

**First Church in Boston  
ORDER OF SERVICE**

**First Church Boston  
66 Marlborough Street  
Boston, MA  
Sunday, March 21, 2021  
Recorded March 18, 2021**

*Broadcast live, 11:00 am to noon, on WERS, 88.9FM, Vivian Borek, announcer  
Streamed live on Facebook @firstchurchboston, Craig Hildreth, audio and video engineer  
Masha Stepanova, video editor  
Dr. Robert August, Director of Music; William Thorpe, soloist*

**Prelude** Fugue in E Flat Major, BWV 876 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

**Opening Words** Rev. Stephen Kendrick

**Hymn # 145** As Tranquil Streams WINCHESTER NEW

**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** Rev. Stephen Kendrick

**Go Now in Peace**

**Responsive Reading # 733** "A Place of Meeting," by Eileen B. Karpeles Carol Reiman

**Musical Meditation** "Lead, Kindly Light" William Thorpe, soloist  
Ciro Pinsuti (1829-1888)

**Reading** "A Garden Beyond Paradise," by Jalāl al-Dīn Rumi Daniel Lawlor

**Announcements** Daniel Lawlor

**Prayer and Meditation** Daniel Lawlor

**Affirmation # 123** Spirit of Life

**Sermon** "Flexibility and Resistance" Rev. Kendrick

**Offertory** "Return to Rondane" Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)  
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!

<b>Charge</b>		Daniel Lawlor
<b>Hymn # 77</b>	Seek Not Afar for Beauty	COOLINGE
<b>Benediction</b>		Rev. Kendrick
<b>Postlude</b>	Hornpipe from <i>Water Music</i>	George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

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

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### **Hymn Texts, Responsive Reading, Lyrics, Translations (3/21/21)**

**Hymn # 145**      As Tranquil Streams      WINCHESTER NEW

As tranquil streams that meet and merge and flow as one to seek the sea,  
our kindred hearts and minds unite to build a church that shall be free —

Free from the bonds that bind the mind to narrow thought and lifeless creed;  
free from a social code that fails to serve the cause of human need:

A freedom that reveres the past, but trusts the dawning future more;  
and bids the soul, in search of truth, adventure boldly and explore.

Prophetic church, the future waits your liberating ministry;  
go forward in the power of love, proclaim the truth that makes us free.

### **Responsive Reading # 733**    “A Place of Meeting,” by Eileen B. Karpeles

Out of wood and stone,  
out of dreams and sacrifice,  
the People build a home.  
Out of the work of  
their hands and hearts and minds  
the People fashion a symbol  
and a reality.

*May this house be truly  
a place of Meeting –  
meeting one with another  
in warmth and joy and openness;  
meeting one with another  
in courage and love and trust.*

May all who enter here  
trust one another so surely  
that they dare to share the deep fires  
that burst into anger  
as much as the sweet springwaters  
that swell into laughter;  
the slow erosion of wounded tears  
as much as the soaring song.

*May these walls know silence  
as a hundred hearts search inward  
each for its own small spark of hope  
that might otherwise  
be snuffed out in the noise.*

May these rafters hear the voice of the child  
as surely as that of the orator,  
and the sound of the lute,  
the clack of the typewriter,  
the swish of the broom,  
and know that all are as holy  
as the shout of a million stars.

*May the rain fall lightly on this house,  
the sun shine warmly,  
the winds blow softly,  
and bless it  
as a place of joy and peace.*

**Musical Meditation** "Lead, Kindly Light" Ciro Pinsuti (1829-1888)  
Words by Rev. John Henry Newman, aka Saint John Henry Newman  
(1801-1890)

Lead, kindly light, amid the encircling gloom,  
Lead thou me on;  
The night is dark, and I am far from home;  
Lead thou me on;  
Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see  
The distant scene: one step enough for me.

I was not ever thus, nor prayed that thou  
Shouldst lead me on;  
I loved to choose, and see my path; but now  
Lead thou me on.  
I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears,  
Pride ruled my will: remember not past years.

So long thy power hath blest me, sure it still  
Will lead me on,  
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till  
The night is gone,  
And with the morn those angel faces smile,  
Which I have loved long since, and lost a while.

**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**

“Return to Rondane”

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

Original Norwegian text by Aasmund Olavsson Vinje (1818-1870)

English version by Will Earhart (1871-1960)

Once more I see the mountains and the valleys,  
Like those I saw in that first youthful day;  
The self-same air around my forehead dallies;  
Lies golden light on snow, as then it lay.  
It is my childhood's voice that in me rallies,  
And glad, tho' held in thought, I must obey.  
For in that tale the thoughts of youth lie dreaming,  
And scarce I breathe as o'er me they are streaming.

Yes, life enthalls, as it before enthralled me,  
When 'neath the snow the greening grasses lay;  
And dreams can call, as ever then they called me,  
When mountains rose aloft in Azure day.  
Now palls the daily task, and then it palled me,  
When I beheld, at eve, a sunbeam play.  
A shelter for the night will life provide me,  
If on my homeward way the light will guide me.

**Hymn # 77**

## Seek Not Afar for Beauty

COOLINGE

Seek not afar for beauty; lo, it glows  
in dew-wet grasses all about your feet,  
in birds, in sunshine, childish faces sweet,  
in stars and mountain summits topped with snows.

Go not abroad for happiness; behold  
it is a flower blooming at your door.  
Bring love and laughter home, and evermore  
joy shall be yours as changing years unfold.

In wonder-workings or some bush aflame,  
we look for Truth and fancy it concealed;  
but in earth's common things it stands revealed,  
while grass and flowers and stars spell out the name.