

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

JUNE 15, 2025 ~ FATHER'S DAY

PRELUDE *Voluntary on St. Catherine* - Robert Lind

OPENING WORDS (responsive)

Make a joyful noise all the earth.

Let us worship the Lord with gladness.

For the Lord is good, God's love endures forever.

God's Spirit is in all times and generations.

***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.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Lord, let us not dwell in the past, nor worry about the future. We cannot undo what is done. We cannot foresee what will come. Let us instead dwell in your peace, love and be loved, heal and be healed. We give the past to you and rest in your forgiveness. We give the future to you and rest in your love. We live in your light, open our eyes that we may see. We live in your love, let your love flow through us, to the fulfillment of your kingdom. This we pray in Jesus' name.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND *GLORIA PATRI (579)

FIRST LESSON Romans 5:1-5 p. 917

***HYMN** *Lord, Our Lord, Thy Glorious Name* 163
(verses 1, 3-4)

Our hymnal has a whole section of Psalms, and this hymn is a second setting of Psalm 8, slightly adapted from the 1912 *The Psalter*, which was a work of a joint committee of churches representing the Reformed tradition in the U.S. and Canada. Johann Freylinghauseen, an early 18th century German theologian and pastor, wrote the tune for his hymnal, which was a forerunner of one edited by J.S. Bach.

SECOND LESSON Proverbs 8:1-4; 22-31 p. 515

SERMON Call Waiting

***HYMN** *Live Into Hope* 332

The text was written for the United Presbyterian Women's national meeting in 1976 and is based on Luke 4:16-20. It was Huber's first hymn. Huber writes new words to familiar tunes and has worked with Presbyterian Women and the Social Justice and Peacemaking Ministry Unit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The tune was first published as a setting in 1789 of an Isaac Watts text; but it is now probably best known as "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates." 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 *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** *O Day of Peace* 450

The tune was a choral song by Hubert Parry based in 1916 on William Blake's poem, *Jerusalem*. Parry was a professor of music at Oxford and was knighted in 1898. Richard Proulx, the director of music at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Chicago, wrote the harmonization in 1986. The words were written by Carl Daw, Jr. in 1982; he is vicar-chaplain at St. Mark's Episcopal Chapel at the University of Connecticut.

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** *Praise Him with Pipes* - Ben Logan

* 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 Joyce Goeke and Sue Philpott. Ushers for today's service are Joyce Goeke and Susan Katz.

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in the foyer after the service provided by Mary Elizabeth Groupé, Kate Musso, and Marsha Pilachowski.

Flowers for worship are provided by Kate Musso.

As part of next Saturday's Garden Tour event the church will hold a bake sale during the Open Church hours of 1-4 p.m. If you would like to contribute a homemade baked item, please contact Audrey Pietrucha at 803-733-6981 or dreypie@gmail.com.

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

6/19; 6/25: Bible Study, 6:30 PM, Parlor

6/17: Deacon's meeting, 4:00 PM, Barn

6/22: Choir practice 9:45 AM in the choir loft

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.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

(OLD FIRST CHURCH)

VT RTE. 9 AND MONUMENT AVENUE

OLD BENNINGTON, VERMONT

MAILING ADDRESS & CONTACT INFORMATION

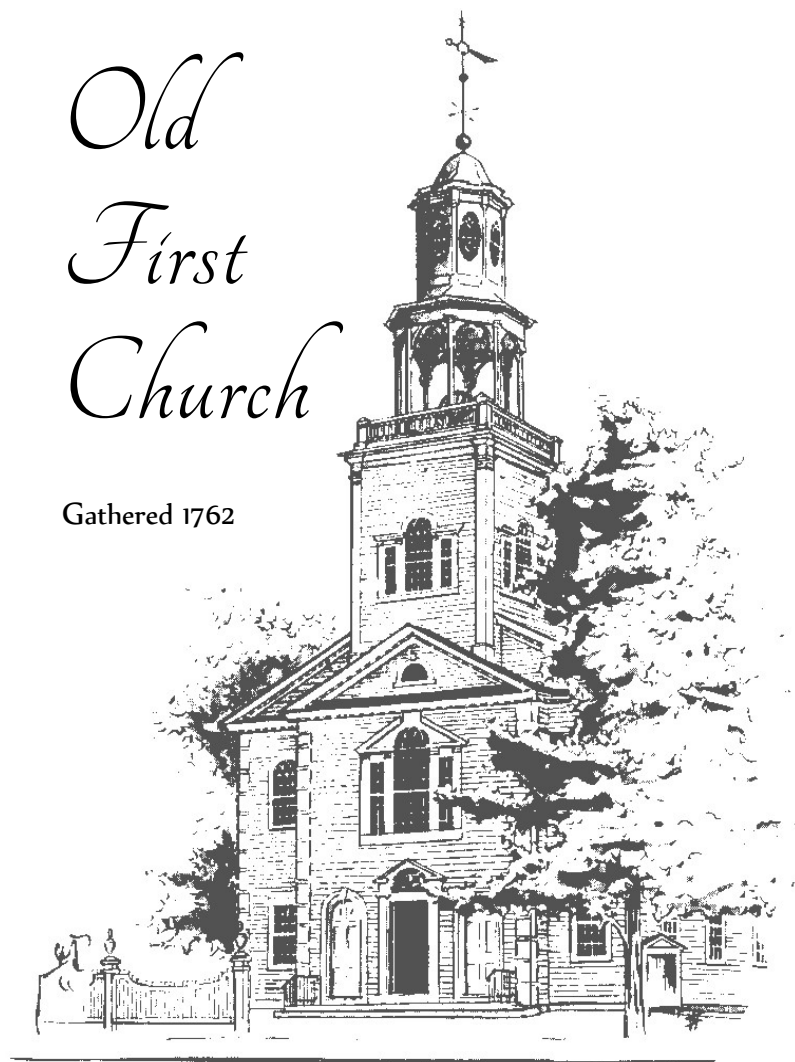
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Old First Church

Gathered 1762



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.

FIRST LESSON

Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.

Lord, Our Lord, Thy Glorious Name

(verses 1, 3-4)

1. Lord, our Lord, thy glorious Name
All thy wondrous works proclaim;
In the heavens with radiant signs
Evermore thy glory shines.
3. Moon and stars in shining height
Nightly tell their Maker's might;
Human strength cannot compare
With the glory present there.
4. What are we that we should be
Loved and visited by Thee,
Raised to an exalted height,
Crowned with honor in Thy sight?

SECOND LESSON

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?

On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand;

beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out:

"To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all who live.

"The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago.

Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water.

Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth,

when he had not yet made earth and fields or the world's first bits of soil.

When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,

when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep,

when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth,

then I was beside him, like a master worker, and I was daily his delight, playing before him always,

rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

Live Into Hope

Live into hope of captives freed,
Of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see
The year of God's own jubilee!

Live into hope the blind shall see
With insight and with clarity,
Removing shades of pride and fear
A vision of our God brought near.

Live into hope of liberty,
The right to speak, the right to be,
The right to have one's daily bread,
To hear God's word and thus be fed.

Live into hope of captives freed
From chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
To faith and hope and joy and peace.

O Day of Peace

O day of peace that dimly shines
Through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
Guide us to justice, truth, and love,
Delivered from our selfish schemes.
May swords of hate fall from our hands,
Our hearts from envy find release,
Till by God's grace our warring world
Shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,
Nor shall the fierce devour the small;
As beasts and cattle calmly graze,
A little child shall lead them all.
Then enemies shall learn to love,
All creatures find their true accord;
The hope of peace shall be fulfilled,
For all the earth shall know the Lord.