



**The First Church of Monson, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, August 25, 2024**

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

- Core Values, 2022

When Morning Gilds the Skies

1. When morn - ing gilds the skies, My heart, a -
 2. To God, the Word, on high The hosts of
 3. Let earth's wide cir - cle round In joy - ful
 4. Be this while life is mine My can - ti -

wak - ing, cries, "May Je - sus Christ be praised!" A -
 an - gels cry: "May Je - sus Christ be praised!" Let
 notes re - sound: "May Je - sus Christ be praised!" Let
 cle di - vine: "May Je - sus Christ be praised!" Be

like at work and prayer To Je - sus I re -
 mor - tals, too, up - raise Their voice in hymns of
 air, and sea, and sky, From depth to height, re -
 this the e - ter - nal song, Through all the a - ges

pair: "May Je - sus Christ be praised!"
 praise: "May Je - sus Christ be praised!"
 ply: "May Je - sus Christ be praised!"
 long: "May Je - sus Christ be praised!"

Text: *Wach ich früh Morgens auf*; *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, 1828; tr. by Edward Caswall, 1814-1878
 Tune: LAUDES DOMINI, 66 6 D; Joseph Bamby, 1838-1896

**First Church of Monson, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 25, 2024**

Prelude *Be Thou My Vision (Slane)* – Don Michael Dicie (1941-2022)

Welcome and Announcements

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

***Call to Worship** (RCD)

L: Come to Christ, the Living Bread, who satisfies those who hunger and thirst for what is right.

P: *Come to Christ, who gives living water, that you may never thirst again.*

L: Come to Christ, that being filled yourself, you may minister to the hunger and thirst of others.

P: *Come to the Holy One, in worship and praise, through Jesus Christ, who gives us life. Amen.*

***Opening Hymn** *When Morning Gilds the Skies* (Page 1)

***Morning Prayer**

Spirit who dawns upon us like the morning light, be gracious to us and bless us, we pray. May your touch enliven us as the rain makes the grass grow greenly, so that we might give forth your praise. It is through your blessing that we live, and in your name that we pray. 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.*

Giving of Ourselves Call to Offering



It's that time in our service when we receive our gifts, tithes, and offerings. Let us give from thankful hearts that have been moved by the undeserved favor of the Holy One.

Offertory

I Speak Jesus

Cindy DeSellier, Soloist

***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, 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.

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but

against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Sermon Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

(Page 6)

Sermon

“What Armor Should We Wear?”

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

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

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

*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** *Now Thank We All Our God* (Page 7)

***Benediction**

Postlude *Carillon De Westminster* - L. Vierne (1870-1937)



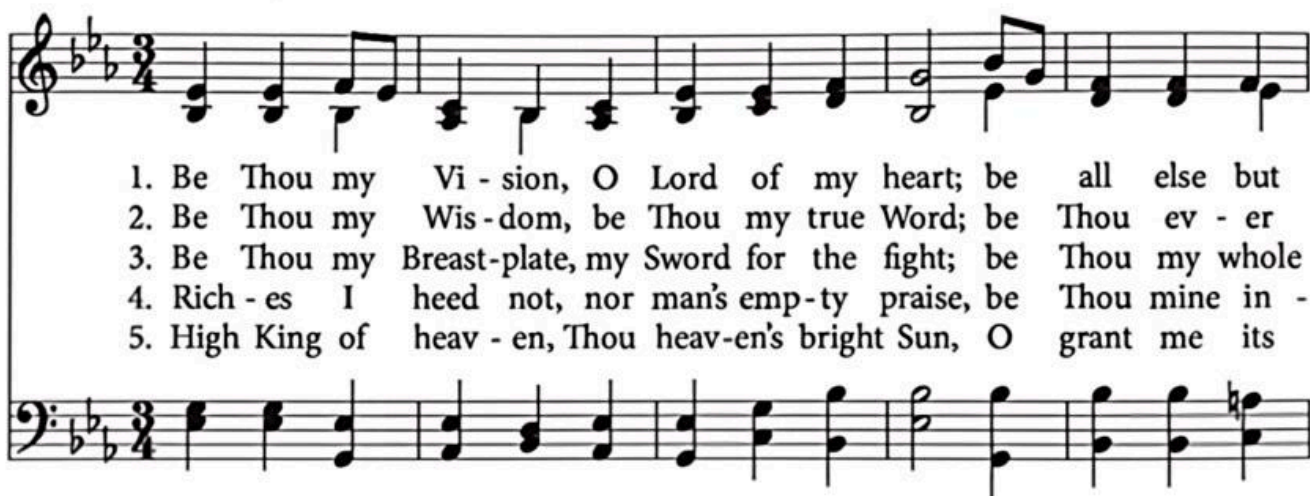
The flowers today are given to the Glory of God
by Doug & Suzanne Kelley
in loving memory of Janice T. Woods (08/28/1924-10/17/203)
on the 100th anniversary of her birth.

