

Sunday, April 21, 2024



The Gilford Community Church
The Reverend Michael C. Graham, Pastor
Amber McLane, Director of Youth and Family Programs
AJ Coppola, Music & Choir Director

19 Potter Hill Road
Gilford, NH 03249
gilfordcommunitychurch.org

Gathering Time

As we arrive for worship, let us greet and make new friends, and be alert for guests as we celebrate the fellowship of our faith community.

Time for Prayer and Meditation

The ringing of the church bell and lighting of the candles calls us to sit down and allow ourselves to forget the hurry and worry of the world. Center your heart, mind and soul on God's love for you and all creation.

Ring the Bell and Bringing the Light

Words of Welcome

Prelude

"Pavane"

by Ravel

Performed by Ginny Barunas, Flute

*Call to Worship

All of nature is sacred

We are blessed with wonderful variety

We are a part of nature and what we do to one affects the many.

Let us treat Nature with compassion and dignity

May we always celebrate the world around us!

*Hymn of Praise

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

#28

Prayer of Invitation followed by the Lord's Prayer (debts)

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. Amen.

The Gilford Community Church is an inclusive, open community. We embrace believers and doubters, seekers and skeptics, young and old. We welcome new companions on a journey of faith that often includes laughter, live music and joy. We celebrate both our differences and our shared commitments: to spiritual journey, to supporting each other, and to building community in Gilford, the Lakes Region and beyond.

If you wear hearing aids, please remember to have the TELECOIL option activated for optimal benefit.

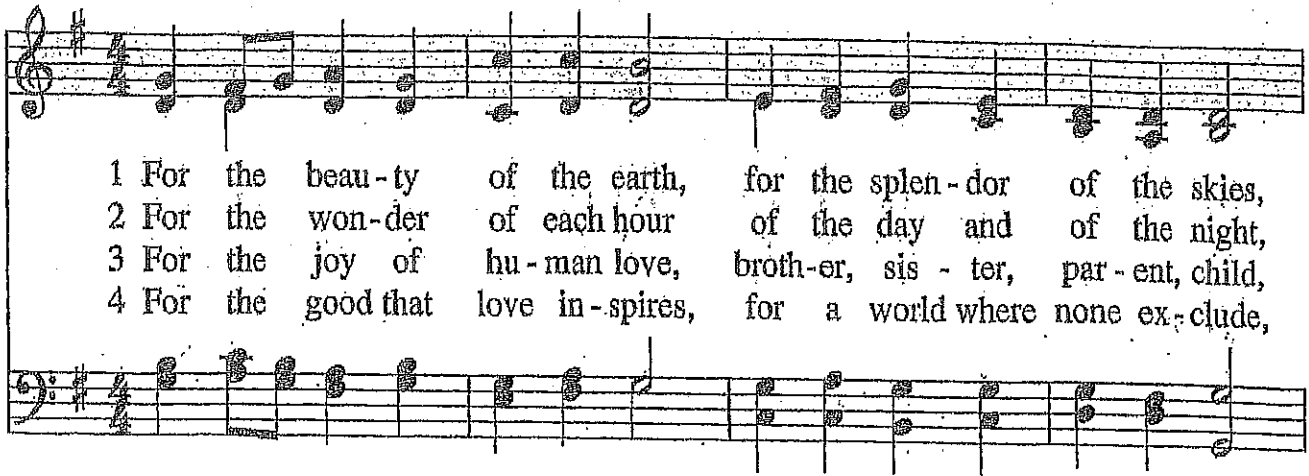
Exciting news, we are embracing some new technology and now offer a QR Code for a fast, easy, secure way to make your pledge or donation! Open your camera and hold your device over the QR Code below, so that it is clearly visible within your smartphone's screen. The phone will either automatically scan the code and take you directly to our online platform or on some devices, you may have to touch the link when it appears. Of course, offering plates are in the foyer as well.



