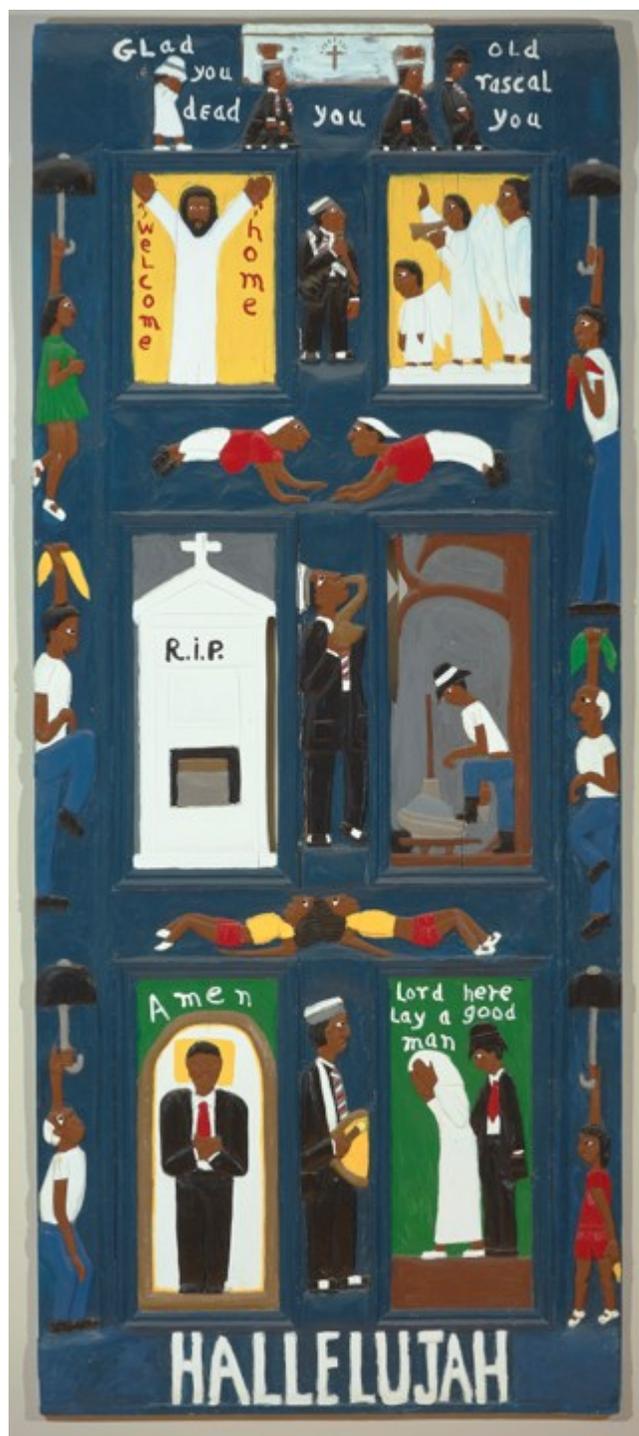


Welcome to First Congregational Church



Hallelujah Door,
Herbert Singleton, 1993
wooden door with enamel paint
High Museum, Atlanta

Singleton was a self-taught artist from New Orleans. He has depicted a jazz funeral on a discarded church door. The lyrics at the top are from a song by Sam Theard.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*[Please send any announcements for the bulletin or weekly Enews to the Secretary (secretary@concordfirstchurch.org) by **9am Thursday morning**. Please include the exact wording of how you would like the announcement to appear. Any information received after 9am will be included in the following week's bulletin and Enews. Thank you!]*

TODAY! "**Vermeer: Delicate Mysteries in Exquisite Stillness**" with Inez McDermott. Please join us after worship for a presentation and discussion about the artist Johannes Vermeer (1632-1675 Delft, Netherlands) as well as some light refreshment.

Reminder: We will no longer be live-streaming our worship services on Facebook. Go to **Youtube.com/ConcordsFirstChurch** to watch the services live.

NEW Website: Please visit and explore at www.concordfirstchurch.org.

Weekly Prayers for the Nation: Join Rev. Renee' for a weekly hour of prayer for our nation on Zoom. Wednesdays at 1pm. Zoom link is in the weekly E-News and in the calendar on the website.

NH Council of Churches: "Dear friends in faith, This is Lisa Beaudoin from the NH Council of Churches! I'm writing to warmly invite you to join us for the 2nd Annual Granite State Jubilee on Saturday, **November 8, 2025, 9am-1pm**, for a morning of fellowship, reflection, and action. Our keynote speaker will be Eva Castillo, a fierce advocate for immigrant rights, and we will honor Reverend Jason Wells (Inclusive Love Award), Louise Spencer (Faithful Witness Award), and Representative Alexis Simpson (Compassionate Heart Award). In deep gratitude & peace, Lisa."

