

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

NOVEMBER 1, 2020

ALL SAINT'S DAY ~ 22ND SUNDAY AFTER WHITSUNDAY

PRELUDE *Oh, How Blest are Ye Whose Toils are Ended*
- Paul Bouman

OPENING WORDS (responsive)
Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.
God's love endures forever.
This is the day the Lord has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.

HYMN *For All the Saints* **526**
(verses 1-4)

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

The text was written for All Saints' Day, 1864, as a commentary on the phrase in the Apostles' Creed, "I believe in the communion of saints." The original (set to another tune) contained 11 verses. Today's tune ("sine nomine" means "without a name") was composed for this text, but was at first rejected by some as being "jazz music." Ralph Vaughan Williams is known as the most important English composer of his generation. He died in 1958.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)
Look to this day:
For it is life, the very life of life.
In its brief course
Lie all the verities and realities of your existence.
The bliss of growth,
The glory of action,
The splendor of achievement
Are but experiences of time.

For yesterday is but a dream
And tomorrow is only a vision;
And today well-lived, makes
Yesterday a dream of happiness
And every tomorrow a vision of hope.
Look well therefore to this day;
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND GLORIA PATRI (579)

FIRST LESSON Micah 3:5-12 p. 755

HYMN *All People That on Earth Do Dwell* **220**

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

The metrical version of Psalm 100 was published in 1561 in the Anglo-Geneva Psalter by William Kethe. He was a Scotsman who fled to the continent during the reign of Mary, was a chaplain to English soldiers at Havre, and was one of the Geneva Bible translators. The tune *Old Hundredth* by Louis Bourgeois was first the setting of a 1551 version of Psalm 134; but since 1562 it has been linked with this Psalm. Bourgeois got into trouble in Geneva for changing tunes of Psalms people already knew. Of course, we sing this tune each week as a Doxology, as well.

SECOND LESSON Matthew 23:1-12 p. 804

SERMON Their Fringes Long

HYMN *O Day of Peace* **450**

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

The tune was a choral song by Hubert Parry based in 1916 on William Blake's poem, *Jerusalem*. Parry was a professor of music at Oxford and was knighted in 1898. Richard Proulx, the director of music at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Chicago, wrote the harmonization in 1986. The words were written by Carl Daw, Jr. in 1982; he is vicar-chaplain at St. Mark's Episcopal Chapel at the University of Connecticut.

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 *The Cloud's Veil* - Liam Lawton

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

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

HYMN *Day Is Done* **544**

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

This evening hymn was written by Roman Catholic James Quinn and published in *New Hymns for All Seasons* (1969). This collection was edited completely by Quinn. It contained one hundred hymns, some translations and some originals. James Quinn (1919 - 2010) is a Lauriston Jesuit Father from Edinburgh, Scotland.

