

* Stand if able

We welcome all visitors and hope you will return! 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 Janet Andrea and Marietta Hibbard. Ushers and communion servers for today's service are Janet Andrea and Betsy Ehrenfreund.

Please join us in the narthex after worship today for coffee hour provided by Betsy Ehrenfreund and Marsha Pilachowski.

Flowers for worship today are given by Betsy Ehrenfreund in memory of her brother Bill.

Candy for the Easter egg hunt would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be left on the glass top table in the foyer.

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

Choir practice, Sunday mornings, 9:30 AM in the choir loft
4/5: Deacon's meeting, 4:00 PM, Barn and remote
4/11: Trustee's meeting, 5:30 PM, Church Parlor and remote
4/14: Maundy Thursday service, 6:30 PM at the Barn
4/14: Tenebrae service, 8:00 PM at the Church

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!

Health note: Indoor air is constantly exchanged with fresh air with a LifeBreath circulation system operating during the service to maintain the healthiest standards for public gathering.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

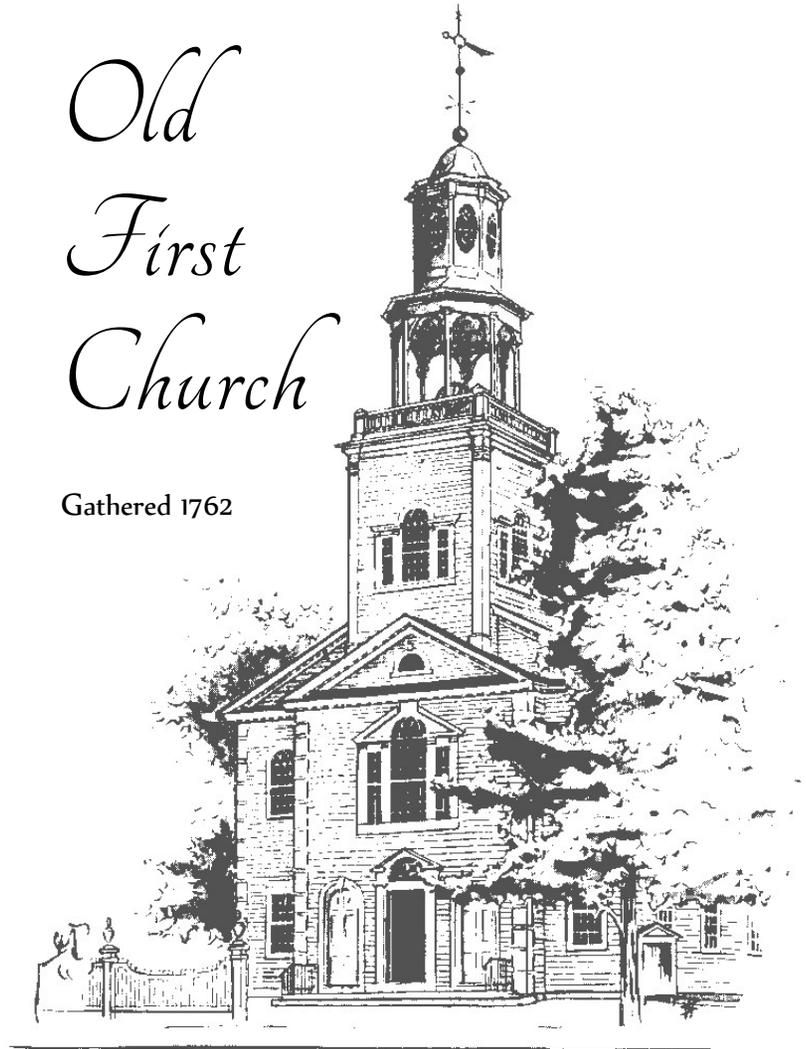
(OLD FIRST CHURCH)

1 Monument Circle • Old Bennington, Vermont 05201 • (802) 447-1223

office@oldfirst.comcastbiz.net • www.oldfirstchurchbenn.org

*Old
First
Church*

Gathered 1762



The God of Abraham Praise

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above;
The ancient of eternal days, the God of love!
The Lord, the great I Am, by earth and heaven confessed,
We bow before Your holy name, forever blest.

Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will;
In prophet's word You spoke of old and You speak still.
Established is Your law, and changeless it shall stand,
Deep writ upon the human heart, on sea, or land.

You have eternal life implanted in the soul;
Your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
We praise You, living God! We praise Your holy name;
The first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

When God Delivered Israel

When God delivered Israel
From bondage long ago,
They thought that they were dreaming,
But soon they turned to laughing
And sang the song of joy,
And sang the song of joy.

The godless nations round them
Could not deny that power;
They cried, "O see this marvel!"
"God's work," replied the people,
And so they sang for joy,
And so they sang for joy.

O God, restore our nation;
Come, irrigate dry souls,
That those who sow in sadness
May reap their sheaves with gladness
And sing the song of joy,
And sing the song of joy.

SECOND LESSON

John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

My Song is Love Unknown

My song is love unknown,
My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be.
O who am I that for my sake
My Lord should take frail flesh, and die?

Christ came from heaven's throne
Salvation to bestow,
But people scorned and none
The longed-for Christ would know.
But O my Friend, my friend indeed
Who at my need His life did spend!

Sometimes they strew His way,
And His sweet praises sing,
Resounding all the way
Hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!" Is all their breath,
And for His death they thirst and cry.

They rise, and needs will have
My dear Lord made away:
A murderer they save,
The Prince of life they slay.
Yet steadfast He to suffering goes,
That He His foes from thence might free.

Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine:
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Draw us in the Spirit's tether,
For when humbly in Your name
Two or three are met together,
You are in the midst of them;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Touch we now Your garment's hem.

As disciples used to gather
In the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the Father
Break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
So now bind our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living
Make as sacraments of You,
That by caring, helping, giving,
We may be disciples true.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
We will serve with faith anew.