Be Thou My Vision

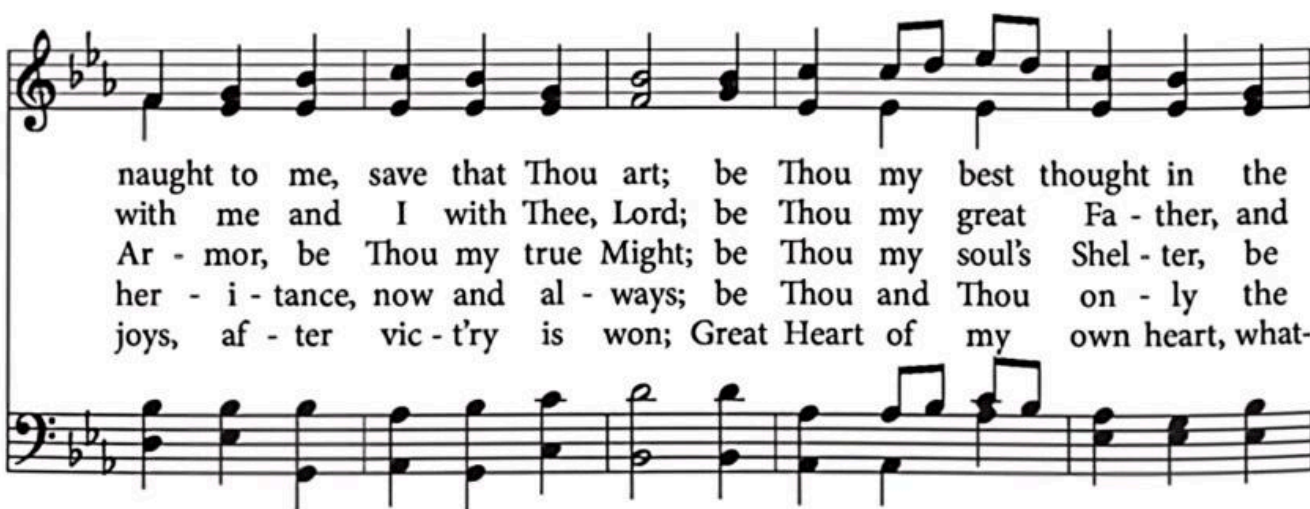
Irish hymn, 8th cent.
trans. Mary Elizabeth Byrne, 1905
vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912, alt.

SLANE
10 11 11 11

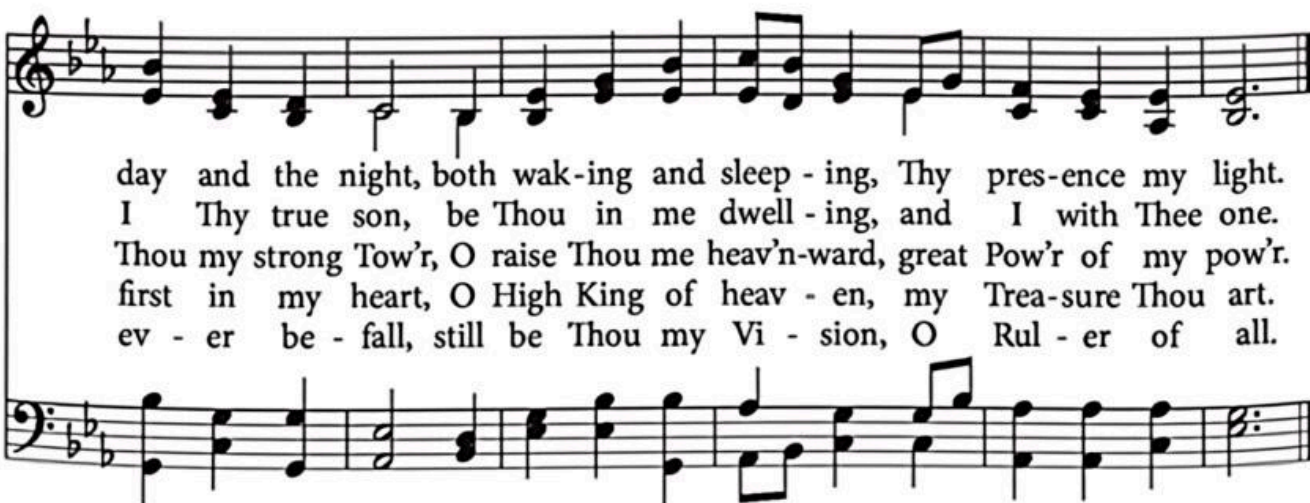
Irish folk melody



1. Be Thou my Vi - sion, O Lord of my heart; be all else but
2. Be Thou my Wis - dom, be Thou my true Word; be Thou ev - er
3. Be Thou my Breast-plate, my Sword for the fight; be Thou my whole
4. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise, be Thou mine in -
5. High King of heav - en, Thou heav-en's bright Sun, O grant me its