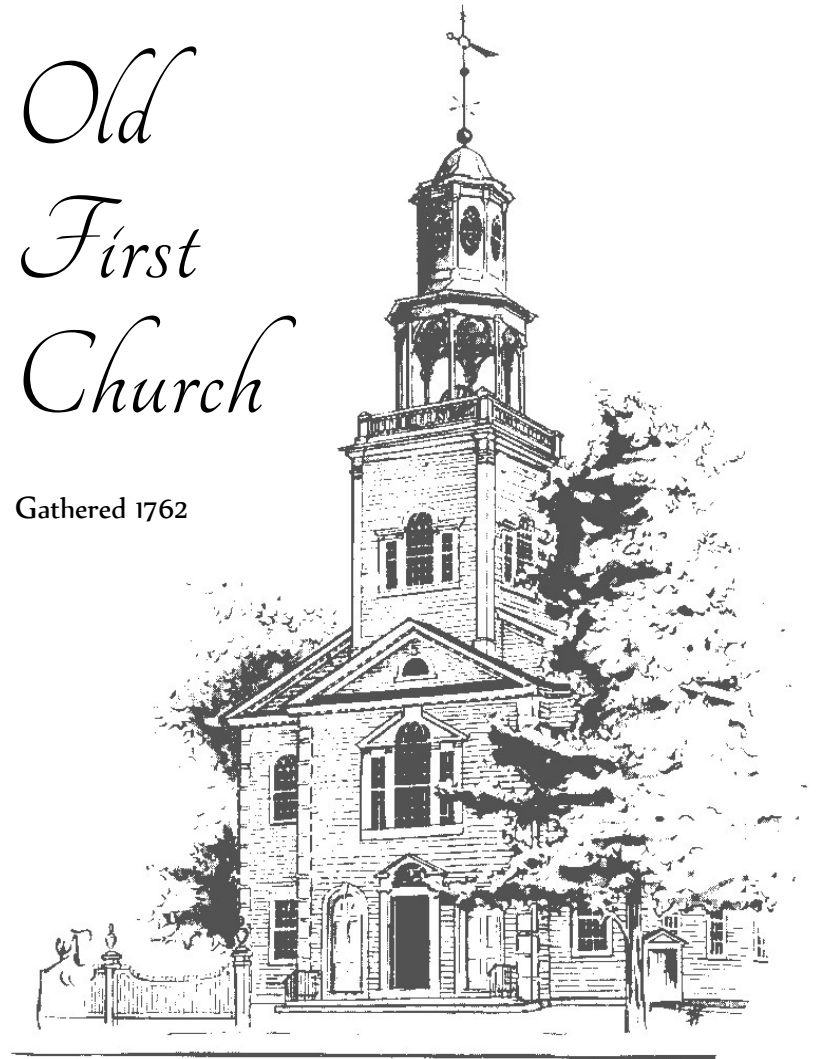
BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Variations on "Behold a Host" - Cardon Burnham

Deacons on call this month are Sandy Bechtel and Wendy Schmitt.

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!



Gathered 1762

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
(OLD FIRST CHURCH)

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For All the Saints

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell,
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed;
without our aid He did us make;
we are His folk, He doth us feed,
and for His sheep He doth us take.

O enter then His gates with praise,
approach with joy His courts unto;
praise, laud and bless His name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good,
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

O Day of Peace

O day of peace that dimly shines
through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
guide us to justice, truth, and love,
delivered from our selfish schemes.
May swords of hate fall from our hands,
our hearts from envy find release,
till by God's grace our warring world
shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,
Nor shall the fierce devour the small;
as beasts and cattle calmly graze,
a little child shall lead them all.
Then enemies shall learn to love,
All creatures find their true accord;
The hope of peace shall be fulfilled,
For all the earth shall know the Lord.

Day Is Done

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| 1). Day is done, but love unailing
Dwells ever here;
Shadows fall, but hope, prevailing,
Calms every fear.
God, our Maker, none forsaking,
Take our hearts, of Love's own making,
Watch our sleeping, guard our waking,
Be always near. | 2). Dark descends, but light unending
Shines through our night;
You are with us, ever lending
New strength to sight:
One in love, Your truth confessing,
One in hope of heaven's blessing,
May we see, in love's possessing,
Love's endless light! |
| 3). Eyes will close, but You unsleeping,
Watch by our side;
Death may come, in love's safekeeping
Still we abide.
God of love, all evil quelling,
Sin forgiving, fear dispelling,
Stay with us, our hearts indwelling,
This eventide. | |

MICAH 3:5-12

Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who lead my people astray, who cry “Peace” when they have something to eat, but declare war against those who put nothing into their mouths. Therefore it shall be night to you, without vision, and darkness to you, without revelation. The sun shall go down upon the prophets, and the day shall be black over them; the seers shall be disgraced, and the diviners put to shame; they shall all cover their lips, for there is no answer from God.

But as for me, I am filled with power, with the spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin. Hear this, you rulers of the house of Jacob and chiefs of the house of Israel, who abhor justice and pervert all equity, who build Zion with blood and Jerusalem with wrong! Its rulers give judgment for a bribe, its priests teach for a price, its prophets give oracles for money; yet they lean upon the LORD and say, “Surely the LORD is with us! No harm shall come upon us.” Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed as a field; Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins, and the mountain of the house a wooded height.

MATTHEW 23:1-12

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.