

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  
DAVE PILACHOWSKI, LAY READER  
GENE MARIE CALLAHAN, ORGANIST  
OLD FIRST CHURCH CHOIR

MAY 8, 2022 ~ MOTHER'S DAY

**PRELUDE** Improvisation on HANKEY (I Love to Tell the Story)  
- Elizabeth Krouse

**OPENING WORDS** (responsive)

Make a joyful sound to God this day.

**Make us aware of the love and nurture around us.**

For this great world and the wisdom that created all things.

**We give our thanks and praise and prayer.**

**\*HYMN** *Morning Has Broken* **469**

Eleanor Farjeon, the author of nursery rhymes and singing games, wrote the text for this tune. It was first published in 1931. A more recent popular recording by Cat Stevens made the song popular in this country. *Bunessan* is a Gaelic melody first published in 1888. The present arrangement was made for the Christian Reformed Church hymnal in 1985.

**OPENING PRAYER** (unison)

Everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being: You have made us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Give us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, no weakness keep us from doing it; that in your light we may see light clearly, and in your service find perfect freedom. Free us from unconcern and haste, keep us in your wisdom and forgive our faults and failings. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND \*GLORIA PATRI (579)**

**FIRST LESSON** Acts 9:36-43 p. 894

**\*HYMN** *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* **172**

Watts' collection including this hymn was first published in the U.S. by Benjamin Franklin in 1729. The tune is American folk; the harmonizer is on the faculty of Dordt College in Iowa

**SECOND LESSON** John 10:22-30 p. 873

**SERMON** What's the Difference?

**\*HYMN** *Now I Recall My Childhood* **insert**

Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) was a Hindu poet, dramatist, musician, painter, and author of religious and philosophic writings. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1913 and was active in educational and social reform in India. Knighted by the British in 1915, he renounced the honor in 1919, in protest against repressive measures by the British.

**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** *Omnia vincit amor*  
(Love conquers all; therefore let us surrender to love)  
- Michael John Trotta

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

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

**\*HYMN** *What Wondrous Love Is This* **85**

The words to this folk hymn were first published in an 1811 Southern camp meeting songbook. The text and tune were published in 1843, and then in the popular *Sacred Harp* by B.F. White in 1844. The harmony is from the World Council of Churches' 1980 hymnal, *Cantata Domino*.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Psalms of Glory* - Dorothy Wells

\* 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.**

**Deacon on call this month is Jeannette Lesser. Ushers and greeters for today's service are Larry and Pat Ross.**

**Please join us in the narthex after worship today for coffee hour provided by Mary Elizabeth Groupé, Darlene Munson, Vicky Printz and Kristin Roessner.**

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

Choir practice, Sunday mornings, 9:30 AM in the choir loft

5/13: Open Church Docent meeting, 4:00 PM at the Church

5/15: Deacons to meet with a prospective new member after worship

5/16: Deacon's meeting, 4:00 PM, Barn

5/16: Trustee's meeting, 5:30 PM, Church Parlor

5/22: Council meeting, following worship, Church Parlor

6/5: Tag Sale Kickoff luncheon, following worship, Barn

**Free Sunday Supper:** Our church is responsible for the Free Sunday Supper this afternoon and we thank Janet Andrea, Marsha and Dave Pilachowski, Betsy Ratelle and Evie Wild for volunteering to host. Thank you to Janet Andrea, Nancy Andrews, Sandy Bechtel, Susan Kachmar, Susan Katz, Darlene Munson, Sue Philpot, Audrey Pietrucha, Marsha Pilachowski, Jane Radocchia, Betsy Ratelle, Pat Ross, Wendy Schmitt and Evie Wild for providing food for the meal.

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!

