

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
GENE MARIE CALLAHAN, ORGANIST

APRIL 5, 2020 ~ PALM SUNDAY

PRELUDE *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* - Donald Buscarow

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

(LYRICS REPRINTED AT THE END OF THE ORDER OF SERVICE)

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 Philippians 2:5-11 p. 954

HYMN *This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made* 230

(LYRICS REPRINTED AT THE END OF THE ORDER OF SERVICE)

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 Matthew 21:1-11 p. 802

SERMON Not At All What We Expected

HYMN *With His Salvation Bringing*

(LYRICS REPRINTED AT THE END OF THE ORDER OF SERVICE)

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.)

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *How Firm a Foundation* - David M. Cherwien

***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

(LYRICS REPRINTED AT THE END OF THE ORDER OF SERVICE)

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* - Thomas Girschen

Deacons on call this month are Bill Gordon and Jeannette Lesser.

Sadly, we cannot gather together today to celebrate Palm Sunday as a congregation. The palms were ordered and arrived but obviously cannot be used in a worship service. We will be placing a container of these on the steps of the meetinghouse with an invitation to any passersby take one for themselves if they wish. There are many out for a walk...safely distant...on Monument Avenue these days and this Palm Sunday, if fair, should be no different. It is a form of ministry, we hope, in these unusual times.

Worship and life at Old First is changing in response to the need to reduce activity as we work to get through the challenge of the COVID-19 presence in our life. Our prayers and thoughts go to everyone immediately affected and thanks go to all people who work to provide care and supply our needs in this time. An audio version of our weekly worship services can be found on the church's website by clicking on the "Worship" tab and selecting "Worship Here and Now". Or simply paste the following into your computer's browser at the top of the page:

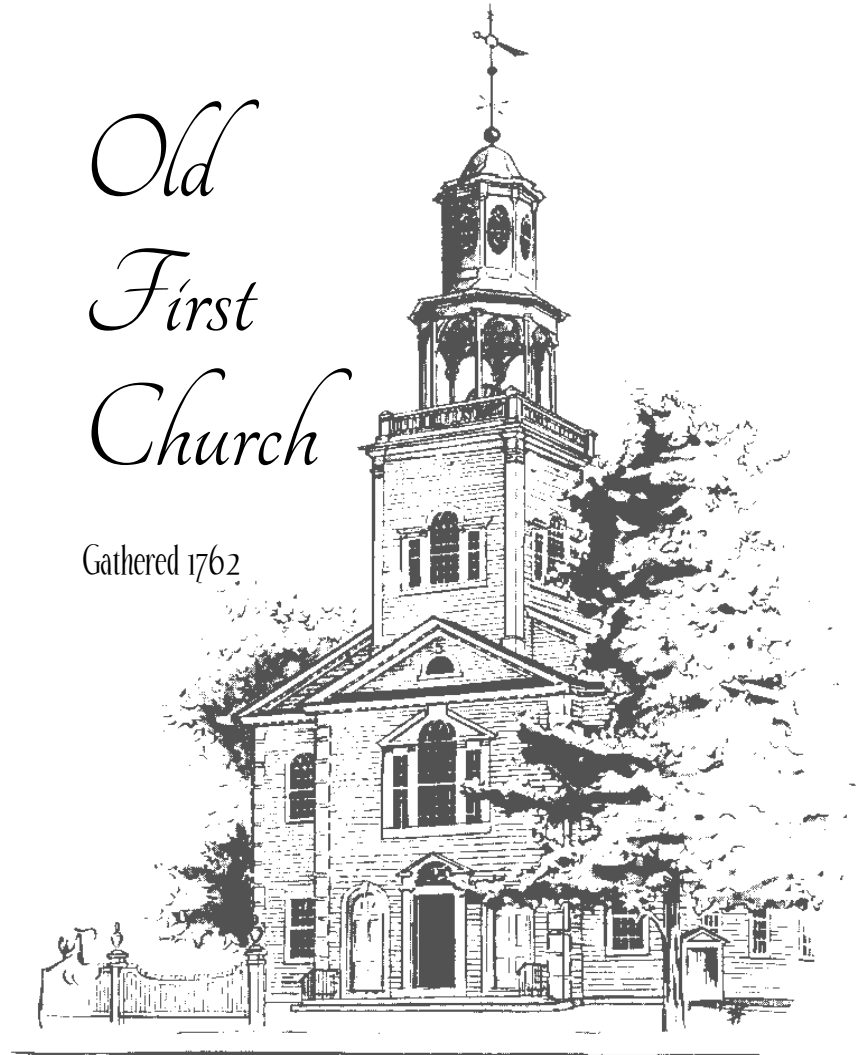
<http://oldfirstchurchbenn.org/worship/worship-here-and-now/>

If this link appears in blue on the device you are using to read this, you can also just "click on the link" and you will be there! The church office has been temporarily moved to the home of our office administrator. Please use email, phone or U.S. Mail for correspondence.

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!

Old First Church

Gathered 1762



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

(OLD FIRST CHURCH)

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Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

1 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.

2 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.

3 "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.

With His Salvation Bringing

1 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.

2 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!"

3 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. A-MEN.

This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made

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'anoointed 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.

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!

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

2 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.

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

4 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.

Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, “Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”