

Sunday, May 5, 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

*Call to Worship

Let ours be a religion that, like sunshine, goes everywhere:

Its temple—all space;

Its shrine—the good heart;

Its creed—all truth;

Its ritual—works of love;

Its profession of faith—divine living.

*Hymn of Praise

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

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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.

Choral Response (Old Hundredth)

**Rejoice in love we know and share,
in love and beauty everywhere;
rejoice in truth that makes us free,
and in the good that yet shall be.**

Scripture Reading

John 15:9-17

Cindie Graham

Anthem

**"When You Believe" by Stephen Schwartz, arr. Snyder
Performed by the Chancel Choir
(See insert for translation)**

Children's Time

Special Music

Morning Prayer

***Hymn of Preparation**

"God, You Have Set Us"

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Sermon

"Can You Believe It?"

Communion

**Everyone is welcome to join us for Communion
(Bread placed in the communion cups is gluten free)**

***Hymn of Commitment**

"Forward Through the Ages"

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***Benediction**

***Choral 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.



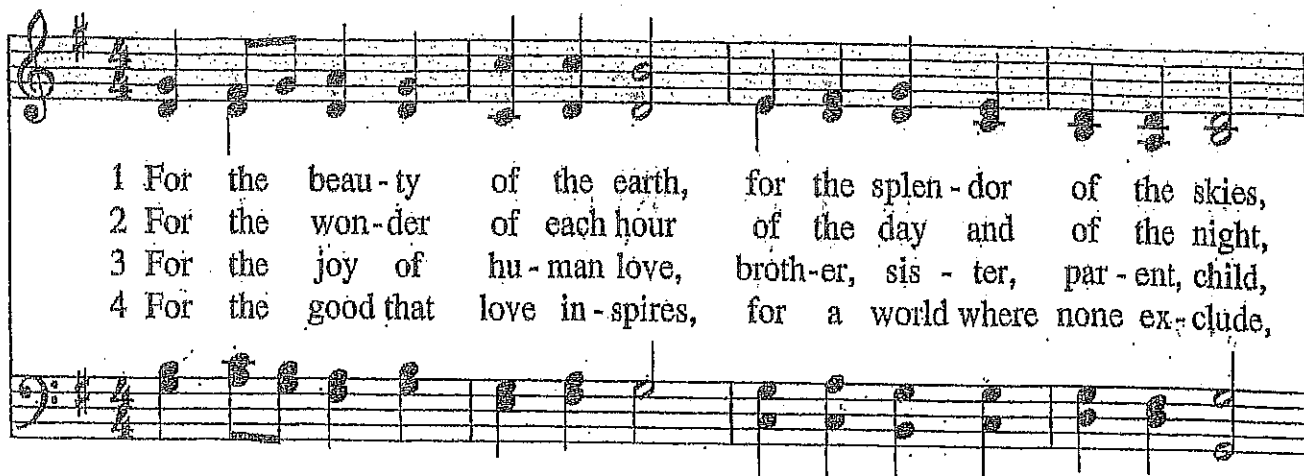
- ❖ **Coffee Hour this week is hosted by the Finance Committee.**
- ❖ **Tickets are on sale for our next Gals' Night Out, Friday, May 17th at 6PM. The "Power Chords" will join us to sing songs from Broadway along with a delicious dinner prepared by Ellie Murphy! Tickets are \$25/pp, please see Kathleen Merriam or Kathy Meierjurgan for more information.**

"When You Believe"
by Stephen Schwartz, arr. Snyder

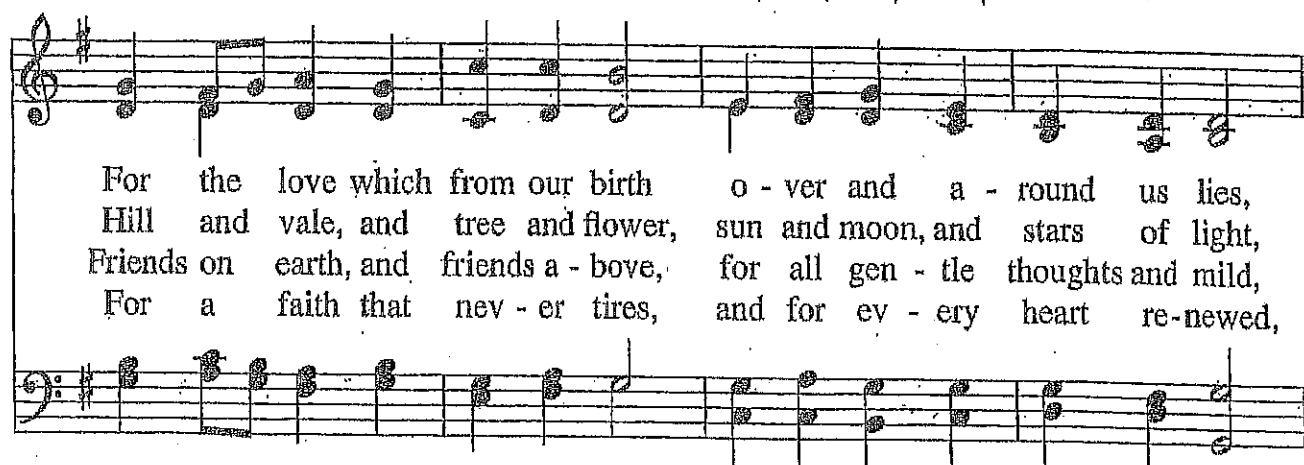
Translation:

