First Church in Boston
ORDER OF SERVICE

First Church Boston
66 Marlborough Street
Boston, MA
Sunday, May 16, 2021
Recorded May 13, 2021

Broadcast 11:00 am to noon on WERS, 88.9FM, Vivian Borek, announcer
Streamed on Facebook @firstchurchboston, Craig Hildreth, audio and video engineer
Masha Stepanova, video editor
Dr. Robert August, Director of Music; guest musicians Robert Winkley, piano; Dolores August, flute; William Thorpe, soloist; hymns will be performed by Lily Tseng, mezzo-soprano, and Atsuko Kida, piano.

Prelude
Serenade to a Doll (Children’s Corner)        Claude Debussy (1862-1918)
Robert Winkley, piano

Opening Words
Rev. Stephen Kendrick

Hymn # 32
Now Thank We All Our God
NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

Chalice Lighting and Tolling of the Bell
Daniel Lawlor

Love is the spirit of this church, and Service its law. This is our great covenant, to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.

Time For All Ages
Daniel Lawlor

Go Now in Peace

Responsive Reading # 643  “Shout for Joy,” from Psalm 65
Daniel Lawlor

Musical Meditation  "Where Restless Crowds Are Thronging"
David N. Johnson (1922-1987)
Dolores August, flute

Reading
“Fearful Joy,” by Rabindranath Tagore
Daniel Lawlor

Announcements
Daniel Lawlor

Hymn # 106
Who Would True Valor See
MONK’S GATE

Prayer and Meditation
Daniel Lawlor

Affirmation # 123  Spirit of Life

Sermon
“What Are People Looking For?”
Rev. Kendrick
Offertory  “Sure on This Shining Night”    Samuel Barber (1910-1981)
William Thorpe, soloist

Text Messaging Donation
You can use text messaging on your smartphone to send a contribution to the First Church offertory. Text a number representing your dollar amount (5, 10, 20, etc.) to (617) 917-5610. You will receive confirmation by email. Thank you!

Invitation to Today’s Annual Meeting

Hymn # 29   Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee    HYMN TO JOY

Benediction and Opening Prayer  Rev. Kendrick

Please note, this order of service may vary from the actual broadcast service.

Hymn Texts, Responsive Reading, Lyrics  (5/16/21)

Hymn # 32   Now Thank We All Our God    NUN Danket Alle Gott

Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
who from our parents’ arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Responsive Reading # 643   “Shout for Joy,” from Psalm 65

You make the outgoings of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.
You visit the earth, watering it, making it very rich.
The great river swells with water, filling the ridges, blessing the growth of grain.
You crown the year with your abundance,
The pastures are perfumed with dew.
The hills deck themselves with joy
The meadows adorn themselves with flocks.
The valleys gown themselves with grain.
They shout for joy;
They join in song.

Hymn # 106    Who Would True Valor See
MONK’S GATE
Who would true valor see, let them come hither;  
one here will constant be, come wind, come weather;  
there’s no discouragement shall make me once relent  
my first avowed intent to be a pilgrim.

Whoso beset me ‘round with dismal stories,  
do but themselves confound; my strength the more is.  
No lion can me fright, I’ll with a giant fight,  
but I shall have a right to be a pilgrim.

No word of foe or friend can daunt my spirit;  
I know I at the end will life inherit.  
Then fancies fly away; I’ll not fear what they say;  
I’ll labor night and day to be a pilgrim.

Affirmation # 123    Spirit of Life

Spirit of Life, come unto me.  
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.  
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;  
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.  
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;  
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

Offertory    “Sure on This Shining Night”    Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

Sure on this shining night  
Of star made shadows round,  
Kindness must watch for me  
This side the ground.  
The late year lies down the north.  
All is healed,  
All is health.  
High summer holds the earth.  
Hearts all whole.  
Sure on this shining night  
I weep for wonder  
Wand’ring far alone  
Of shadows on the  
Stars.  
On this shining  
Night.

Hymn # 29    Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, God of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, hail thee as the sun above. 
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the pain of doubt away; 
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the joy of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays, 
stars and planets sing around thee, center of unbroken praise; 
field and forest, vale and mountain, blossoming meadow, flashing sea, 
chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest; 
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest. 
Ever singing march we onward, victors in the midst of strife; 
joyful music lifts us sunward in the triumph song of life.