## **ORDER OF SERVICE**

First Church Boston 66 Marlborough Street Boston, MA Sunday, September 13, 2020, from the Sanctuary

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

**Prelude** Prelude and Fugue in F Major Johann Ludwig Krebs (1713-1780)

Opening Words Rev. Stephen Kendrick

**Hymn # 144** Now Is the Time Approaching (v.1,3) WEBB

**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 "The Astronomer in the Well" Daniel Lawlor

Water Ceremony Rev. Kendrick and Daniel Lawlor

Responsive Reading # 446 "To the Four Directions"

Musical Meditation "What a Wonderful World"

George David Weiss (1921-2010) and Bob Thiele (1922-1996)

**Announcements** 

Prayer and Meditation Daniel Lawlor

Affirmation # 123 Spirit of Life

**Sermon** "This Is Who We Are (But We Don't Have to Stay That Way!)"

Rev. Kendrick

Rev. Kendrick

Offertory "This Nearly Was Mine," from South Pacific

Oscar Hammerstein (1895-1960) and Richard Rodgers (1902-1979)

## **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 an emailed receipt. Thank you!

Charge Rev. Kendrick

**Hymn #92** Mysterious Presence, Source of All (v.1,3,4) WAREHAM

**Benediction** Rev. Kendrick

**Postlude** Grand Chœur Dialogué Carson Cooman (b. 1982)

Hymn Texts, Translations and Readings (9/13/20)

**Hymn # 144** Now Is the Time Approaching (v.1,3)

**WEBB** 

Now is the time approaching, by prophets long foretold, when all shall dwell together, secure and manifold. Let war be learned no longer, let strife and tumult cease, all earth a blessed garden and God the god of peace.

O long-expected dawning, come with your cheering ray! Yet shall the promise beckon and lead us not astray. O sweet anticipation! It cheers the watchers on to pray, and hope, and labor, till all our work is done.

Responsive Reading # 446 "To the Four Directions," by Joan Goodwin

Spirit of the East, spirit of air, of morning and springtime:

Be with us as the sun rises, in times of beginning, times of planting.

Inspire us with the fresh breath of courage as we go forth into new adventures.

Spirit of the South, spirit of fire, of noontime and summer:

Be with us through the heat of the day and help us to be ever growing.

Warm us with strength and energy for the work that awaits us.

Spirit of the West, of evening and autumn:

Be with us as the sun sets and help us to enjoy a rich harvest.

Flow through us with a cooling, healing guietness and bring us peace.

Spirit of the North, spirit of earth, of nighttime and winter:

Be with us in the darkness, in the time of gestation.

Ground us in the wisdom of the changing seasons as we celebrate the spiraling journey of our lives.

## 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 # 92** Mysterious Presence, Source of All (v.1,3,4)

**WAREHAM** 

Mysterious Presence, source of all — the world without, the soul within — thou fount of life, O hear our call, and pour thy living waters in.

Thy hand unseen to accents clear awoke the psalmist's trembling lyre, and touched the lips of holy seer with flame from thine own altar fire.

That touch divine again impart, still give the prophet's burning word; and vocal in each waiting heart let living psalms of praise be heard.