[At the October Council meeting, the Council voted to increase our \$200 budgeted donation to the NH Council of Churches to \$240. This provides an unlimited number of congregants that can attend the Jubilee on November 8th. To register, email Lisa at lisa@nhchurches.org and let her know that you are a member of First Church, Concord]

Your smartphone wants to know what's happening at First Church!
Scan this QR code with your phone's camera.



How Good, Lord, to Be Here!

1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the
 2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be -
 3 Ful - fill - er of the past and hope of things to
 4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom
 5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re -

4

night; your face and gar - ments, like the sun,
 hold where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand,
 be, we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied
 come; we long to hold the vi - sion bright
 main; but since you bid us leave the mount,

shine with un - bor - rowed light.
 your mes - sen - gers of old.
 and our re - demp - tion see.
 and make this hill our home.
 come with us to the plain.

Hear now our modern lesson: "When Jesus Calls His Friends to Eat" by Mary Luti
Here ends the Psalter Lesson.

Amen.

Hear now from the letter to the Ephesians...

Jim Wildman

New Testament Lesson Ephesians 1:15-19a (The Voice)

This is why, when I heard of the faith in Christ Jesus that is present in your community and of your great love for all God's people, I haven't stopped thanking God for you. I am continually speaking to God on your behalf in my prayers. Here's what I say:

God of our Christ Jesus the Anointed: I call out to You on behalf of Your people. Give them minds ready to receive wisdom and revelation so they will truly know You. Open the eyes of their hearts, and let the light of Your truth flood in. Shine Your light on the hope You are calling them to embrace. Reveal to them the glorious riches You are preparing as their inheritance. Let them see the full extent of Your power that is at work in those of us who believe, and may it be done according to Your might and power.

Here ends the Lesson.

Amen.

Let us share now together from the Gospel of Luke...

Jim Wildman

Gospel Lesson Luke 6:20-26 (The Message)

Coming down off the mountain with them, Jesus stood on a plain surrounded by disciples, and was soon joined by a huge congregation from all over Judea and Jerusalem, even from the seaside towns of Tyre and Sidon. They had come both to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. Those disturbed by evil spirits were healed. Everyone was trying to touch him—so much energy surging from him, so many people healed! Then he spoke:

You're blessed when you've lost it all.

God's kingdom is there for the finding.

You're blessed when you're ravenously hungry.

Then you're ready for the Messianic meal.

You're blessed when the tears flow freely.

Joy comes with the morning.

Count yourself blessed every time someone cuts you down or throws you out, every time someone smears or blackens your name to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and that that person is uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—skip like a lamb, if you like!—for even though they don't like it, I do . . . and all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company; my preachers and witnesses have always been treated like this.

But it's trouble ahead if you think you have it made.

What you have is all you'll ever get.

And it's trouble ahead if you're satisfied with yourself.

Your self will not satisfy you for long.

And it's trouble ahead if you think life's all fun and games.

There's suffering to be met, and you're going to meet it.

There's trouble ahead when you live only for the approval of others, saying what flatters them, doing what indulges them. Popularity contests are not truth contests—look how many scoundrel preachers were approved by your ancestors! Your task is to be true, not popular.

Here ends the Gospel Lesson.

Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

Ritual of Remembering the Saints of God

Song: #299 For All the Saints

For all the Saints, William How, Ralph Vaughan Williams

Tune: SINE NOMINE by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) from The English Hymnal. Reproduced by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

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1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who to the world their steadfast faith confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be forever blest.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

2 You were their rock, their refuge, and their might;
you, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight;
'mid gloom and doubt, you were their one true light.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

3 Still may your people, faithful, true, and bold
live as the saints who nobly fought of old
and share with them a glorious crown of gold.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

4 Ringed by this cloud of witnesses divine,
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet in your love our faithful lives entwine.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

5 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
then hearts are brave again and faith grows strong.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

We remember the great ancestors of our faith, from Abraham and Sarah, to Paul and Phoebe:

Ancestors of the faith, we remember you.

We remember the prophets and priests, the ministers and teachers who have taught us the way of God:

Teachers of the faith, we remember you.

We remember our grandparents and parents, aunts and uncles, those who have gone before us in our lifetime:

Family of our faith, we remember you.

We lift up the memories of children and grandchildren, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives and parents whose lives ended too soon:

Those close in our heart, we remember you.

We lift up to You, O God, the names of those we have lost in this past year from our lives, knowing that they are with You forever. As we read these names, we will pause after every name to remember, light a candle, and give thanks for their life.

(Reading of the names of those who have died in the past year.)

Dorothy Cassady

Elizabeth Hardy

Gary Wayne Parrish

Ruth Schubarth

Amelia Watson

Katherine Rundzieher Clark

We celebrate the lives of those we have named, O God, and lift up many more names in our hearts.

