

**First Church in Boston
ORDER OF SERVICE**

**First Church Boston
66 Marlborough Street
Boston, MA
Sunday, July 25, 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*

*Guest Preacher Rev. Tim House,
Guest Musicians Larry Thomas Bell, pianist; Jennifer Webb, mezzo-soprano; Thomas
Gregg, tenor*

Prelude Prelude in C major, *The Well-Tempered Clavier Bk. 1*
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Opening Words Here We Re-Member Ourselves” by Gretchen Haley Rev. Tim House

Hymn # 360 Here We Have Gathered (vv 1,3) OLD 124TH

Chalice Lighting and Tolling of the Bell Rev. Aisha Ansano

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 “Who Loves the Dark?” by Sheri Phillabaum Rev.
Ansano

Responsive Reading “We Give Thanks” by Amanda Udis-Kessler Rev. Ansano

Musical Meditation *Parables of Love and Death* (2021) based on poems by
Emily Dickinson Larry Thomas Bell (b. 1952)
#10 The test of love
Jennifer Webb–mezzo soprano
Larry Bell–pianist

Reading From *Beauty* by John O’Donohue Rev. House

Announcements Rev.
Ansano

Hymn # 22 Dear Weaver of Our Lives’ Design LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN

Prayer and Meditation Rev.
Ansano

Affirmation # 123 Spirit of Life

Sermon "Beauty Re-Members Us" Rev. House

we give thanks for the mystery and miracle of beauty.

The stars pierce our hearts,
peace envelops us, we are blessed;

we give thanks for the mystery and miracle of wonder.

In the midst of pain, we find our way to hope and restoration;

we give thanks for the mystery and miracle of healing.

In the midst of fear, we do what is right
and speak our truth in faith;

we give thanks for the mystery and miracle of courage.

In our aloneness we see someone in greater need
and offer ourselves to them;

we give thanks for the mystery and miracle of compassion.

We gather in community,
in friendship, and cherish each other;

we give thanks for the mystery and miracle of love.

Hymn # 22

Dear Weaver of Our Lives' Design

LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN

Dear weaver of our lives' design
whose patterns all obey,
with skillful fingers gently guide
the sturdy threads that will survive
the tangle of our days.

Take up the fabric of our lives
with hands that gently hold;
bind in the ragged edge that care
would sunder and that pain would tear,
and mend our rav'ling souls.

Let eyes that in the plainest cloth
a hidden beauty see;
discern in us our richest hues,
show us the patterns we may use
to set our spirits free.

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.

Hymn # 21 For the Beauty of the Earth (vv 1,4)

DIX

For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Source of all, to thee we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human care, sister, brother, parent, child,
for the kinship we all share, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Source of all, to thee we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.