Ashirra ladanai ki gaoh gaah
 (I will sing to the Lord for He has triumphed gloriously)
 Ashirra ladanai ki gaoh gaah
 (I will sing to the Lord for He has triumphed gloriously)
 Michamocha baelim adonai
 (Who is like You, oh Lord, among the celestials)
 Michamocha nedar bakodesh
 (Who is like You, majestic in holiness)
 Nachitah v'chas d'cha am zu gaalta
 (In Your love, You lead the people You redeemed)
 Ashira (I will sing)

For the Beauty of the Earth

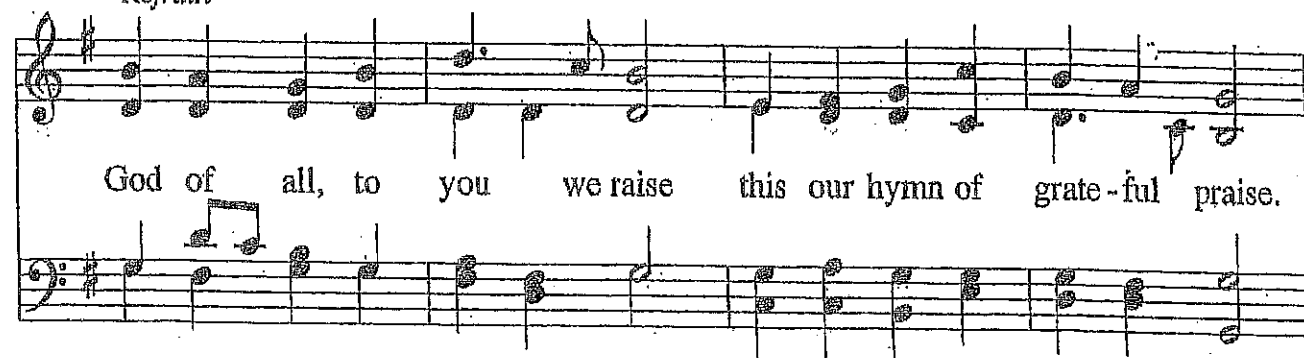


1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,
2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,



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.

God, You Have Set Us

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1 God, you have set us in this time and place,
2 We ded - i - cate this work of hu - man hand;
3 Let doors and hearts pro-vide a wel-come here.
4 Call youth and age in - to these halls for praise.
5 So may the world be-come our neigh-bor - hood,



Called us as stew - ards of your love and grace.
Built for your glo - ry, may it firm - ly stand.
Let walls and voic - es ring with songs of cheer.
Then send us out for ser - vice all our days,
Each wish - ing each the right, the true, the good,



O keep us faith - ful, set our souls a - fire,
Let truth be preached and jus - tice right - ly done.
Let win - dows speak of beau - ty and of light.
Your word of peace and chal-lenge here made real
Word, font, and ta - ble call - ing us to be



And by your Spir - it all our work in - spire.
In Christ our Sav - ior make us tru - ly one.
Let smile and ges - ture show your love a - right.
Spurs us to act with en - er - gy and zeal.
Bound up in Christ, in Christ set bold - ly free.



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Forward through the Ages

1 For - ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,
 2 Wide grows God's do - min - ion, reign of love and peace;
 3 Not a - lone we con - quer, not a - lone we fall;

move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine;
 for it we must la - bor, till all striv - ings cease.
 in each loss or tri - umph, lose or tri - umph all.

Gifts in dif - fer - ing mea - sure, hearts of one ac - cord,
 Proph - ets have pro - claimed it, teach - ers tes - ti - fied,
 Bound by God's far pur - pose in one liv - ing whole,

man - i - fold in ser - vice, one the sure re - ward.
 po - ets sung its glo - ry, mar - tyrs for it died.
 move we on to - geth - er to the shin - ing goal.

Refrain

For - ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,

Move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine.