



**The First Church of Monson, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Communion Sunday
Sunday, September 1, 2024**

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

- Core Values, 2022

God, We Praise You!

A7 D A D

1. God, we praise you! God, we bless you! God, we
 2. True a - pos - tles, faith - ful proph - ets, Saints who
 3. Je - sus Christ, the King of glo - ry, Ev - er -
 4. Christ, at God's right hand vic - to - rious, You will

G D A D A7 D

name you sov-'reign Lord! Might - y King whom an - gels
 set their world a - blaze, Mar - tyrs, once un - known, un -
 last - ing Son of God, Hum - ble was your vir - gin
 judge the world you made; Lord, in mer - cy help your

A D G D A D

wor - ship, Fa - ther, by your Church a - dored: All cre -
 heed - ed, Join one grow - ing song of praise, While your
 moth - er, Hard the lone - ly path you trod: By your
 ser - vants For whose free - dom you have paid: Raise us

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

G D G D G A

a - tion shows your glo - ry, Heav'n and earth draw near your
 Church on earth con - fess - es One ma - jes - tic Trin - i -
 cross is sin de - feat - ed, Hell con - front - ed face to
 up from dust to glo - ry, Guard us from all sin to -

D A7 D A

throne, Sing - ing "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,
 ty: Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it,
 face, Heav - en o - pened to be - liev - ers,
 day; King en - throned a - bove all prais - es,

D G D A D

Lord of hosts, and God a - lone!"
 God, our hope e - ter - nal - ly.
 Sin - ners jus - ti - fied by grace.
 Save your peo - ple, God, we pray.

TEXT: Based on the *Te Deum*; Christopher M. Idle, b.1938, © 1982, The Jubilate Group (admin. by Hope Publishing Company)
 TUNE: NETTLETON, 8 7 8 7 D; Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813

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**First Church of Monson, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 1, 2024**

This morning we welcome Jeanne Dill as our Worship Leader.

Prelude *Christ, Be Our Light* - David Lasky (B. 1957)

Welcome and Announcements

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

***Call to Worship (responsive)**

L: Out of the depths I cry to you, Holy One. Hear my voice.

P: *Let your ears be attentive to my cries.*

L: Holy One, should you mark iniquities, who could stand?

P: *But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.*

L: O people, hope in our God! For with God there is steadfast love and great power to redeem.

P: *It is the Holy One who will redeem us from all we have done wrong.*

***Opening Hymn** *God, We Praise You!* (Page 1)

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy One, forgive us for acting as if we could save ourselves or repair the world without relying on you, without becoming rooted and grounded in all the ways you give us

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life and show us how to live. Forgive us for believing that we could acquire enough knowledge to plot a course through life without steering by the star of your wisdom, or that we could find a way to make peace with people we don't like unless we give up our need for control. Holy One, forgive the many ways we resist welcoming you fully into our lives and help us to surrender whatever separates us from you. Amen.

***Words of Grace and Assurance**

Siblings in Christ, this is the good news: no matter how far you have strayed or in what direction, God's love searches for you, and reaches out to redeem and uplift you, until you know you are fully forgiven, cherished, and free. In the name of Jesus the Christ, accept forgiveness and the renewed invitation to participate in the healing of the world.

***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**



Let us give our tithes and offerings this morning, not out of coercion, but from glad and generous hearts.

Offertory

You Call Us, Lord

(Page 7)

***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. Amen.*

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***Prayer of Dedication**

Holy One, we dedicate our tithes and offerings to you. We do so in the hope that they will support our church and make a healing difference in your world. Amen.

Scripture Reading

James 1:17-27

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. ²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. ²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this:

to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Sermon Hymn *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* (Page 8)

Sermon "Not Duct Tape"

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 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** *Christ, Be Our Light* (Page 9)

***Benediction**

Postlude *Rhosymedre* - R. Vaughn Williams (1872-1958)

You Call Us, Lord

1 You call us, Lord, to be a peo - ple set a - part,
2 You call us, Lord, to care for self and neigh - bor too,
3 You call us, Lord, to be good stew - ards of the earth;
4 You call us, Lord, to serve: to die that we may live,

to feel with thought - ful mind and think with ten - der heart.
to take the risk, and dare to show what love can do.
to tend it as a place of bless - ed - ness and worth.
to know we best re - ceive when joy - ful - ly we give.

Refrain

Thus cho - sen, now, O Lord, we ask for faith in your

un - fail - ing grace to make us e - qual to the task.

WORDS: Jane Marshall (1924-)
MUSIC: John David Edwards (1806-1885)
Words © 1992 Hope Publishing Company

RHOSYMEDRE
6.6.6.6.8.8.8.

