

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 22, 2020 ~ THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

PRELUDE *Song of Thanksgiving* - Robert J. Hughes

OPENING WORDS (responsive)

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
Worship the Lord with gladness,
Come into God's presence with thanksgiving,
For the Lord is good, God's steadfast love endures forever.

HYMN *We Gather Together* **559**

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

This 17th century folk hymn was written during Holland's struggle for independence with Spain. The political environment is reflected in the text. The tune is named for Eduard Kremser (1838-1914), a Viennese composer and choir director, who discovered the hymn after it had been forgotten for two centuries.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Gracious God,
you have given us so much,
but too often we take those gifts for granted,
or as something to which we are by skill entitled.

You call us to live in love,
but too often we place our wants and needs first,
and those of others a distant second.

You call us to share
but we are think that there may not be enough,
You call us to understand, but we do not take time to listen.

Let us know the joy of giving thanks
and the peace found in discovering the source of all good gifts.

For all the times when we mistreat and misuse what we have,
for all the times when we forget the gift and neglect the giver,
forgive us and lead us back to the path of wisdom.
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND GLORIA PATRI (579)

FIRST LESSON Deuteronomy 8:7-18 p. 145

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 Luke 17:11-19 p. 852

SERMON One in Ten

HYMN *We Plow the Fields and Scatter*

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

The original text was from a 1782 German poem which tells of a harvest festival in north Germany in which the people sing this song on their way to a thanksgiving celebration. The original song by Matthias Claudius had 17 verses, each sung by a soloist, with all joining in the refrain. Claudius was a literary editor, commissioner of agriculture, and poet. The English translation by Jane Campbell was first published in *The Garland of Songs* (1862). The tune is from the Finnish province of Nyland, first published in 1909, and introduced into English hymnody in 1927 by David Evans, a Welsh professor of music who died shortly after conducting a singing festival.

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 *On Kremser* - Flor Peeters

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

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

HYMN *Now Thank We All Our God* **555**

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

This hymn, known as the German Te Deum, was written near the close of the Thirty Years' War and is still sung in German churches on New Year's Eve. The text's author was a minister in Ellenburg, Saxony who in 1637 buried half of the 8,000 who died in an epidemic there. The tune first appeared with this text. The composer was a hymnal editor and adapted the harmonization of this tune from Mendelssohn's "Lobgesang".

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Now Thank We All Our God* - Paul Manz

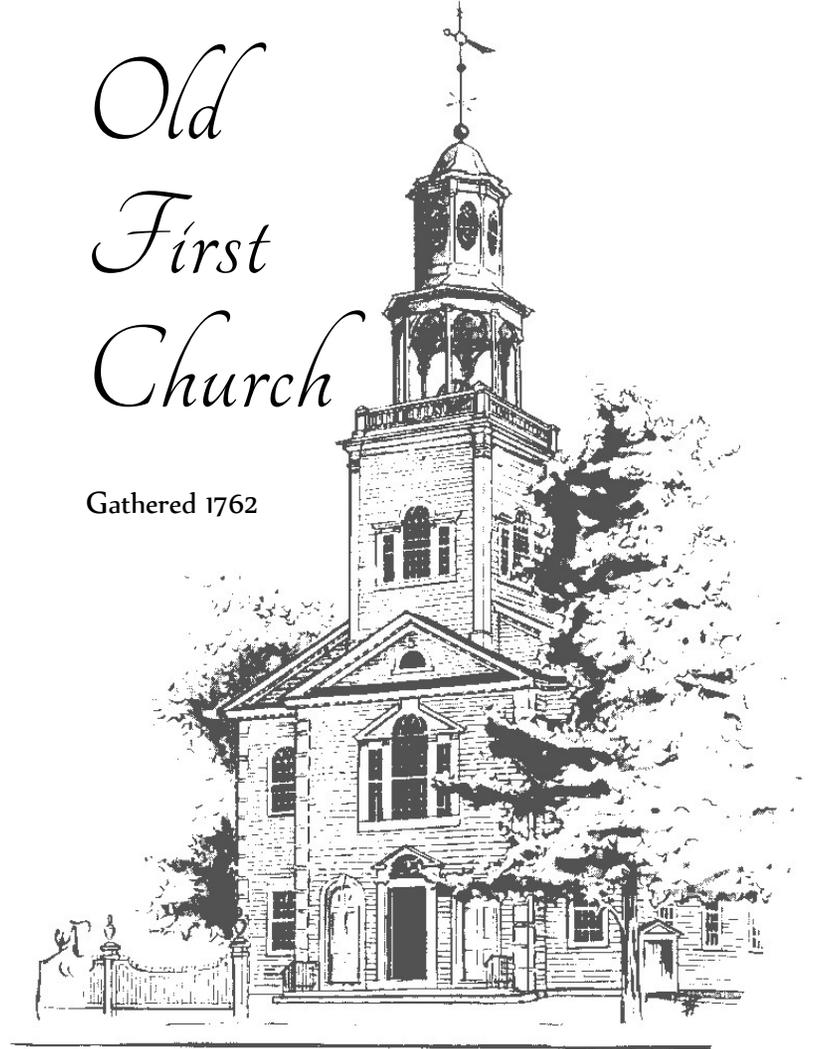
Deacons on call this month are Sandy Bechtel and Wendy Schmitt.

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!

Old First Church

Gathered 1762



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

(OLD FIRST CHURCH)

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We Gather Together

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,
Sing praises to His name; He forgets not His own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;
Thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be Thine!

We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
And pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

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.

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

We plough the fields, and scatter the good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand.
He sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.

Chorus:

All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven above;
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
For all His love.

He only is the maker of all things near and far;
He paints the wayside flower, He lights the evening star.
The winds and waves obey Him, by Him the birds are fed;
Much more, to us His children, He gives our daily bread.

Chorus

We thank Thee, then, O Father, for all things bright and good:
The seed time and the harvest, our life, our health, our food;
Accept the gifts we offer, for all Thy love imparts,
And what Thou most desirest, our humble, thankful hearts.

Chorus

Now Thank We All Our God

- 1). Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom this world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms,
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.
- 2). O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in God's grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.
- 3). All praise and thanks to God,
Who reigns in highest heaven,
To Father and to Son
And Spirit now be given.
The one eternal God,
Whom heaven and earth adore,
The God who was, and is,
And shall be ever more.

DEUTERONOMY 8:7-18

For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper.

You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you. Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, “My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.” But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

LUKE 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”