Family of God, we remember you, and we honor you. We know you are with us in the spirit of worship, and you will not be forgotten.

We give thanks, O God, for all who have gone on to be with You beyond this life. We trust in the hope of resurrection and the promise of new life in Christ.

We know that in our grief and celebration, O God, You are with us through it all, and we are not left alone. In the name of Christ, in whom love lives forever, we pray. Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

Global Ministries Weekly Prayers: Eswatini

(Written by The Rt Rev Austin Sibandze, National President of Kukhany'Okusha Zion Church)

Mission Moment from Eswatini

Prayers with Eswatini

We thank you for your love and grace upon us at Kukhany'Okusha Zion Church in Eswatini. You clothed yourself with human form and came down to us to call us by names despite our wrongdoing, as you called Zacchaeus. Today, we accept your call as we understand that through you, we will continue to grow qualitatively, quantitatively, and even resourcefully.

We pray as a church that you forgive all our sins and give us strength to do God's will by living in the gift of salvation, obeying God's word, and being transformed people with renewed minds. May you guide and protect us throughout our faith journey.

We pray that your voice be heard within the whole nation of Eswatini so that through you, Jesus Christ, there would be no more political unrest but peace, and that the Holy Spirit would fill the nation.

We thank you for the love you showed us through our partner, Global Ministries. May you pour out abundant blessings upon them for their generosity toward us. Today, we praise you, God, for through their support, the nation recognizes us as a helping hand to our communities. We pray in the name of God, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Response to each prayer:)

God of all the Saints,

Receive our prayers.

PASTORAL PRAYER (Written by Rev. Terri)

Lord's Prayer:

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 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 and ever. Amen.

Sung Amen: It's the Old Ship of Zion (African American Spiritual)

It's the old ship of Zion (x3)

Get on board, get on board.

It has landed many a thousand (x3)

Get on board, get on board.

It will take us home to Glory (x3)

Get on board, get on board.

Offertory

Invitation (written by Paul B. Robinson)

GRATITUDE MUSIC O Jesulein Suss (Public Domain) Annie Papinsick

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (written by Edwin E. Beers)

Holy One, whose heart abounds with gifts, receive this offering as a sign of our intention to live surrounded by your mercy, inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy of your presence, hospitable to one another, and generous toward your world. Amen.

COMMUNION LITURGY FOR ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

PRAISE AND THANKS

Generous Love,
You set the table long and wide and beautiful,
With places not just for us alone, but for everyone,
Saints and sinners of all times and places.

For you know how much we need each other,
How much the consolation of company means to us,
How good it is to join the present and the past,
How much deeper the love, sharper the vision,
More complete the memory,
And more authentic the witness
When it's not just us alone.

In awe of your mercy, we ask you to unite us in peace,
As we remember Jesus, your greatest gift to us.

Continued on next page

REMEMBERING JESUS

We remember the way he witnessed to your justice,
Shard your mercy, told the truth, and risked everything for it.
We remember his terrible death and his indestructible new life.

We remember that he called us to follow him.

We remember all his precious siblings, living and dead,
Whom he has made our siblings, too,
And all whose lives cry out for justice and hope,
They are present here: we embrace them, never forgetting,

**We remember the glory and the pain,
The harm and the healing.
What we have done and left undone,
In thoughts, words, and deeds,
And costly faithfulness and our mind failings.**

Asking for your mercy, and confidence of your love,
We come now to eat the meal
That strengthens our bonds of affection
And our ties of accountability
The meal of cup and poured out life;
The meal of persevering presence,
Of Love that rejoices in our good
And redeems our failings.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

**Holy Spirit, bless what we do here in Jesus' name,
Sharing with each other his bread and cup.
Help us meet him in this Communion,
Rejoicing in his affectionate company:
Not just us alone, but all of us together,
Here and everywhere, now and forever. Amen.**

*CLOSING SONG: #439 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (Public Domain)

1 A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our present help amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe;
with craft and power great, and armed with cruel hate,
on earth without an equal.

2 Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
but there is one who takes our side, the One of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus sets us free!
With mighty power to save, victorious o'er the grave,
Christ will prevail triumphant.

Continued on next page

3 And though this world with devils filled should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear for God has willed the truth to triumph through us.
The powers of evil grim, we tremble not for them,
their rage we can endure, for lo, their doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

4 That word above all earthly powers forever is abiding;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours, for Christ is with us siding,
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill: God's truth shall triumph still;
God's reign endures forever.

SETTING OUR INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

GREATEST COMMANDMENT

SENDING & BENEDICTION (written by Bruce Prewer)

POSTLUDE

ERMUNTRE DICH (PUBLIC DOMAIN)

Annie Papinsick