

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
BENNINGTON, VERMONT

*Vermont's Colonial Shrine: Welcoming all to share God's light,
and proclaiming God's embracing love since 1806*

THE REV. KENNETH A. CLARKE, MINISTER
ANASTASIA GAUTHIER, LAY READER
GENE MARIE CALLAHAN, ORGANIST
OLD FIRST CHURCH CHOIR

APRIL 13, 2025 ~ PALM SUNDAY

PRELUDE *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*
- Margaretha Christina deJong

OPENING WORDS (responsive)

Give thanks to the Lord for God is good.
God's love is the light of the world.
The Lord is with us, in God is our help.
God's steadfast love endures forever.

***HYMN** *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* **89**
The author, whose parents died early in her life, was injured in an accident that left her lame, and was left bedridden in a later illness, maintained a strong faith in God and was known for her cheerfulness. The composer is unknown, but the tune was in a hymnal for the Duke of Weurtemberg's private chapel.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

**God of the covenant,
in the glory of the cross
your Son embraced the power of death
and broke its hold over your people.
Deepen our faith we pray, and direct our
lives to your service.
In this time of repentance,
draw all people to yourself,
that we who confess Jesus as Lord
may put aside the deeds of death
and accept the life of your kingdom. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND *GLORIA PATRI (579)

FIRST LESSON Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 p. 492

***HYMN** *This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made* **230**
This paraphrase of Psalm 118 by Isaac Watts was first published in *The Psalms of David* (1719), where he headed it "Hosanna; The Lord's Day; or Christ's Resurrection, and Our Salvation." Watts's intention was for it to be sung on Easter Day or on Sundays.

SECOND LESSON Luke 19:28-40 p. 854

SERMON The Path Down

***HYMN** *When, His Salvation Bringing* **insert**
MUSIC BY BERTHOLD TOURS (1838-1897). Born in Rotterdam, Holland, the son of an organist, Tours attended conservatories in Brussels and Leipzig. He moved to London in 1861, playing violin and teaching. The next year, he became the organist at the Swiss Church in Holborn. Later, he worked for Francis Vincent Novello at Novello and Company as an editor and arranger.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE CHURCH (Visitors are kindly requested to fill out one of the visitor's cards in the pew and put it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher after the service.)

OFFERING
OFFERTORY *The Simplest and the Best* - arr. Alfred V. Fedak

***DOXOLOGY (592) AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

CLOSING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors) p. 16

***HYMN** *Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!* **91**
Henry Hart Milman wrote the text in 1827 for a collection of hymns for the church year. Milman was a priest in the Church of England, a professor and writer of early Christian history. John Bacchus Dykes wrote the tune for this text in 1862. He was assistant organist by the age of ten at St. John's Church, Hull, England, where his grandfather was vicar, and he published over 300 hymn tunes.

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** *The Royal Banners Forward Go* - Wilbur Held

* Stand if able

We extend a warm welcome to our guests and visitors and we are delighted to have you worship with us. Please fill out a visitor's card found in the pew and be sure to identify yourself so we can present you with a gift bag.

Deacons on call this month are Kate Musso and Marsha Pilachowski. Ushers for today's service are Betsy Ehrenfreund and Kate Musso.

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in the foyer after the service. Our thanks to Kate Musso for hosting.

EASTER SUNDAY ACTIVITY: A special Easter craft and activity will take place in the church parlor prior to worship on Easter Sunday, starting at 10:15. To help us with our planning if you know you will have friends or family visiting with children, let us know so we can have enough supplies for all. Activities are typically geared toward children 10 and under, but a little older is okay too! The annual Easter egg hunt will follow worship (the Deacons will be providing candy).

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS: (All meetings are open to members of the church)

Choir practice, Sunday mornings, 9:45 AM in the choir loft

4/17: Maundy Thursday Service, 5:45 PM, Barn

4/17: Tenebrae Service, 7:30 PM, Church

4/23: Bible Study, 6:30 PM, Parlor

4/24: Trustee meeting, 5:30 PM, Parlor

4/27: Tag Sale meeting, following worship, Church

4/29: Deacon's Meeting, 4:00 PM, Barn

If you are interested in discussing matters of faith and want to inquire about Christian membership in the church, please contact Rev. Clarke. We welcome the chance to have you join us in our historic, but active-in-the-world, community of faith!