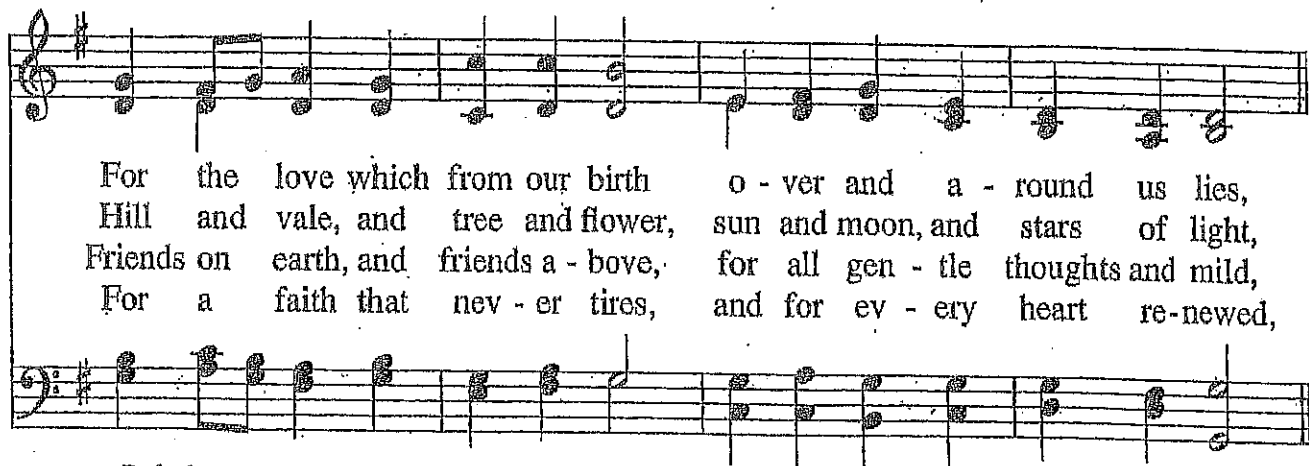
- ❖ Coffee Hour will be hosted today by the Educational Ministries Committee.
- ❖ The next Gals' Night Out is scheduled for Friday, May 17, 2024, at 6 pm. The "Power Chords" will join us to sing songs from Broadway along with a delicious dinner prepared by Ellie Murphy! Tickets will go on sale Sunday, April 28th, \$25 per person. Please see Kathy Meierjorgen or Kathleen Merriam for more information.

Leading our Worship Service today is Howard Chandler. Howie grew up south of Boston in what was then the little town of Easton, Massachusetts and moved to New Hampshire some 43 years ago. After graduating college with a degree in Theology, he went on to seminary which he left after a year to seize the opportunity to work in Elder Services, which he continued with, except for the year he worked as a prison guard for the great state of Vermont. He did work for a UCC Church and an American Baptist Church along with being a nursing home social worker, an activity director and also served as the Director of multiple Councils on Aging. Since being in New Hampshire, he has been a licensed Nursing Home Administrator, working exclusively for non-profits and municipal nursing homes and retirement communities. He retired in March 2023. On a personal side, Howie is married to Carrie and has 4 wonderful children and 5 wonderful grandkids.

