

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
MARIE GUARINIELLO, LAY READER
GENE MARIE CALLAHAN, ORGANIST
OLD FIRST CHURCH CHOIR

JUNE 16, 2024

PRELUDE *Canon in D and This is My Father's World*

arr. Jeff Perks

OPENING WORDS (responsive)

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Sing praise for the beauty of the earth

And the wonder of God's creation.

***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)

Almighty and most merciful God, we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is nothing good in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent; according to Your promises declared unto us in Christ Jesus our Lord. Grant that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND *GLORIA PATRI (579)

FIRST LESSON

Mark 4:26-34

p. 815

***HYMN** *Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure* 251

Joy Patterson wrote this paraphrase of Psalm 145:13-21 for our hymnal. She has written over 30 hymns, was a member of the committee that organized the hymnal, lives in Wisconsin and is an elder in her church. The tune (*Winchester New*) goes back to 1690 in Hamburg and was known as "Swift German Tune" in 1742. The choirmaster of King's College wrote the harmonization in 1847.

SECOND LESSON 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13 p. 226

SERMON As Mortals See

***HYMN** *We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight* 399

Henry Alford, who was dean of Canterbury Cathedral for 14 years, wrote the text. He was a Greek scholar and wrote a 4-volume Greek New Testament with notes that was a standard in his day. Samuel McFarland, who flourished around 1816, wrote the tune.

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 or hand it to an usher after the service.)

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Where My Father Lives* - M. D. Ridge

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

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

***HYMN** *This Is My Father's World* 293

A Presbyterian minister from Syracuse, New York wrote the text in 1901. Franklin Sheppard, who was President of the Board of Publication and Sabbath-School Work for his church's denomination, wrote the tune in 1915 based on an English folk song he'd learned as a child from his mother.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Postlude on "God of Our Fathers" - Phil Lehenbauer

* Stand if able

We extend a warm welcome to our guests and visitors and we are delighted to have you worship with us. 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 Van Derpoel-Andrea and Joyce Goeke. Ushers and greeters for today's service are Marsha and Dave Pilachowski.

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in the foyer after the service. Our thanks to Audrey Pietrucha and our tag sale bakers for providing coffee hour this morning.

Flowers for worship are provided by Kate Musso.

Sunday School runs every Sunday morning from 10:30 - 11:00 AM in the parlor. This informal "drop in" program is ideally geared for children under the age of 6. For more information contact our Christian Ed Advocate, Amber Langford at aemc412@comcast.net.

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

6/19: Deacon's meeting, 4:30 PM, Parlor

6/19: Trustee's meeting, 5:30 PM, Parlor

6/21: Monumental Music, 7:00 PM at the Barn

6/23: Church picnic at the home of Larry & Pat Ross

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!

To maintain the healthiest standards for public gathering, indoor air is constantly being exchanged with fresh air with a LifeBreath circulation system operating during the service today.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

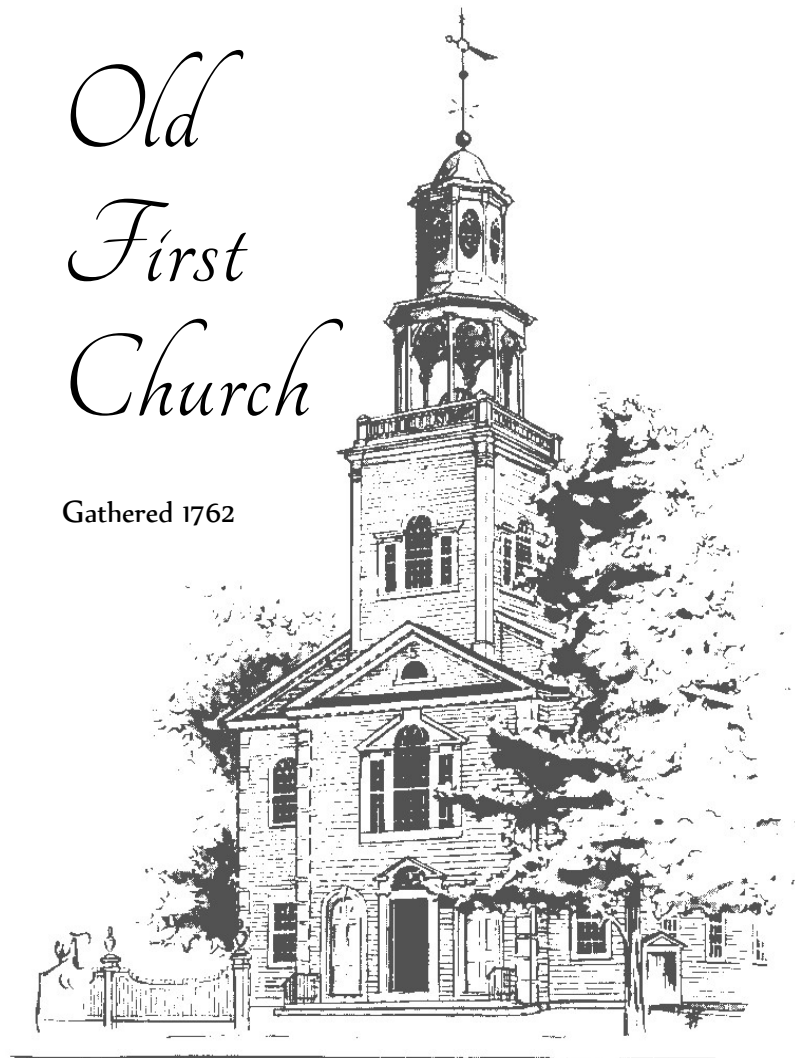
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Old First Church

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!

Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure

Your faithfulness, O Lord, is sure
In all Your words, Your gracious deeds;
You gently lift all burdened souls
And well provide for all our needs.

The eyes of all are fixed on You;
By You their wants are all supplied;
Your open hand is bountiful
And every soul is satisfied.

Lord, You are just in all Your ways,
And kind in everything You do;
Forever near You stand to hear
And help all those who call on You.

My mouth shall speak Your praise, O Lord,
My soul shall bless Your holy name;
Let all things living join the song
Of praise, from age to age the same.

FIRST LESSON

Mark 4:26-34

He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

SECOND LESSON

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13

Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

We walk by faith, and not by sight;
no gracious words we hear
from Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke;
but we believe Him near.

We may not touch His hands and side,
nor follow where He trod;
but in His promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound
to call on You when You are near,
and seek where You are found.

That, when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
we may behold You as You are,
with full and endless sight.

This Is My Father's World

This is my Father's world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees,
Of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world:
Oh, let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong
seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:
The battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and heaven be one.