

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 ROBERTS, LAY READER  
GENE MARIE CALLAHAN, ORGANIST

JUNE 29, 2025

PRELUDE Partita on "Nettleton" - Alfred V. Fedak

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 Luke 9:51-62 p. 843

\*HYMN *When in the Night I Meditate* 165

The tune, *St. Flavian* was first published in John Day's *Psalter* (1562) as the first half of the tune of Psalm 132. The present form of the tune and harmonization is from Richard Redhead's *Ancient Hymn Melodies and Other Church Tunes* (1853). In *Hymns Ancient and Modern* (1861) it was titled *Redhead 29*, but in the revised edition of 1875 it bore the title *St. Favian*.

SECOND LESSON Galatians 5:1, 13-25 p. 948

SERMON Live by the Spirit

\*HYMN *Holy Spirit, Truth Divine* 321

This text was written by Samuel Longfellow and first published in his *Hymns of the Spirit* (1864), where it was subtitled "The Holy Spirit Desired." Samuel Longfellow (1819-1892) was born in Portland, ME and educated at Harvard College and Divinity School. He was ordained a Unitarian minister and served in churches in Fall River, MA; Brooklyn, NY; and Germantown, PA. The intervening years he spent as a freelance preacher, writer, and editor. His intermittent pastorates were caused largely by poor health. Longfellow moved to "Craigie House" to write the *Life of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow* (1886), his older brother, and *Final Memorials of H.W. Longfellow* (1887).

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 "His Eye is on the Sparrow" - arr. Laura G. Cole  
Carol Poppe, soprano  
Susan Kachmar, alto

\*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 *Dialog* - Russell Schulz-Widmar

\* 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 Mary Elziabeth Groupé and David Varker.

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in the foyer after the service.

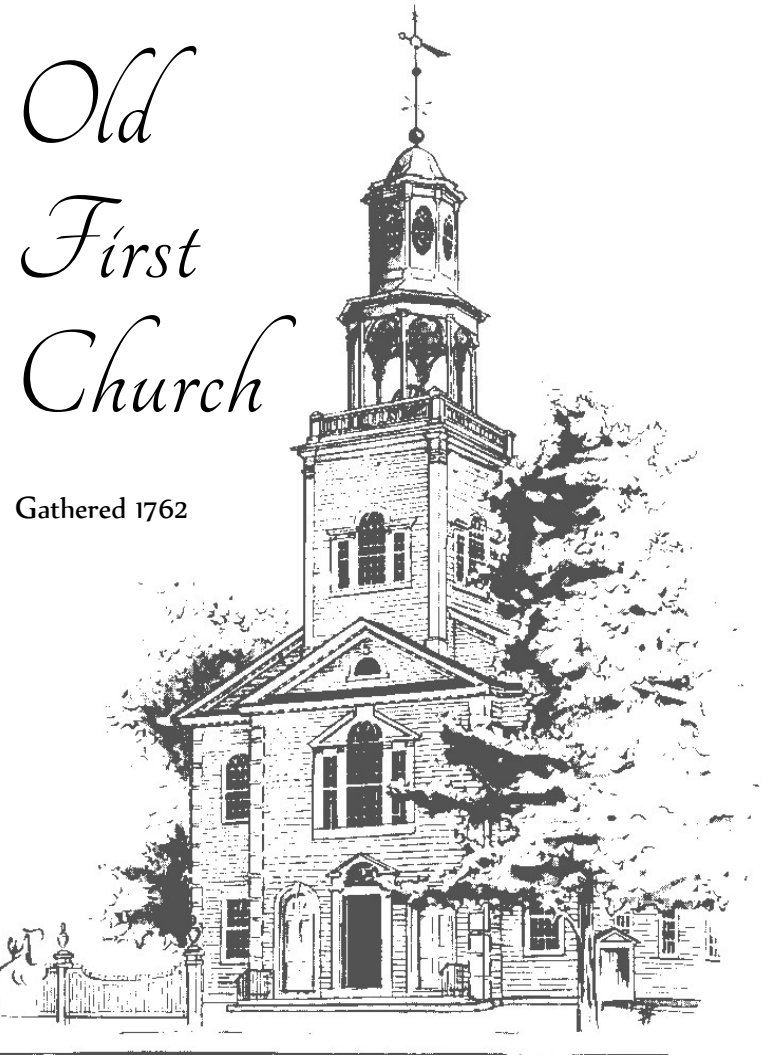
If you are interested in discussing matters of faith and want to inquire about Christian membership in the church, please contact Rev. Clarke. We welcome the chance to have you join us in our historic, but active-in-the-world, community of faith!

**We switch to our summer worship schedule of 10:00 a.m. next Sunday, July 6**

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

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## *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.

### **FIRST LESSON**

#### **Luke 9:51-62**

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him because his face was set toward Jerusalem.

When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

## *When in the Night I Meditate*

1. When in the night I meditate  
on mercies multiplied,  
my grateful heart inspires my tongue  
to bless the Lord, my guide.
2. Forever in my thought the Lord  
before my face shall stand;  
secure, unmoved I shall remain,  
with God at my right hand.
3. My inmost being thrills with joy  
and gladness fills my breast;  
because on God my trust is stayed,  
my flesh in hope shall rest.
4. I know that I shall not be left  
forgotten in the grave,  
and from corruption, Thou, O Lord,  
Thy holy one wilt save.
5. The path of life Thou showest me;  
of joy a boundless store  
is ever found at Thy right hand,  
and pleasures evermore.

### **SECOND LESSON**

#### **Galatians 5:1, 13-25**

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another.

For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law.

Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

### *Holy Spirit, Truth Divine*

Holy Spirit, truth divine,  
dawn upon this soul of mine;  
Word of God, and inward light,  
wake my spirit, clear my sight.

Holy Spirit, love divine,  
glow within this heart of mine;  
kindle every high desire;  
perish self in Thy pure fire.

Holy Spirit, power divine,  
fill and nerve this will of mine;  
by Thee may I strongly live,  
bravely bear, and nobly strive.

Holy Spirit, right divine,  
make my conscience wholly Thine;  
Be my law, and I shall be  
firmly bound, forever free.

### *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.