For the Beauty of the Earth

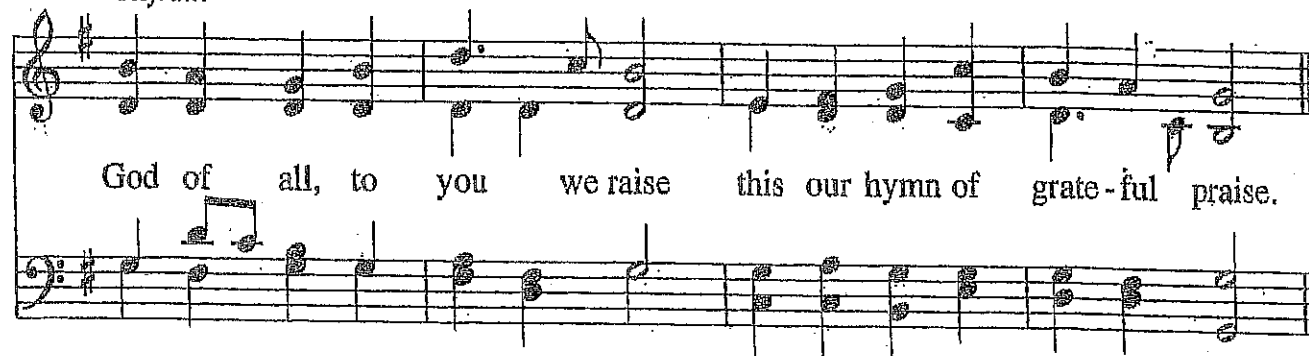


1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,
2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,



For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,
For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

Refrain



God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

Touch the Earth Lightly

Unison
Brightly

1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,
 * 2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,
 3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,
 4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,

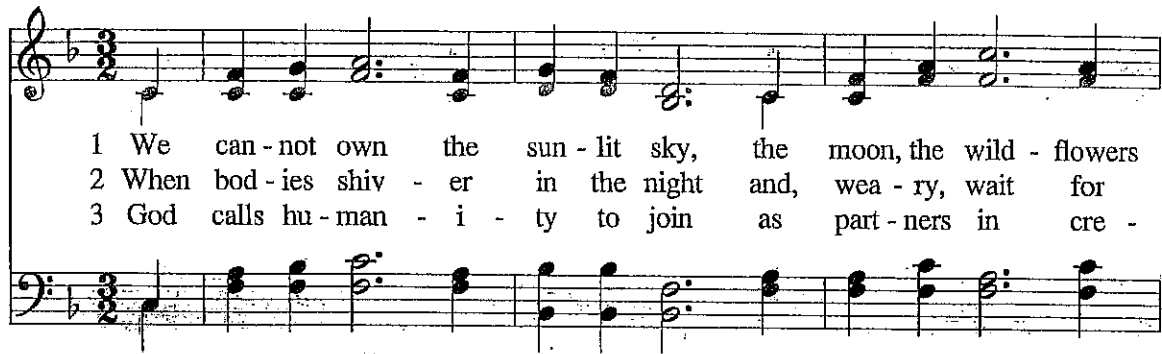
*The second verse only may be sung in A minor, omitting the sharps except where indicated in parentheses.

nour-ish the life of the world in our care:
 a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,
 wa - ter that bless - es, and air that is sweet,
 God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,

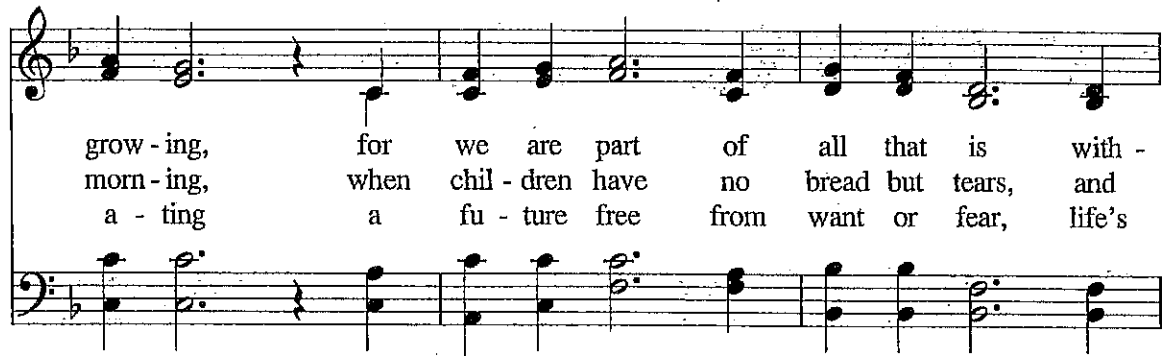
Gift of great won - der, ours to sur - ren - der,
 We who would fos - ter clouds of dis - as - ter—
 Health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,
 Teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,

trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.
 God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!
 re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.
 us - ing us gent - ly, and mak - ing us one.

