

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

NOVEMBER 10, 2024

PRELUDE *The Soul Set Free* - David Paxton

OPENING WORDS (responsive)

This is the day which the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
May the God of peace hear our prayers.
Love and justice alike are the Lord's.

***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)

Heavenly God,
We thank you for all your benefits.
You have given us body and life
and have graciously sustained us to this day.
We pray you not take your blessing from us.
Preserve us from greed,
that we may serve you only,
love you and abide in you
and not remove ourselves from you by false love
of wealth or goods, but hope and trust only in your grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one true God, now and forever.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND *GLORIA PATRI (579)

FIRST LESSON 1 Kings 17:8-16 p. 282

***HYMN** *I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes* 234
Here we go back to our singing roots and sing a Psalm. The text is a metrical setting of Psalm 121 from the 1912 hymnal, *The Psalter*, which was a joint work of nine U.S. and Canadian Reformed traditions. The tune is from the 1615 Scottish Psalter, *CL Hymns of David*.

SECOND LESSON Mark 12:38-44 p. 825

SERMON The Jar and the Jug

***HYMN** *Guide My Feet* 354
Hebrews 12:1-1, "And let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith" is the basis for this African-American spiritual. According to harmonizer Wendell Phillips Whalum, the Bible, more than any other source, formed the textual basis for Black hymnody. Whalum was a noted author and conductor, and head of the music department at Morehouse College, Atlanta.

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP Wayne Kachmar

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 *Help Us Accept Each Other* - John Ness Beck

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

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

***HYMN** *Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace* 374
The text is a new paraphrase of Francis of Assisi's poem, by Fr. James Quinn, a Jesuit priest. He has made the hymn corporate by pluralizing the first-person pronouns. Francis was a wealthy cloth merchant's son and was imprisoned for a year during an Italian city war. Later, he heard the voice of Jesus from a crucifix asking him to repair the church; so he sold the cloth in his father's warehouse, was publicly disinherited by his father, and handed over the money to rebuild three churches and establish a religious order in 1212. The composer, from the Bristol-Myers family, was director of public relations before changing careers. He was an Episcopal lay reader and President of Westminster Choir College in Princeton. The tune was named for Dickinson College, where in 1959 Bristol received one of his 11 honorary doctoral degrees.

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** *Song 67* - Healey Willan

* 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 Pat Ross and Wendy Schmitt. Ushers and greeters for today's service are Pat and Larry Ross.

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

We have had some recent questions about how to activate a prayer request from the congregation. We suggest that you contact a Deacon who will then contact the office for you or you can contact the office directly to give your prayer request. Nancy will then send your prayer request to the prayer circle.

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)

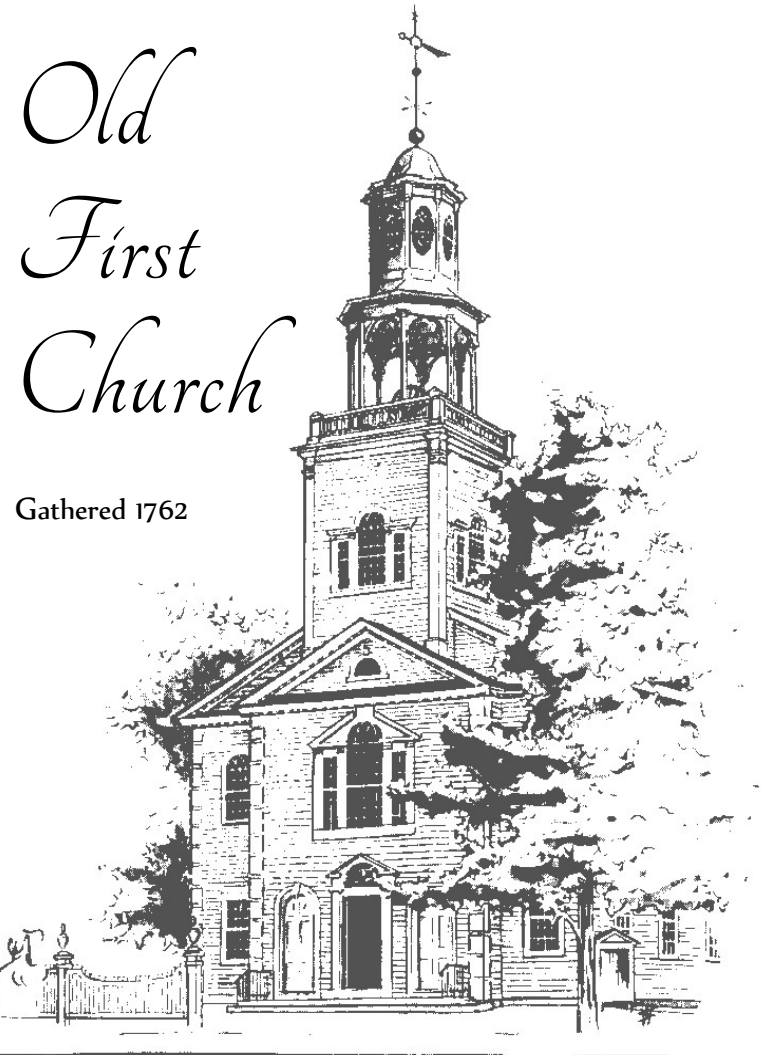
VT RTE. 9 AND MONUMENT AVENUE

OLD BENNINGTON, VERMONT

MAILING ADDRESS & CONTACT INFORMATION

1 MONUMENT CIRCLE • BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201 • (802) 447-1223

office@oldfirst.comcastbiz.net • www.oldfirstchurchbenn.org



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.

I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes

I to the hills will lift my eyes;
From whence shall come my aid?
My help is from the Lord alone,
who heaven and earth has made.

God will not let your foot be moved,
your guardian never sleeps;
God's watchful and un-slumbering care
protects and safely keeps.

Your faithful keeper is the Lord,
your shelter and your shade;
'Neath sun or moon, by day or night,
you shall not be afraid.

From evil God will keep you safe,
provide for all you need;
Your going out, your coming in,
God will forever lead.

FIRST LESSON

1 Kings 17:8-16

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you." So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink." As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." But she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth." She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

SECOND LESSON

Mark 12:38-44

As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Guide My Feet

Guide my feet while I run this race,
Guide my feet while I run this race,
Guide my feet while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

Hold my hand while I run this race,
Hold my hand while I run this race,
Hold my hand while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

Stand by me while I run this race,
Stand by me while I run this race,
Stand by me while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

I'm Your child while I run this race,
I'm Your child while I run this race,
I'm Your child while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

Search my heart while I run this race,
Search my heart while I run this race,
Search my heart while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

Guide my feet while I run this race,
Guide my feet while I run this race,
Guide my feet while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace

Lord, make us servants of Your peace:
Where there is hate, may we sow love;
Where there is hurt, may we forgive;
Where there is strife, may we make one.

Where all is doubt, may we sow faith;
Where all is gloom, may we sow hope;
Where all is night, may we sow light;
Where all is tears, may we sow joy.

Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek
To be consoled, but to console,
Nor look to understanding hearts,
But look for hearts to understand.

May we not look for love's return,
But seek to love unselfishly,
For in our giving we receive,
And in forgiving are forgiven.

Dying, we live, and are reborn
Through death's dark night to endless day:
Lord, make us servants of Your peace
To wake at last in heaven's light.