

**First Church in Boston
ORDER OF SERVICE**

**First Church Boston
66 Marlborough Street
Boston, MA
Sunday, May 30, 2021
Recorded May 27, 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; Ethan Bremner, tenor*

Prelude *Alla sarabanda, from Fantasy Quintet for Strings*
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
Arr. Henry G. Ley

Opening Words Rev. Stephen Kendrick

Hymn # 17 Every Night and Every Morn THE CALL

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

Responsive Reading # 672 by Judith Meyer Daniel Lawlor

Musical Meditation "Faith Needs Love"
Ethan Bremner, tenor Nigel Harvey

Reading "You Have to Pick Your Team," by Sonya Tinsley Rev.
Kendrick

Musical Meditation *Sarabande* from Suite in E Minor
George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Announcements Daniel Lawlor

Canvass Message Rev. Kendrick

Hymn # 329 Life Has Loveliness to Sell BLISS

Prayer and Meditation Daniel Lawlor

Affirmation # 123 Spirit of Life

Sermon "The Greatest Strength" Rev. Kendrick

Offertory *Stances (Stanzas)* Jules Massenet (1842-1912)
Ethan Bremner, tenor

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!

Hymn # 20 Be Thou My Vision SLANE

Benediction Rev. Kendrick

Postlude *Postlude in E flat minor* Josef Ferdinand Norbert Seger (1716-1782)

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

Hymn Texts, Responsive Reading, Lyrics (5/30/21)

Hymn # 17 Every Night and Every Morn THE CALL

Every night and every morn
some to misery are born;
every morn and every night
some are born to sweet delight.

Joy and woe are woven fine,
clothing for the soul divine:
under every grief and pine
runs a joy with silken twine.

It is right it should be so:
we were made for joy and woe;
and when this we rightly know,
safely through the world we go.

Responsive Reading # 672 by Judith Meyer

Anne Sexton wrote:
*"Look to your heart
that flutters in and out like a moth,
God is not indifferent to your need.
You have a thousand prayers*

but God has one."

Dear God, we give thanks for those moments when we can feel that we live in a world that is not indifferent to our need.

We all have so many needs -- a thousand prayers -- a thousand needs -- that really only need one answer: let the world not be indifferent.

And may we live and be with each other in the way that shows this truth whatever the day brings:

that neither are we indifferent to each other.

Musical Meditation "Faith Needs Love"

Nigel Harvey

Down through the ages, Wars between faiths fill history's pages.
Each faith believing that it must prevail; Spurning all others and praying that they fail,
Yes, spurning all others and praying that they fail.

Without love, how did the faiths debate? With fire and torture!
Without faith, how did the faiths compete? With strife and murder!
Without love, how did the faiths contest? With war and torment!

But with love, ev'ry war can cease; and with love all the rage subside;
Only love can the chain'd release, only love can lay arms aside;
And with love, understanding reigns; We see out through each other's eyes, to the peace we prize!

Love now be by our side, and in our faith abide.
Love dwell within this place, and bless our sacred space!

So now in diversity hear us uniting! Now in our differences see us delighting!
Here find we peace, here an end to our roaming; Love in our faith, and our faith brings us home,
Yes in love does our faith bring us home!

Hymn # 329

Life Has Loveliness to Sell

BLISS

Life has loveliness to sell, all beautiful and splendid things,
blue waves whitened on a cliff, soaring fire that sways and sings,
and children's faces looking up, holding wonder like a cup.

Life has loveliness to sell, as music, like a curve of gold,
scent of pine trees in the rain, eyes that love you, arms that hold,
and for your spirit's still delight, hoky thoughts that star the night.

Spend all you have for loveliness, to buy and never count the cost:
for one singing hour of peace count a year of strife well lost,
and for a breath of ecstasy give all you have been, or could be.

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

Stances (Stanzas)

Jules Massenet (1842-1912)

Excerpts from a poem by Nicolas Joseph Laurent Gilbert

Au banquet de la vie, infortuné convive,
J'apparus un jour, et je meurs:
Je meurs, et sur ma tombe, où lentement j'arrive,
Nul ne viendra verser des pleurs.

Salut, champs que j'aimois, et vous, douce verdure,
Et vous, riant exil des bois!
Ciel, pavillon de l'homme, admirable nature,
Salut pour la dernière fois!

Ah! puissent voir long-temps votre beauté sacrée
Tant d'amis sourds à mes adieux!
Qu'ils meurent pleins de jours! que leur mort soit pleurée
Qu'un ami leur ferme les yeux!

*At life's banquet, unfortunate guest,
I appeared one day, and I died:
I died, and on my grave, where slowly I arrived,
Not a soul would come to shed tears.*

*Hello, fields that I loved, and you, sweet greenery,
And you, laughing exile of the woods!
Sky, man's pavilion, admirable nature,
Hello for the last time!*

*Ah! let them see for a long time your sacred beauty
So many friends deaf to my farewells!
Let them die full of days! let their death be mourned
Let a friend close their eyes!*

- Trans. by Vivian Borek

Hymn # 20

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

Be thou my vision, O God of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me God;
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower,
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor world's empty praise,
thou my inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart
Sov'reign of heaven, my treasure thou art.