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

(OLD FIRST CHURCH)

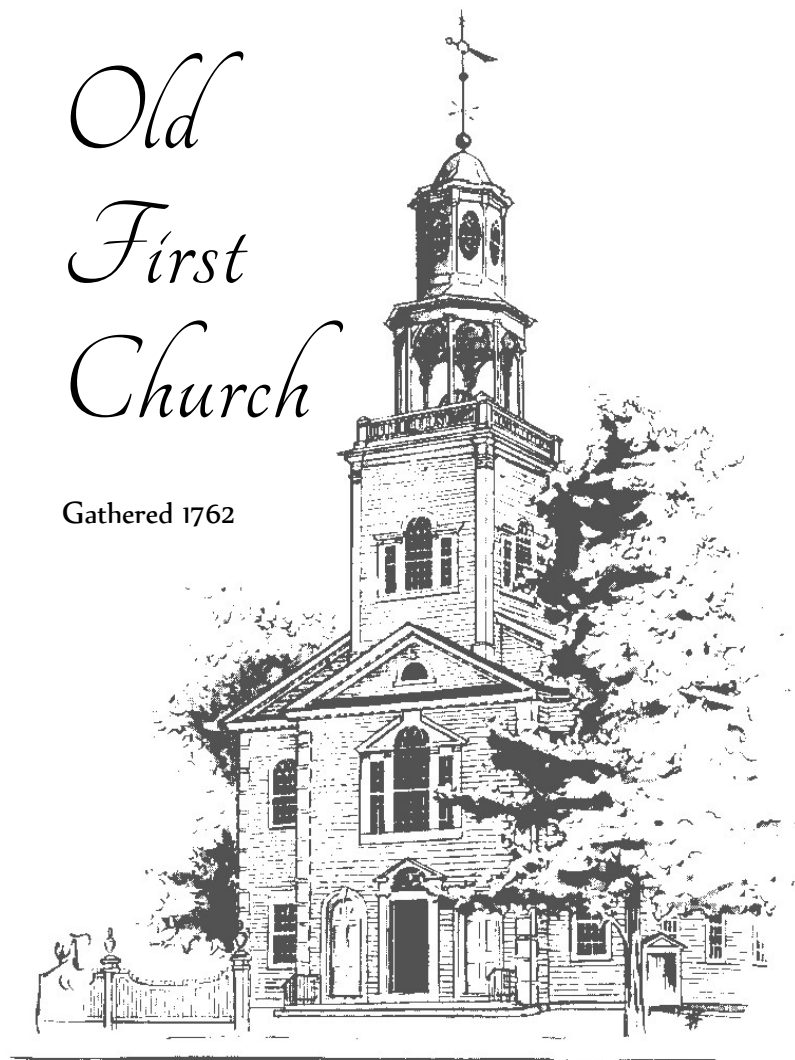
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Health note: Indoor air is constantly exchanged with fresh air with a LifeBreath circulation system operating during the service to maintain the healthiest standards for public gathering.

# Old First Church

Gathered 1762



### *Morning Has Broken*

Morning has broken like the first morning,  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
Like the first dew fall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning  
Born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!

### *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

1. My Shepherd will supply my need;  
Jehovah is His name:  
In pastures fresh He makes me feed,  
Beside the living stream.  
He brings my wandering spirit back,  
When I forsake His ways;  
And leads me, for His mercy's sake,  
In paths of truth and grace.

2. When I walk through the shades of death  
Your presence is my stay;  
One word of Your supporting breath  
Drives all my fears away.  
Your hand, in sight of all my foes,  
Does still my table spread;  
My cup with blessings over flows,  
Your oil anoints my head.

3. The sure provisions of my God  
Attend me all my days;  
O may Your House be my abode,  
And all my work be praise.  
There would I find a settled rest,  
While others go and come;  
No more a stranger, or a guest,  
But like a child at home.

### **FIRST LESSON**

#### **Acts 9:36-43**

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

### **SECOND LESSON**

#### **John 10:22-30**

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

### *Now I Recall My Childhood*

Now I recall my childhood when the sun  
Burst to my bedside with the day's surprise;  
Faith in the marvelous bloomed anew each dawn,  
Flowers bursting fresh within my heart each day.

Looking upon the world with simple joy,  
On insects, birds, and beasts, and common weeds,  
The grass and clouds had fullest wealth of awe;  
My mother's voice gave meaning to the stars.

Now when I turn to think of coming death,  
I find life's song in star-songs of the night,  
In rise of curtains and new morning light,  
In life reborn in fresh surprise of love.

### *What Wondrous Love Is This*

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
to bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,  
to bear the heavy cross for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,  
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;  
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;  
while millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;  
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
and through eternity I'll sing on!