

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  
DAVID VARKER, LAY READER  
GENE MARIE CALLAHAN, ORGANIST  
OLD FIRST CHURCH CHOIR

JUNE 23, 2024

**PRELUDE** *Chant* – Robert W. Jones

**OPENING WORDS** (responsive)

God's goodness is over all creation.

**Let us give thanks and praise.**

In love and compassion God's spirit is known.

**Let us offer prayers of peace and goodwill.**

**\*HYMN** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* 464

The text was written in 1907 when Henry van Dyke was guest preacher at Williams College. He said it should be sung to this tune, from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Beethoven's original rhythm for the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> measures has been restored in our hymnal.

**OPENING PRAYER** (unison)

O Lord our God,  
you know us better than we know ourselves.  
As we come before you now,  
believers and doubters alike,  
we all share a deep need,  
for we are all lost without your grace.  
Search us, O God, and know our hearts,  
test us and know our troubled thoughts.  
Give us true repentance.  
Forgive us all our wrongs.  
Transform us by your Spirit to live for you each day,  
to learn to serve each other  
and, through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to come at last to heaven.  
This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

**FIRST LESSON** Mark 4:35-41 p. 816

**\*HYMN** *Bless the Lord, My Soul and Being* 224  
(Verses 1-4)

Fred Anderson wrote this metrical setting for Psalm 104 in 1986. He is pastor of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York City and has been metering Psalms for 21 years. C. Hubert Parry was a prolific composer in latter 19<sup>th</sup>-century England. The tune, *Rustington*, was named for the town where he lived in Sussex, England towards the end of his life.

**SECOND LESSON** Job 38:1-11 p. 420

**SERMON** The Whirlwind

**\*HYMN** *Come Down, O Love Divine* 313

Bianco da Siena wrote the words in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. He lived in Venice and was a member of an unordained order that followed the rule of St. Augustine. The translation was made by Richard Littledale, an Irish priest, for his 1867 *People's Hymnal*. Ralph Vaughan Williams wrote the tune for this text for the 1906 *The English Hymnal*, which he edited. Vaughan Williams was the most important English composer of his generation.

**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** *At the Still Point of the Universe* - Alfred V. Fedak\*\*

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

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

**\*HYMN** *When in Our Music God Is Glorified* 264

The hymn text is by Fred Pratt Green, who has been credited with starting the twentieth century's hymn explosion. It was written at the request of John Wilson, who wanted a hymn for a Festival of praise or choir anniversary set to the tune ENGLEBERG.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** Rigaudon on "Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies"  
- Dennis Jansen

\* Stand if able

\*\* St. James permission to stream

**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 Jeannette Lesser and Darlene Munson.

Please join us after worship today for our annual church picnic being held at the home of Pat and Larry Ross, 1534 Bluestone Rd Bennington. Directions on the glass top table in the foyer.

Flowers for worship are provided by Kate Musso.

The Choir of Old First Church celebrates its final Sunday of the 2023-24 season this morning, having led congregational singing and provided anthems each Sunday, September through June. Our thanks to our Organist and Choir Director Gene Marie Callahan and choir members John Carson, Jim Dilley, Rob Ellis, Susan Kachmar, Wayne Kachmar, Carol Poppe, and David Roberts. Special thanks to Mary Elizabeth Groupé for enhancing our music with her viola.

**Sunday School:** Informal drop in Sunday School will continue to run in the half hour before worship. Programs for summer include crafts, games, and classic Bible stories and lessons. All are welcome, but materials best suited for kids under 7.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:** *(All meetings are open to members of the church)*  
6/26: Trustee's meeting, 5:30 PM, Parlor