naught to me, save that Thou art; be Thou my best thought in the
with me and I with Thee, Lord; be Thou my great Fa - ther, and
Ar - mor, be Thou my true Might; be Thou my soul's Shel - ter, be
her - i - tance, now and al - ways; be Thou and Thou on - ly the
joys, af - ter vic - t'ry is won; Great Heart of my own heart, what-



day and the night, both wak - ing and sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
I Thy true son, be Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with Thee one.
Thou my strong Tow'r, O raise Thou me heav'n - ward, great Pow'r of my pow'r.
first in my heart, O High King of heav - en, my Treas - ure Thou art.
ev - er be - fall, still be Thou my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

Chords: Eb Ab Eb Fm Eb Bb7 Eb

1. Now thank we all our God With heart, and hands, and voice, Who
 2. O may this gracious God Through all our life be near us, With
 3. All praise and thanks to God The Fa - ther now be giv - en, The

Chords: Ab Eb Ab Fm Bb7 Eb Bb

1. won-drous things hath done, In whom his world re - joice - es; Who,
 2. ev - er joy - ful hearts And bless - ed peace to cheer us; Pre -
 3. Son, and Spir - it blest, Who reigns in high - est heav - en, E -

Chords: Eb Bb Eb D

1. from our moth - er's arms Hath blessed us on our
 2. serve us in his grace, And guide us in dis -
 3. ter - nal, Tri - une God, Whom earth and heav'n a -

Chords: Gm [Gm] C7 Fm Eb Fm7 Bbsus4 Bb7 Eb

1. way With count-less gifts of love, And still is ours to - day.
 2. tress, And free us from all sin, Till heav - en we pos - sess.
 3. dore; For thus it was, is now, And shall be, ev - er - more.

Note: When guitar and keyboard play together, keyboardists should improvise using the guitar chords above the melody.

Text: 67 67 66 66; Sirach 50:22-24; Martin Rinkart, 1586-1649; tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
 Music: NUN DANKET; Johann Cruger, 1598-1662; adapt. by Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847, alt.

Serving You Today

Worship Leaders

Ministers of the Congregation
Pastor
Director of Music Ministries
Greeters/Ushers
Lay Reader

All Members of First Church
Rev. Jack Kraaz
Kiel Krommer
Janice Muldrew & Donna Okscin
Suzanne Kelley

Officers

Moderator
Clerk
Treasurer
Chair, Board of Deacons
Chair, Board of Trustees

Cindy DeSellier
Carol Mullen
Suzanne Kelley
Jeanne Dill
David Sanborn

Members at Large

Lynn Galica
Elaine Harris
Mary Newland

Staff

Church Administrator
Sunday School Superintendent
Custodian

Lee Brahen
Erin Greene Wallace
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:

Mary

Ray Roy

Mary Catherine Russell

Marilyn Leister

Ellis

Billy

Joel Robertson

Stephen Kraaz

Kathy

Kimberly

For comfort in grief:

The Family and Friends of George Pellisier

The Family of Michael M. Thumm

The Family of Lyle and Roy Miller in the loss of their oldest son,
Donald Cortis, Jr.

The Family of Michael Taylor in the loss of his mother,
Jean Taylor

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

August 25, Sunday	10:00 a.m. - Worship (S)
August 26, Monday	3:00-4:30 p.m. - Girl Scouts (SSA)
August 27, Tuesday	4:00-5:00 p.m. - Barre Above Class (SSA)
August 28, Wednesday	6:00-8:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts (SSA)
August 29, Thursday	4:00-10:00 p.m.- Tavern Night
August 30, Friday	_____ - Tag Sale Set Up (P)
August 24, Saturday	7:00-8:30 a.m. - AA (L) _____ - Tag Sale and Picnic
August 25, Sunday	10:00 a.m. - Worship (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

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 is on hiatus for the summer. Please join us again on Welcoming Sunday, September 15, 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, 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!*



Scan Here to Give Online