



First Parish Church

BRUNSWICK, MAINE

April 28, 2024

Welcome to worship! We are glad you are with us!

First Parish Church is open to everyone and welcomes participation in the full life, leadership, and ministry of the Church. We are a diverse congregation. We welcome persons of any race, gender, ethnic origin, mental or physical ability, religious tradition, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and economic circumstance. We affirm that the love of Christ for each person knows no bounds.

WELCOME

Rev. Francesco Marshall

PRELUDE

Intermezzo op 118 no. 2
Frank Douglass, piano

Johannes Brahms

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Kevin Hart

PRAYER

Creator God, you design our celestial nights with planets and stars reminding us you are there. Your light, even in the darkest of nights, shines a light of assurance. We honor the covenant made with our ancestors, always present throughout time, in the night skies. May your light, in Jesus Christ, shine in us always. Amen

****HYMN**

Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works

NCH #3

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Jean Bass

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Today we welcome into membership Andrew Eppich and Colleen Staatz, Anthony and Nancy Mastromarino, and Barbara and John Norton.

OUR COVENANT

**We promise to do justice;
Following in the way of Jesus,
we seek to act on our deep respect
for the sacredness of each individual
and of all creation.**

**We promise to love kindness;
Inspired by the Spirit,
we vow to forgive often,
and to sustain one another
through life's challenges, joys, and sorrows.**

**We promise to walk humbly with God;
Through worship, prayer, and service,
we journey together with the Living God
whose power is revealed—
and yet to be revealed—
in each of us and in all of us.**

Bold text = Please join us in voice!

****** = Please rise as you are able

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 15:1-6; 12-18

Todd Rider

SERMON

“Written in the Stars”

Rev. Francesco Marshall

MOMENT OF SILENCE

****HYMN**

Praise to the Living God

NCH #8

PRAYERS

Rev. John Allen

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our God, 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE (Whelpton)

Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;

Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

EARTHCARE MOMENT

Becky Halbrook

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Rev. Francesco Marshall

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Creator of the Stars of Night

Dr. Jane Hagness, organ

Richard Warner

****OFFERTORY RESPONSE (Old Hundredth)**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

****PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

****HYMN**

Be Now My Vision

NCH #451

****BENEDICTION**

Rev. Francesco Marshall

POSTLUDE

Light of Lights, Lord of Lords
Dr. Jane Hagness, organ

Tom Birchwood

Please join us for coffee hour following today's service!



First Parish Church
9 Cleaveland Street, Brunswick, ME
www.firstparish.net (207) 729-7331


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Wakantanka Taku Nitawa

(Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works)

Dakota hymn, Joseph R. Renville, 1842
Paraphr. by R. Philip Frazier, 1929; alt.
For another translation, see 341

Ps. 104:24-25; Jer. 10:12-13; 2 Esd. 16:56-60

Optional hand-drum rhythm: 



1 Man - y and great, O God, are your works, Mak - er of

2 Grant un - to us com - mu - nion with you, O star a -



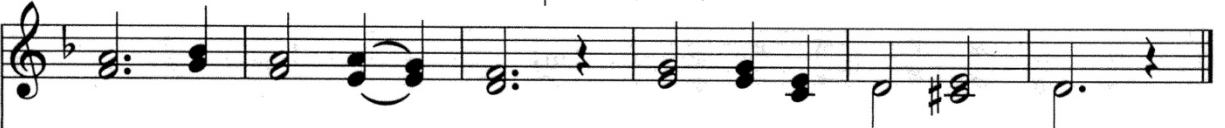
earth and sky; Your hands have set the heav - ens with stars,

bid - ing One; Come un - to us and dwell with us:



your fin - gers spread the moun - tains and plains. Lo, at your

with you are found the gifts of life. Bless us with



word the wa - ters were formed; deep seas o - bey your voice.

life that has no end, e - ter - nal life with you.



Probably the best-known Native American hymn, "Many and Great" is sung with great reverence by the Dakota people in worship, at communion, and for births, funerals, and burials. Renville helped establish the Lac qui Parle mission in Minnesota. Frazier, a Native American, was a Congregational minister.