To maintain the healthiest standards for public gathering, indoor air is constantly being exchanged with fresh air with a LifeBreath circulation system operating during the service today.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

(OLD FIRST CHURCH)

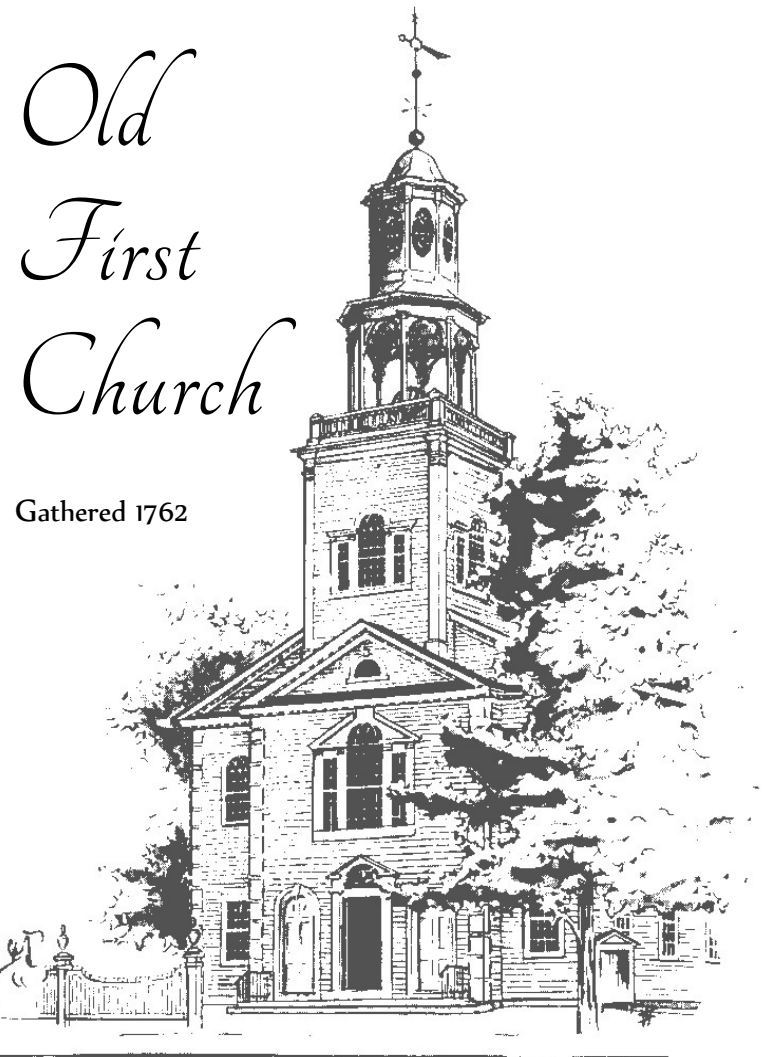
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Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Hosanna, loud hosanna
the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple
the joyful anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them,
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed
mid an exultant crowd,
the victor palm branch waving,
and chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of earth and heaven
rode on in lowly state,
nor scorned that little children
should on his bidding wait.

"Hosanna in the highest!"
That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer,
the Lord of heaven, our King.
O may we ever praise Him
with heart and life and voice,
and in His blissful presence
eternally rejoice.

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 118

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.

The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 This is the day the Lord has made;
He calls the hours His own;
let heav'n rejoice, let earth be glad,
and praise surround the throne. | 3 Hosanna to th' anointed King,
to David's holy Son.
help us, O LORD, descend and bring
salvation from Your throne. |
| 2 Today He rose and left the dead,
and Satan's empire fell;
today the saints His triumphs spread,
and all His wonders tell. | 4 Blest be the Lord, who comes to us
with messages of grace;
who comes, in God His Father's name,
to save our sinful race. |

SECOND LESSON

Luke 19:28-40

After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

When, His Salvation Bringing

When His salvation bringing,
to Zion on Jesus came,
the children all stood singing
hosanna to His name:
Nor did their zeal offend Him,
but, as He rode along,
He let them still attend Him,
and smiled to hear their song.

And since the Lord retaineth
His love for children still,
though now as King He reigneth
on Zion's heavenly hill,
we'll flock around His banner
who sits upon His throne,
and cry aloud, "Hosanna
to David's royal Son!"

For should we fail proclaiming
our great Redeemer's praise,
the stones, our silence shaming,
would their hosannas raise.
But shall we only render
the tribute of our words?
No, while our hearts are tender,
they, too, shall be the Lord's. AMEN.

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!

Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;
O Savior meek, pursue Thy road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die:
O Christ, Thy triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
The winged squadrons of the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow Thy meek head to mortal pain,
then take, O God, Thy power and reign.