

**First Church in Boston
ORDER OF SERVICE**

**First Church Boston
66 Marlborough Street
Boston, MA
Sunday, May 23, 2021
Recorded May 20, 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; Dolores August, traverso; Kristin van Cleve, violin; and
Sarah Freiberg, cello. Our hymns today will be sung by William Thorpe*

Prelude Fugue in G Major J. L. Krebs (1713-1780)

Opening Words Rev. Stephen Kendrick

Hymn # 301 Touch the Earth, Reach the Sky! TOUCH THE EARTH

Chalice Lighting and Tolling of the Bell

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 # 590 Psalm 126, by Daniel Berrigan Daniel Lawlor

Musical Meditation Toccata in e Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Reading "Walking With the Wind," by John Lewis Rev. Kendrick

Announcements Daniel Lawlor

Special Collection for Sanctuary Boston

Hymn # 304 A Fierce Unrest SALVATION

Prayer and Meditation Daniel Lawlor

Affirmation # 123 Spirit of Life

Sermon "Where You Need to Be" Rev. Kendrick

Offertory "Allegro" from Trio Sonata for Flute, Violin and Cello
George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Responsive Reading # 590 Psalm 126, by Daniel Berrigan

When the Spirit struck us free we could scarcely believe it for very joy.

Were we free, were we wrapt in a dream of freedom?

Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with pure joy.

The oppressors were awestruck;

What marvels the Lord works for them!

Like a torrent in flood our people streamed out.

Locks, bars, gulags, ghettos, cages, cuffs, a nightmare scattered.

We trod the long furrow slaves, sowing in tears.

A lightning bolt loosed us.

We tread the long furrow half drunk with joy, staggering,

The golden sheaves in our arms.

Hymn # 304

A Fierce Unrest

SALVATION

A fierce unrest seethes at the core of all existing things:

it was the eager wish to soar that gave the gods their wings.

There throbs through all the worlds there are this heartbeat hot and strong,
and shaken systems, star by star, awake and glow with song.

But for the urge of this unrest these joyous spheres are mute;
but for the rebel in our breast had we remained as brutes.

When baffled lips demanded speech, speech trembled into birth;
one day the lyric word shall reach from earth to laughing earth.

From deed to dream, from dream to deed, from daring hope to hope,
the restless wish, the instant need, still drove us up the slope.

Sing we no governed firmament, cold, ordered, regular;
we sing the stinging discontent that leaps from star to star.

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 # 281

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

Before the hills in order stood,

or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
soon bears us all away:
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.