We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky



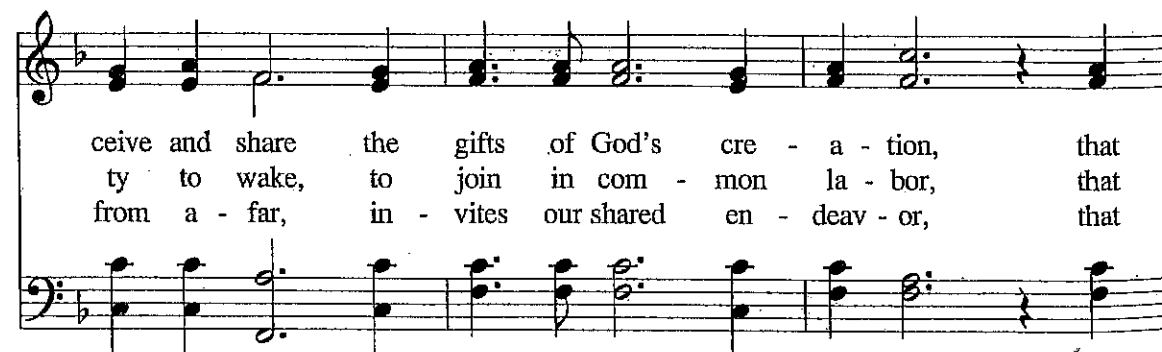
1 We can - not own the sun - lit sky, the moon, the wild - flowers
2 When bod - ies shiv - er in the night and, wea - ry, wait for
3 God calls hu - man - i - ty to join as part - ners in cre -



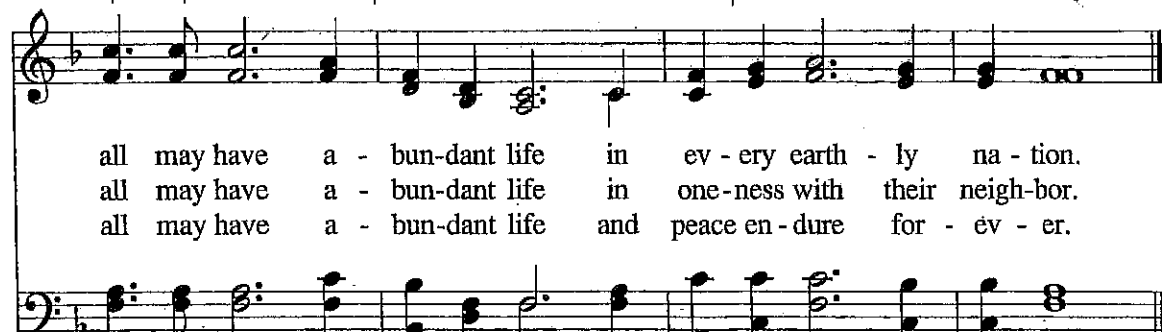
grow - ing, for we are part of all that is with -
morn - ing, when chil - dren have no bread but tears, and
a - ting a fu - ture free from want or fear, life's



in life's riv - er flow - ing. With o - pen hands re -
war - horns sound their warn - ing, God calls hu - man - i -
good - ness cel - e - brat - ing. That new world beck - ons



ceive and share the gifts of God's cre - a - tion, that
ty to wake, to join in com - mon la - bor, that
from a - far, in - vites our shared en - deav - or, that



all may have a - bun - dant life in ev - ery earth - ly na - tion.
all may have a - bun - dant life in one - ness with their neigh - bor.
all may have a - bun - dant life and peace en - dure for - ev - er.