

Sunday, January 12, 2025



The Gilford Community Church
The Reverend Michael C. Graham, Pastor
Amber McLane, Director of Youth and Family Programs
AJ Coppola, Music & Choir Director

19 Potter Hill Road
Gilford, NH 03249
gilfordcommunitychurch.org

Gathering Time

As we arrive for worship, let us greet and make new friends, and be alert for guests as we celebrate the fellowship of our faith community.

Time for Prayer and Meditation

The ringing of the church bell and lighting of the candles calls us to sit down and allow ourselves to forget the hurry and worry of the world. Center your heart, mind and soul on God's love for you and all creation.

Ring the Bell and Bringing the Light

Words of Welcome

Prelude

"Folk Song III"

by Ralph Vaughan Williams
Performed by AJ Coppola, Bassoon

*Call to Worship

We are people of all ages who enter this space bringing our joys and our concerns.

We come together in hope.

We greet each other warmly with our voices and our smiles.

We come together in peace.

We share our growth and our aspirations.

We come together in wonder.

We share our losses and our disappointments.

We come together in sorrow.

We share our concern and our compassion.

We come together in love.

*Hymn of Praise

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

#1

Prayer of Invitation followed by the Lord's Prayer (debts)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done; on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Choral Response (Old Hundredth)

**Rejoice in love we know and share,
in love and beauty everywhere;
rejoice in truth that makes us free,
and in the good that yet shall be.**

Scripture Reading Luke 3:15-22 Brynn Blackwelder

Anthem "Let There Be Peace On Earth"
by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, arr. Hugh Livingston
Performed by our Chancel Choir

Welcome New Members

Children's Time

Special Music "Be Still My Soul" (Finlandia) arr. Craig Curry
Piano solo Performed by Jane Rollins

Morning Prayer

***Hymn of Preparation** "At the Font We Start Our Journey" #308

Sermon "How Low Would You Go?"

***Hymn of Commitment** "Wake Now My Senses" Insert

***Benediction**

***Choral Amen**

The Gilford Community Church is an inclusive, open community. We embrace believers and doubters, seekers and skeptics, young and old. We welcome new companions on a journey of faith that often includes laughter, live music and joy. We celebrate both our differences and our shared commitments: to spiritual journey, to supporting each other, and to building community in Gilford, the Lakes Region and beyond.

If you wear hearing aids, please remember to have the TELECOIL option activated for optimal benefit.

We are embracing some new technology and now offer a QR Code for a fast, easy, secure way to make your pledge or donation!



The flowers on the altar are given by Lynne DeVivo and her family, in loving memory of her husband, Richard "Dick" DeVivo.

The flowers in front of the pulpit are given in memory of Matthew Smith, on what would have been his 23rd birthday, by his loving family.

GCC Announcements:

- ❖ Today's Coffee Hour will be hosted by our Diaconate.
- ❖ Wednesday, January 15th, 9 am-12 pm GYC Mobile Meals
- ❖ Thursday, January 16th, 10:45-11:45 am Book Study Group
6-7 pm Choir Rehearsal

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

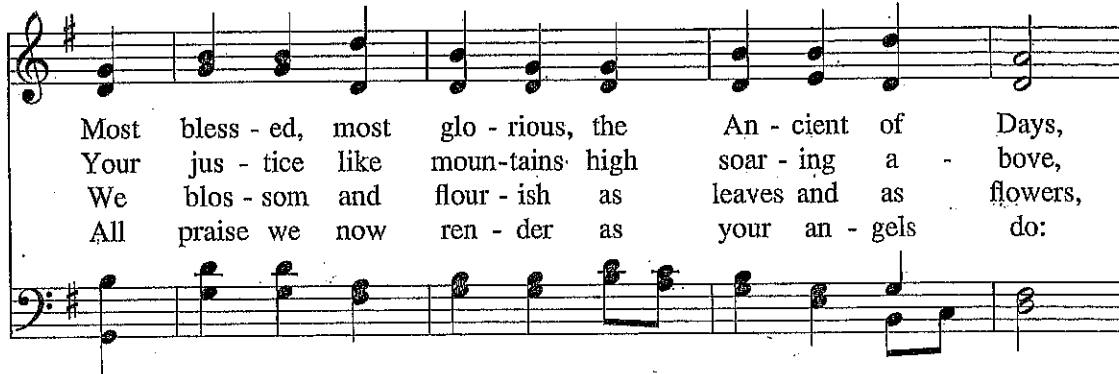
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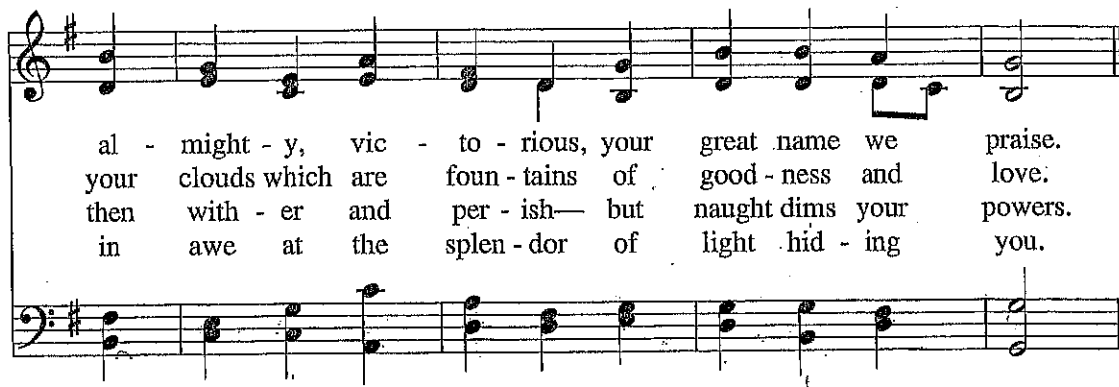
1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;
4 So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;
in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;
your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;



Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,
We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,
All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.
your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.
in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

At the Font We Start Our Journey

1 At the font we start our jour - ney, in the Eas - ter
 2 At the pul - pit we are fash - ioned by the Eas - ter
 3 At the al - tar we are nour - ished with the Eas - ter
 4 At the door we are com - mis - sioned, now the Eas - ter

faith bap - tized; doubts and fears no long - er blind us,
 tale re - told in - to wit - nes - ses and proph - ets,
 gift of bread; in our break - ing it to piec - es
 vic - tory's won, to re - store a world di - vid - ed

by the light of Christ sur - prised. Al - le - lu - ia,
 by the power of Christ made bold. Al - le - lu - ia,
 see the love of Christ out - spread. Al - le - lu - ia,
 to the peace of Christ as one. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia! Hope held out and re - al - ized.
 al - le - lu - ia! Faith pro - claimed, yet still un - told.
 al - le - lu - ia! Life em - braced, yet free - ly shed.
 al - le - lu - ia! Eas - ter's work must still be done.

Wake, Now, My Senses

$\text{♩} = 108$ *Unison*

1. Wake, now, my sens - es, and hear the earth call;
2. Wake, now, my rea - son, reach out to the new;
3. Wake, now, com - pas - sion, give heed to the cry;

feel the deep pow - er of be - ing in all,
join with each pil - grim who quests for the true;
voic - es of suf - fer - ing fill the wide sky;

keep, with the web of cre - a - tion your vow,
hon - or the beau - ty and wis - dom of time;
take as your neigh - bor both strang - er and friend,

giv - ing, re - ceiv - ing as love shows us how.
suf - fer thy lim - it, and praise the sub - lime.
pray - ing and striv - ing their hard - ship to end.