Tune: LACQUIPARLE 9.6.9.9.6.
Native American melody (Dakota)
Adapt. Joseph R. Renville, 1842
Harm. James R. Murray, 1877

Ps. 84:1-2

Curtis Beach, 1966; alt.

1 Praise to the liv - ing God, the God of love and light, Whose
 2 Praise to the liv - ing God, from whom all things de - rive, Whose
 3 Praise to the liv - ing God, who knows our joy and pain, Who
 4 Praise to the liv - ing God, a - round, with - in, a - bove, Be -

word brought forth the myr - iad suns and set the worlds in flight;
 Spir - it formed up - on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
 shares with us our com - mon life, the sa - cred and pro - fane.
 yond the grasp of hu - man mind, but whom we know as love.

Whose in - fi - nite de - sign, which we but dim - ly see, Per -
 Who caused them to e - volve, un - wit - ting, toward God's goal, Till
 God toils wher - e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill; And
 In these tu - mul - tuous days, so full of hope and strife, May

vades all na - ture, mak - ing all a cos - mic u - ni - ty.
 hu - man - kind stood on the earth, as liv - ing, think - ing souls.
 deep with - in the hu - man heart God leads us for - ward still.
 we bear wit - ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

Curtis Beach, born into a family of several generations of ministers, was educated at Harvard University, the Boston University School of Theology, and the University of Southern California. A minister in the United Church of Christ, Beach authored *The Gospel of Mark: Its Making and Meaning*.

Tune: DIADEMATA S.M.D.
 George J. Elvey, 1868

Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905
Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.

Unison

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;
2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;
3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,
4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—
ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;
you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,
Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,
You and you on - ly are first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.
now and for - ev - er your child I will be.
great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Dating from the eighth century or earlier, this Irish hymn was translated into prose by Mary Byrne. It was then versified by Eleanor Hull, author of several books on Irish literature and history. David Evans arranged the Irish melody for this text in 1927.

Tune: SLANE 10.10.9.10.
Traditional Irish melody
Harm. David Evans, 1927

CHURCH CONTACTS:

CHURCH LEADERS

2023-2024

Church Council

Ted Wickwire

council@firstparish.net

Deacons

Mark Patrick

Finance

Susan Weddle

STAFF

Rev. John Allen – Senior Pastor - *jallen@firstparish.net*

Rev. Francesco Marshall – Associate Pastor - *fmarshall@firstparish.net*

Dr. Jane Hagness - Minister of Music - *jhagness@firstparish.net*

Bridgette Hodgkins – Children & Youth Ministry Leader - *bhodgkins@firstparish.net*

Sarah Mills - Office Administrator - *office@firstparish.net*

Julie Crofts – Finance Administrator – *finance@firstparish.net*

Jared Morneau - Worship Broadcaster - *jmorneau@firstparish.net*

CHURCH SCHOOL STAFF

Jocelyn Hooydonk - Infant & Toddlers

Danielle Moody - PreK-Kindergarten

Gwen Roberge – Grades 1-4

Bridgette Hodgkins – Grades 5-7

Melissa Moody - Assistant

SUNDAY SERVICE

Fred Dickey - Opener

Hector Casas and Mark Wild – Greeters

Nancy and Marty Damiani – Coffee Servers

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The memorial service for Hilda Wiley will be held in the Sanctuary today at 2pm with a reception to follow at St. John's Community Center on Pleasant Street. All are invited to attend.

Have an item for the Sunday bulletin, Friday newsletter, or Life of the Church?

Be sure to email your proposed announcement to our Office Administrator, Sarah Mills, at *office@firstparish.net* by **5pm on Wednesday** so it can be included in that week's messaging!

Ann's Spirituality Library: Reading outside while listening to birds is magical and, undoubtedly, good for one's health. Our lending library in the parlor of Pilgrim House has such a wonderful array of books from which to choose. Why wait a minute more?

Sanctuary Archive Display: March 1846 Dedication of our Sanctuary and Re-Hanging of our 1843 Clock

Vestry Display: First Parish Church's EarthCare Team

Give Electronically

The ministry and mission of First Parish Church is made possible by the offerings of our members and friends. To make an offering with a credit or debit card, please scan this QR code with your smartphone. Gifts of cash and check will be collected during the Offering.