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

470 [H]

1 Draw us in the Spir-it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
 2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
 3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -

in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,
 Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er
 ments of you, that by car - ing, help-ing, giv - ing,

you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia!
 break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia!
 we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
 Al - le - lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.
 Al - le - lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

Text: Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936, alt.
 Music: Harold Friedell, 1905–1958
 Text © Oxford University Press
 Music © 1957, 1985 H. W. Gray, admin. CPP/Belwin

UNION SEMINARY
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CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

*VERSES (♩ = ca. 132)

Em Am7 Bm7 Esus4 Em

1. Long - ing for light, — we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2. Long - ing for peace, — our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3. Long - ing for food, — man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4. Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5. Man - y the gifts, — man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

Am7 Bm7 Esus4 Em Am7

1. truth, — we turn to you. Make us your own, —
 2. hope, — man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone —
 3. wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread, —
 4. warmth, — man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 5. hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

D G C Am Dsus4 D

1. your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see. —
 2. has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice. —
 3. bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed. —
 4. shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone. —
 5. to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come. —

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REFRAIN

G C G Em Bm Em

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

The first system of the refrain features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line consists of quarter notes: G4 (Christ), B4 (be), A4 (our), G4 (light!), F#4 (Shine), E4 (in), D4 (our), C4 (hearts), B3 (Shine), A3 (through), G3 (the). The piano accompaniment consists of chords: G, C, G, Em, Bm, Em.

Am7 D G Dsus4 D Em Em7/D

dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

The second system of the refrain continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line consists of quarter notes: F#3 (dark), G3 (ness), G4 (Christ), B4 (be), A4 (our), G4 (light!), F#4 (Shine), E4 (in), D4 (your). The piano accompaniment consists of chords: Am7, D, G, Dsus4, D, Em, Em7/D.

C Am7 D G Am7/G

church gath - ered to - day.

1-4 G D.C. Final G

1-4 D.C. Final

The third system of the refrain concludes the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line consists of quarter notes: G3 (church), A3 (gath), B3 (ered), C4 (to), D4 (day). The piano accompaniment consists of chords: C, Am7, D, G, Am7/G. The system ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign. Above the vocal line, there are markings for a first ending: '1-4 G D.C. Final G'. Above the piano accompaniment, there are markings for a first ending: '1-4 D.C. Final'.

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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

Roseann Vinciguerra

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

Peggy

Billy

Joel Robertson

Stephen Kraaz

Kathy

Kimberly

For comfort in grief:

The Family and Friends of George Pellisier

The Family Donald Cortis, Jr., son of Roy & Lyle Miller

The Family of Jean Taylor

The Family of Richard O'Connor

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

Malik Pugh, USMC

Michael Wales, USN

Stephen Dill, USN

Tim Olson, USN

This Week in the Life of the Congregation

September 1, Sunday	10:00 a.m. - Worship (S) 11:15 a.m. - Deacon's Meeting (PS)
September 2, Monday	LABOR DAY 8:30-9:30 a.m. - Zumba (SSA) 3:00-4:30 p.m. - Girl Scouts (SSA)
September 3, Tuesday	4:00-5:00 p.m. - Barre Above Class (SSA) 6:00-8:00 p.m. - Girl Scout Leadership (F)
September 4, Wednesday	6:00-8:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts (SSA)
September 5, Thursday	6:30-8:00 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal (C) 6:30-8:30 p.m. - Prayer Shawl (F)
September 6, Friday	6:00-9:00 p.m. - Youth United (SSA)
September 7, Saturday	7:00-8:30 a.m. - AA (L)
September 8, Sunday	10:00 a.m. - Worship (S) 11:30 a.m. - Church Council (L)

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

Ushers Needed. The deacons are looking for ushers for the first Sunday of the month. If you are interested in helping out, please see Jeanne Dill or one of the deacons.

Registration for 2024-2025 Sunday School. To help us better prepare for the kids this fall, please register your child today. Ages PK-high school are welcome. Learning is through stories, games, crafts, music, special projects, and conversation. To register, please click on the QR Code below to register your child.



Join the Choir. We know you love to sing, so we are inviting you to join our adult choir and add to the angels who lead our hymns, sing our anthems, and introits and embrace the power of music in worship. Choir rehearsals are Thursday evenings from 6:30 until 8:00 p.m. in the Julia Sprague Chapel under the direction of Kiel Krommer, Director of Music Ministries at First Church. Choir rehearsals begin on Thursday, September 5th. We hope you will take this opportunity to use your talent to enrich our worship through song. There is no need to audition or sign up, just come.

Welcome Sunday. Please be sure to mark your calendars for Welcome Sunday on September 15. The day will begin with a continental breakfast at 9:00 a.m. followed by Sunday School and worship at 10:00 a.m. The morning will end with an ice cream social at 11:15 a.m. We hope to see you there. Bring along a friend!

Farmers' Market. Lynn Fioravanti of Baker's Lane Biscotti will be at the Farmers' Market at Monson Memorial Hall on Saturday, September 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She is selling biscotti and pizzelle, including her chocolate chip biscotti and gluten-free biscotti! You can buy that day and/or place orders for all of your upcoming holiday needs (gifts, platters, etc.). Lynn hopes you will stop by and say hello.

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.

Let's Eat Breakfast will be back soon! Please join us at 9:00 a.m. 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