

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

MAY 26, 2024

PRELUDE *Breathe on me Breath of God* - John Barr

OPENING WORDS (responsive)

Sing to the Lord a new song;

**Sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

Let us worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.

**May the way of peace open our hearts.**

\*HYMN *Holy God, We Praise Your Name* 460

The original German versification of the *Te Deum Laudamus* was by Ignaz Franz of Austria about 1774. The English translation by Clarence Walworth was first published in the *Catholic Psalmist*, 1858. Walworth was born in Plattsburgh, NY, graduated in law from Union College, went to seminary, studied for Episcopal ministry but became a Roman Catholic priest and was rector of St. Mary's Church in Albany. The tune, in German practice, got its name from the first line of this text, with which it's been associated since 1774.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

O Lord, we come before you to confess that we often forget that we are yours. Sometimes we carry on our lives as if you were not there and neglect the gifts we have from you. Forgive us and give us strength. Give us clear minds and open hearts so we may witness to you in our world. Remind us who you would have us to be regardless of what we are doing or who we are with. Help us live with you and with those you have given us on earth in love and with renewed faith. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND \*GLORIA PATRI (579)

FIRST LESSON Wisdom 3:1-9

\*HYMN *Give Ear, Ye Children* insert

This paraphrase of Psalm 78:1-6 is from Jeremy Belknap's *Sacred Poetry, Consisting of Psalms and Hymns adapted to Public Worship* (Boston 1795). The first three stanzas are altered from Tate and Brady's *New Version of the Psalms*, 1696; the rest are from Isaac Watts's *Psalms of David Imitated*, 1719. Jeremy Belknap (1744-1798) served as a Congregational minister in Dover, New Hampshire, and later in Boston. A graduate of Harvard in 1762, he was elected an Overseer in 1792. He is also remembered as a founder of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

SECOND LESSON John 11:21-27 p. 874

SERMON Run Like Sparks

\*HYMN *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory* insert

Julia Ward Howe (May 27, 1819 – October 17, 1910) was an American poet and author, known for writing "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and the original 1870 pacifist Mother's Day Proclamation. She was also an advocate for abolitionism and a social activist, particularly for women's suffrage.

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 *Put Peace into Each Other's Hands*  
- trad Irish melody; text by Fred Karan

\*DOXOLOGY (592) AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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

\*HYMN *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* 562

William Whiting wrote the text for a student about to set sail for America in 1860. He was master of Winchester College Choristers' School. John Dykes wrote the tune for this text. A vicar, he published over 300 hymn tunes. The tune, *Melita*, refers to Malta, where Paul was shipwrecked. The hymn is known as the Navy Hymn in this country and is also sung on English ships. It was Franklin Delano Roosevelt's favorite and was sung at his funeral in 1945.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Eternal Father Strong to Save* - Charles Joseph Frost

**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 Sandy Bechtel and Marsha Pilachowski. Ushers and greeters for today's service are Sandy Bechtel and Evie Wild.

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in the foyer after the service. Our thanks to Mary Elizabeth Groupé, Jeannette Lesser, Kate Musso, and Marsha Pilachowski 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](mailto:aemc412@comcast.net).

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

- 6/2: Tag Sale Kickoff Luncheon following worship
- 6/3-6/7: Tag Sale set up, 9:00 – 4:00 at the Barn
- 6/8: Old First Church Monumental Tag Sale, doors open at 9:00 AM
- 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

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.

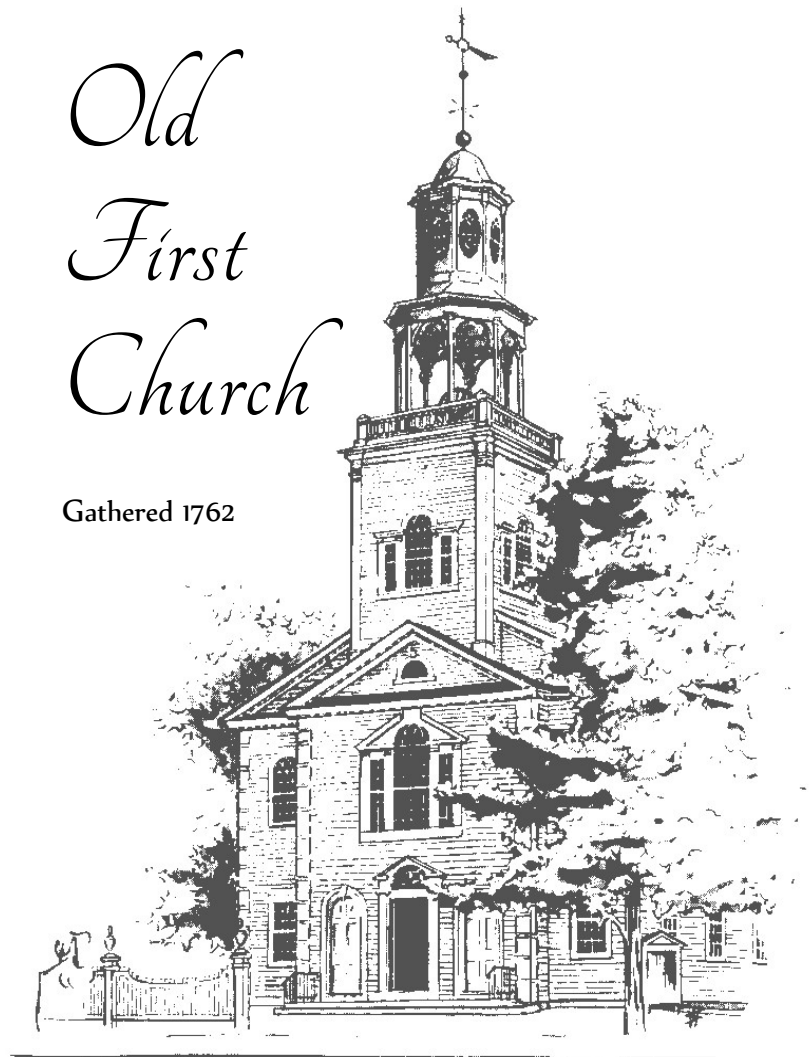
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
(OLD FIRST CHURCH)  
VT RTE. 9 AND MONUMENT AVENUE  
OLD BENNINGTON, VERMONT