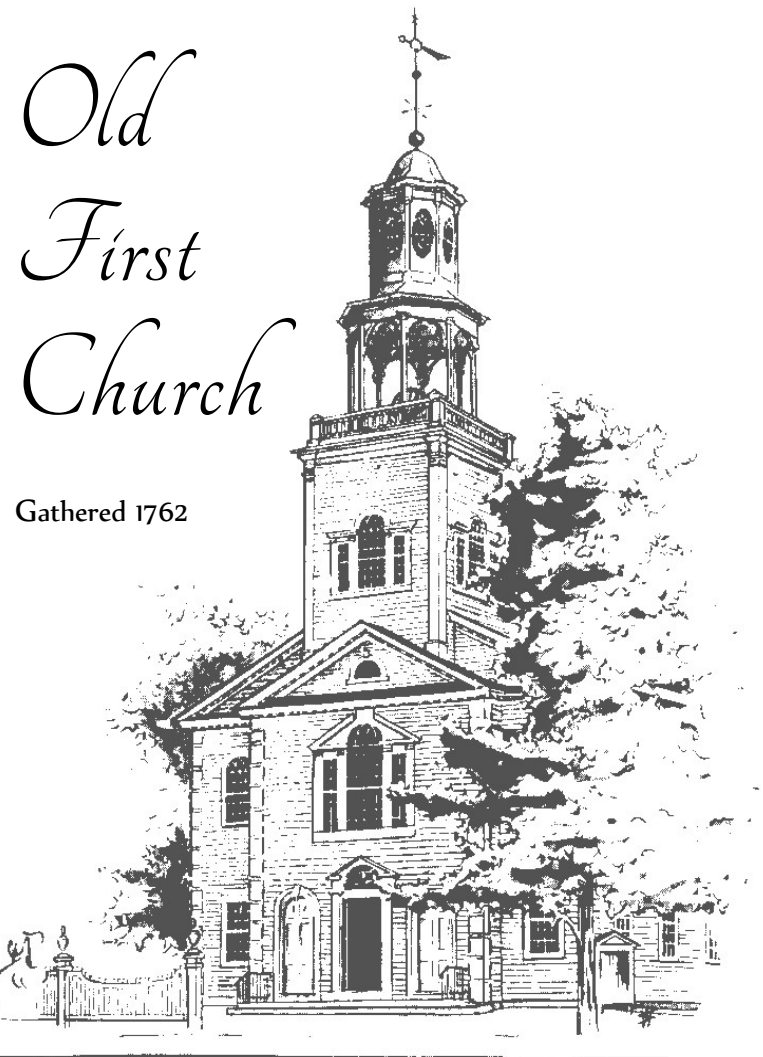
If you are interested in discussing matters of faith and want to inquire about Christian membership in the church, please contact Rev. Clarke. We welcome the chance to have you join us in our historic, but active-in-the-world, community of faith!

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.

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(OLD FIRST CHURCH)  
VT RTE. 9 AND MONUMENT AVENUE  
OLD BENNINGTON, VERMONT

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## *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,  
Opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the gloom of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,  
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee,  
Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus  
Which the morning stars began;  
Lord divine is reigning o'er us,  
Joining all in heaven's plan.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
Victors in the midst of strife,  
Joyful music leads us sunward  
In the triumph song of life.

### **FIRST LESSON**

### **Mark 4:35-41**

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

## *Bless the Lord, My Soul and Being*

Bless the Lord, my soul and being!  
Lord my God, You have such might,  
Cloaked with honor, grand and glorious,  
You are clothed with purest light.  
Stretching out the heavens like tent cloth,  
You are chambered on the deep.  
Riding on the wings of wind-storm,  
Flame and fire Your bidding keep.

Lord, You laid the earth's foundation  
That it would be always sound.  
By the word of Your commanding,  
You set forth each ocean's bound.  
Springs gush forth at Your own bidding,  
Giving drink to every field.  
Bird and beast and all Your creatures  
In that coolness find thirst healed.

Grass You cause to grow for cattle  
Plants for us to cultivate.  
Food You bring forth from our labor,  
Wine for joy and bread for plate.  
Trees you give the birds for shelter,  
Mountain rock and cave for beast.  
Sun and moon both mark the seasons,  
In their light we work and feast.

Lord, how great are all Your workings,  
Wisdom marks them through and through.  
All the earth is Your possession,  
Great and small belong to You.  
Food You give in each due season,  
At Your hand come all good things.  
By Your Spirit You create us;  
Lord, Your breath renewal brings.

### **SECOND LESSON**

### **Job 38:1-11**

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind: "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? “Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb?— when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors, and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped’?”

### *Come Down, O Love Divine*

Come down, O Love divine, Seek out this soul of mine  
And visit it with Your own ardor glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,  
And kindle it, Your holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn  
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
And let Your glorious light shine ever on my sight,  
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long  
Shall far out-pass the power of human telling;  
For none can guess God’s grace, till love creates a place  
Where in the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

### *When in Our Music God Is Glorified*

When in our music God is glorified,  
And adoration leaves no room for pride,  
It is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia!

How often, making music, we have found  
A new dimension in the world of sound,  
As worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!

So has the church, in liturgy and song,  
In faith and love, through centuries of wrong,  
Borne witness to the truth in every tongue: Alleluia!

Let every instrument be tuned for praise!  
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!  
And may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia! Amen.