

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  
CYNTHIA LOCKLIN, LAY READER  
GENE MARIE CALLAHAN, ORGANIST

JUNE 30, 2024

**PRELUDE** Musette on "All Things Bright and Beautiful" - John Barr

**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** *Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim* 477

The text was written by Charles Wesley as part of a hymn tract series issued for the Wesleys' class meetings. A caption to the hymn stated "To be sung in a tumult." The tract containing thirty-three hymns was titled *Hymns for Times of Trouble and Persecution* (1744).

**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** Lamentations 3:22-33 p. 669

**\*HYMN** *Thy Mercy and Thy Truth, O Lord* 186

This paraphrase of Psalm 36 was number 94 in *The Psalter* (1912). In that volume it had an additional stanza that read: The workers of iniquity Are fallen utterly; They shall not triumph in their pride, or drive my soul from Thee.

**SECOND LESSON** Mark 5:21-43 p. 816

**SERMON** My Portion

**\*HYMN** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* 376

This hymn was written by Charles Wesley and was first published in 1747. Wesley was the 18<sup>th</sup> child of Samuel and Susanna ("She Must Have Been a Saint") Wesley. Charles was an Anglican priest, dedicated to the Methodist movement, and he wrote between 6,000 and 6,500 hymns. Rowland Hugh Pritchard wrote the Welsh tune *Hyfrydol* in 1831 before his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was an assistant loom tender for the Welsh Flannel Manufacturing Company. An interesting point about the melody is that with one exception, it lies within the first five notes of the scale.

**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** Meditation on WOODWORTH - Elizabeth A. Krouse

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

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

**\*HYMN** *Though I May Speak* 335

The text is a paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 13, by Hal Hopson. Hopson has been on music faculties at Westminster Choir College, Princeton, and Scarritt Graduate School, Nashville, and has published more than 900 works for organ, harpsichord, congregation and choirs. The tune, *O Waly Waly*, is an English folk melody and was first published by Cecil Sharp (1859-1924), the most important of English folk song collectors who gathered 4,977 tunes.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Joy!* - William Allen Pasch

\* 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 Mary Elizabeth Groupé and Kate Musso.

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in the foyer after the service. Our thanks to Pat Ross for providing coffee hour this morning.

Flowers for worship are provided by Betsy Ehrenfreund in memory of Hal Ehrenfreund.

**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.

**We switch to our summer worship schedule of 10:00 a.m. next Sunday, July 7**

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.

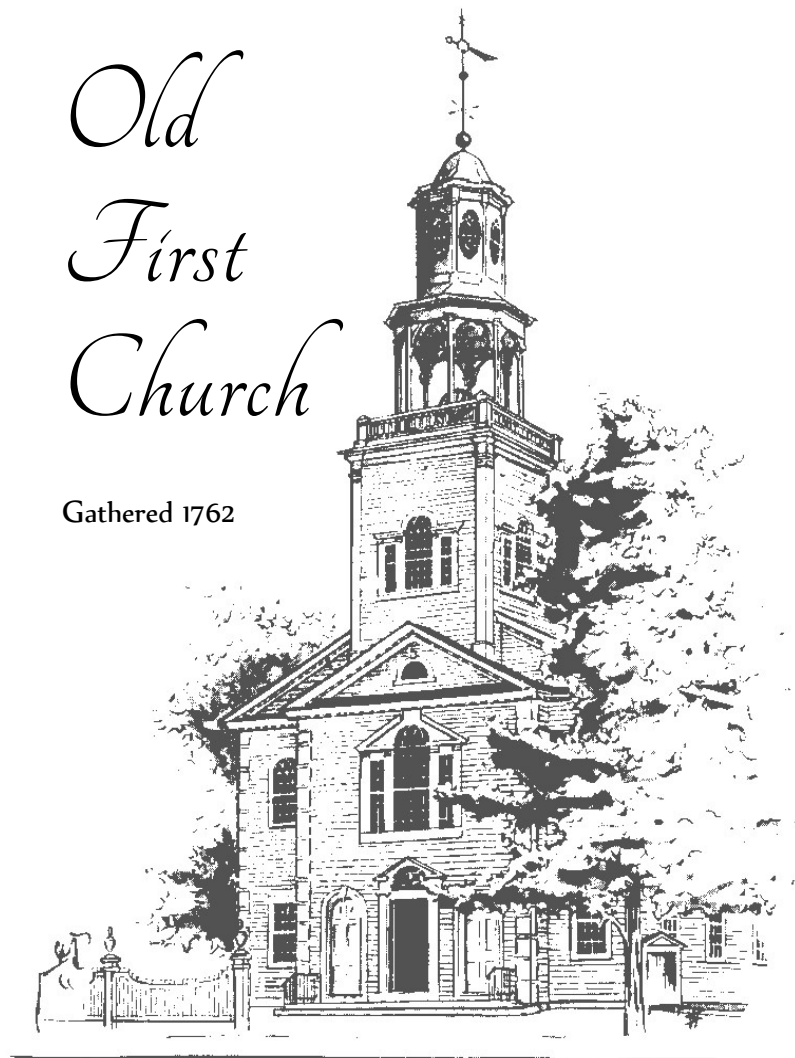
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(OLD FIRST CHURCH)  
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# Old First Church

Gathered 1762



## *Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim*

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,  
and publish abroad His wonderful name;  
the name all-victorious of Jesus extol;  
his kingdom is glorious, He rules over all.

God ruleth in the height, almighty to save;  
and still He is nigh – His presence we have;  
the great congregation His triumph shall sing,  
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

"Salvation to God, who sits on the throne,"  
let all cry aloud, and honor the Son;  
the praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore, and give Him His right,  
all glory and power, all wisdom and might,  
all honor and blessing, with angels above,  
and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love.

## *Thy Mercy and Thy Truth, O Lord*

Thy mercy and Thy truth, O Lord,  
Transcend the lofty sky,  
Thy judgements are a mighty deep,  
And as the mountains high.

Lord, all Thy creatures Thou wilt save.  
Since Thou art ever kind,  
Beneath the shadow of Thy wings  
We may a refuge find.

With the abundance of Thy house  
We shall be satisfied,  
From rivers of unfailing joy  
Our thirst shall be supplied.

The fountain of eternal life  
Is found alone with Thee.  
And in the brightness of Thy light  
We clearly light shall see.

From those that know Thee may Thy love  
And mercy ne'er depart,  
And may Thy justice still protect  
And bless the upright heart.

## **FIRST LESSON**

### **Lamentations 3:22-33**

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. It is good for one to bear the yoke in youth, to sit alone in silence when the Lord has imposed it, to put one's mouth to the dust (there may yet be hope), to give one's cheek to the smiter, and be filled with insults. For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

## **SECOND LESSON**

### **Mark 5:21-43**

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live."

So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who

touched me?” He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader’s house to say, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?” But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, “Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cum,” which means, “Little girl, get up!” And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

### *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down,  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
All Thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit,  
Let us find the promised rest;  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,

Never more Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy host above;  
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation;  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee;  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

### *Thou I May Speak*

Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
And have the gift to all inspire,  
And have not love, my words are vain;  
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,  
And striving so my love profess,  
But not be given by love within,  
The profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,  
Our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
By this we worship and are freed.