MAILING ADDRESS & CONTACT INFORMATION  
1 MONUMENT CIRCLE • BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201 • (802) 447-1223  
[office@oldfirst.comcastbiz.net](mailto:office@oldfirst.comcastbiz.net) • [www.oldfirstchurchbenn.org](http://www.oldfirstchurchbenn.org)



# Old First Church

Gathered 1762



## *Holy God, We Praise Your Name*

1. Holy God, we praise Your name;  
Lord of all, we bow before You;  
All on earth Your scepter claim,  
All in heaven above adore You.  
Infinite Your vast domain,  
Everlasting is Your reign.
2. Hark, the glad celestial hymn  
Angel choirs above are raising;  
Cherubim and seraphim,  
In unceasing chorus praising,  
Fill the heavens with sweet accord:  
Holy, holy, holy, Lord.
3. All apostles join the strain  
As Your sacred name they hallow;  
Prophets swell the glad refrain,  
And the blessed martyrs follow,  
And from morn to set of sun,  
Through the church the song goes on.
4. Holy Father, Holy Son,  
Holy Spirit: Three we name You,  
While in essence only One;  
Undivided God we claim You,  
And adoring bend the knee  
While we own the mystery.

## *Give Ear, Ye Children*

1. Give ear, ye children, to my law  
Devout attention lend,  
Let the instructions of my mouth  
Deep in your hearts descend.
2. My tongue, by inspiration taught,  
Shall parables unfold:  
Dark oracles, but understood,  
And owned for truths of old,
3. Which we from sacred registers  
Of ancient times have known,  
And our forefathers' pious care  
To us has handed down.
4. Let children hear the mighty deeds,  
Which God performed of old,  
Which in our younger years we saw,  
And which our fathers told.
5. Our lips shall tell them to our sons,  
And they again to theirs, --  
That generations yet unborn,  
May teach them to their heirs.

### **FIRST LESSON**

#### **Wisdom 3:1-9**

#### *The Destiny of the Righteous*

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,  
and no torment will ever touch them.

In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,  
and their departure was thought to be an affliction,  
and their going from us to be their destruction;  
but they are at peace.

For though in the sight of men they were punished,  
their hope is full of immortality.

Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,  
because God tested them and found them worthy of himself;  
like gold in the furnace he tried them,  
and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them.

In the time of their visitation they will shine forth,  
and will run like sparks through the stubble.

They will govern nations and rule over peoples,  
and the Lord will reign over them for ever.

Those who trust in him will understand truth,  
and the faithful will abide with him in love,  
because grace and mercy are upon his elect,  
and he watches over his holy ones.

### **SECOND LESSON**

#### **John 11:21-27**

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

### *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory*

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;  
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;  
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword;  
His truth is marching on.

Glory, glory, hallelujah,  
Glory, glory, hallelujah,  
Glory, glory, hallelujah;  
His truth is marching on.

He has sounded forth a trumpet that shall never call retreat;  
He is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgement seat,  
O be swift, my soul, to answer him: be jubilant, my feet;  
Our God is Marching on.

Glory, glory, hallelujah,  
Glory, glory, hallelujah,  
Glory, glory, hallelujah;  
Our God is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,  
With a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;  
As he died to make men holy, let us die to make men free,  
While God is marching on.

Glory, glory, hallelujah,  
Glory, glory, hallelujah,  
Glory, glory, hallelujah;  
While God is marching on.

### *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm has bound the restless wave,  
Who bade the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep:  
O hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.

O Savior, whose almighty word  
The winds and waves submissive heard,  
Who walked upon the foaming deep,  
And calm amid its rage did sleep:  
O hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.

O Holy Spirit, who did brood  
Upon the chaos wild and rude,  
And bade its angry tumult cease,  
And gave for fierce confusion, peace:  
O hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power,  
All travelers guard in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
Protect them where-so-e'er they go;  
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee  
Glad praise from air and land and sea.