may begin to set up your booth at 7am. Please go to our website, www.firstchurchmonson.org, and click on the Tag Sale/Craft Fair logo to sign up for a site.

Wings of Song: "Rough Seas, Safe Harbors" Concert and Dinner. The Music Committee is hosting a pre-concert dinner on May 18th at 5:30 p.m. The menu is baked haddock, baked potato, homemade coleslaw, Italian bread, and for dessert apricot squares with whipped cream. Tickets are

available from Gail Pelletier, 267-4818 for \$20.00. The deadline for reservations is Tuesday, May 14th. The Wings of Song concert is free at 7:30.

Pastoral Search Committee Update. Your Pastoral Search Committee continues to meet twice a month to work on our Church Profile for the United Church of Christ Southern New England Conference. We have asked you to respond to questions posted in the Fellowship Room, attend in-home meetings, and on, April 21, complete a demographic survey, the last piece of information we will request. Thank you for your help! It is so important to include information about our church family in searching for your minister. The committee's goal is to complete the Profile by the end of May and send it to Conference Minister Terri Yasuko Ogawa for review. Yeah!! Once approved by Rev. Ogawa, the SNEUCC will send our Profile nationwide and it will be available to all ministers looking to come to Monson. The next steps will be reviewing resumés and interviewing. It's a long process, but it's important in finding the right person. Please continue to pray for this committee's work.

THE FIRST CHURCH OF MONSON
CONGREGATIONAL/UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Established 1762~Incorporated 1946
5 High Street, Monson, MA 01057
413.267.3312 office@firstchurchmonson.org

WARRANT for a SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The covenant members of The First Church of Monson, Inc., are hereby warned of a Special Congregational Meeting to be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, May 5, 2024 following the worship service. The covenant members will hear and act upon the following business:

- 1. A motion from the Board of Deacons recommending the following individuals for covenant membership: Alexander and Lauren Fox.**
- 2. Any other business to be properly presented.**

Respectfully submitted,

Carol E. Mullen
Church Clerk
April 16, 2024

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 on the third Sunday of each month. Come enjoy a hearty breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. before worship. Donations are gratefully accepted but not required.

Learn more. If you would like to learn more about First Church, please call us at (413) 267-3312, email to 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!*