

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
GENE MARIE CALLAHAN, ORGANIST

JUNE 14, 2020

PRELUDE *Prayer at Dawn* - Edward Broughton

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 *Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun* 456

(LYRICS REPRINTED AT THE END OF THE ORDER OF SERVICE)

Thomas Ken (1637-1711) was born at Little Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire, England, but went to live with his brother-in-law, Isaak Walton, after his parents died when Ken was nine years old. He was educated at Winchester and New College, Oxford. He was curate for Little Easton in Essex for three years after his ordination in 1662 and served for one year as a domestic chaplain to Bishop Morley. King James II of England declared the author of this hymn, Thomas Ken, the most eloquent preacher among Protestants of his time.

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. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND GLORIA PATRI (579)

FIRST LESSON Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7 p. 12

HYMN *O Thou, My Soul, Return in Peace* 228

(LYRICS REPRINTED AT THE END OF THE ORDER OF SERVICE)

This metrical rendering of Psalm 16 is a composite. Stanzas 1 and 2 are from the Murrayfield Psalms (1950). The remaining four stanzas are from The Psalter (1912) (no. 313). Stanza 4 of the original has been omitted. A few additional alterations were made by the Presbyterian Hymnal Committee.

SECOND LESSON Matthew 9:35-10:8; 9-23 p. 790

SERMON Guests from a Different Land

HYMN *Live Into Hope* 332

(LYRICS REPRINTED AT THE END OF THE ORDER OF SERVICE)

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."

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.)

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Sun of My Soul* - Paul Karvonen

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

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

HYMN *O Day of Peace* 450

(LYRICS REPRINTED AT THE END OF THE ORDER OF SERVICE)

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 *Epilogue* - Franklin Ritter

Deacons on call this month are Sandy Bechtel and Bill Hartz.

Worship and life at Old First is changing in response to the need to reduce activity as we work to get through the challenge of the COVID-19 presence in our life. Our prayers and thoughts go to everyone immediately affected and thanks go to all people who work to provide care and supply our needs in this time. An audio version of our weekly worship services can be found on the church's website by clicking on the "Worship" tab and selecting "Worship Here and Now". Or simply paste the following into your computer's browser at the top of the page:

<http://oldfirstchurchbenn.org/worship/worship-here-and-now/>

If this link appears in blue on the device you are using to read this, you can also just "click on the link" and you will be there! The church office has been temporarily moved to the home of our office administrator. Please use email, phone or U.S. Mail for correspondence.

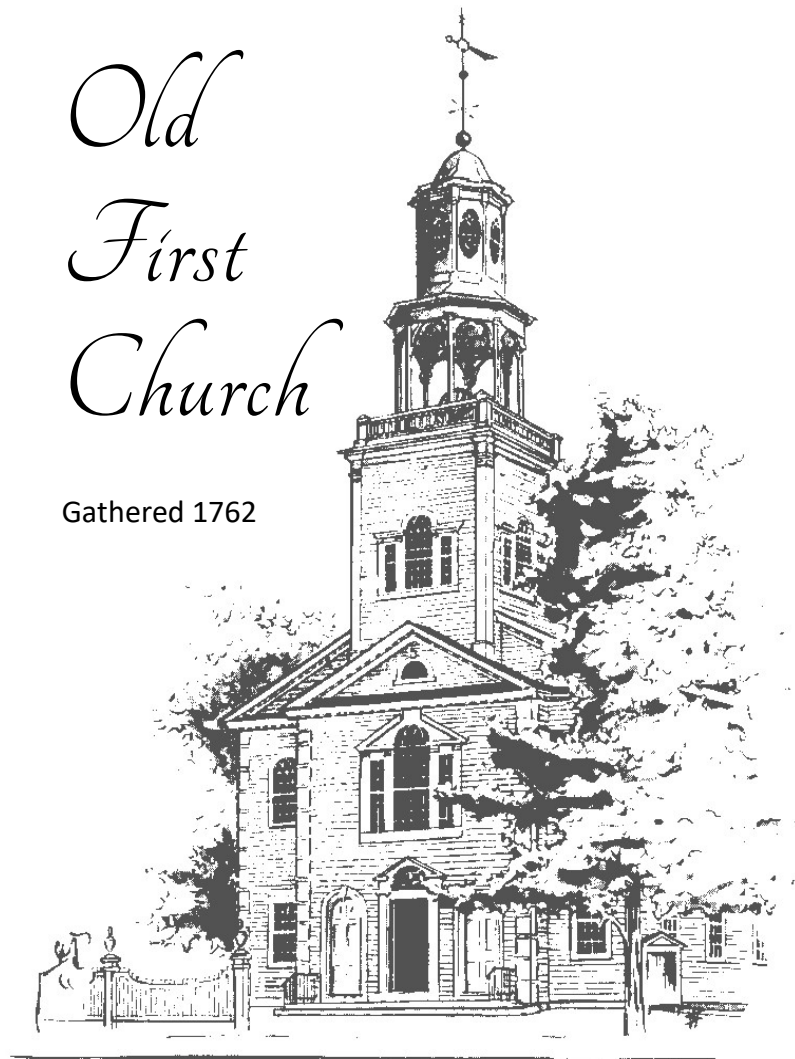
If you are interested in discussing matters of faith and want to inquire about Christian membership in the church, please contact Rev. Clarke. We welcome the chance to have you join us in our historic, but active-in-the-world, community of faith!

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
(OLD FIRST CHURCH)

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Old
First
Church

Gathered 1762



Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun

Awake, my soul, and with the sun
your daily stage of duty run;
Shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise
To pay your morning sacrifice.

Lord, I my vows to You renew.
Disperse my sins as morning dew;
Guard my first springs of thought and will,
And with Yourself my spirit fill.

Direct, control, suggest, this day,
All I design or do or say;
That all my powers, with all their might,
in Your sole glory may unite.

O Thou, My Soul, Return in Peace

1). O thou, my soul, return in peace
To thine untroubled rest,
For thee the bounty of the Lord
Abundantly hath blest.

2). God did indeed redeem my soul
That else in death had slept;
God hath mine eyes from tears set free,
My feet from stumbling kept.

3). What shall I render to the Lord,
What shall my offering be,
For all the gracious benefits
God hath bestowed on me?

4). Salvation's cup my soul shall take
While to the Lord I pray,
And with God's people I will meet,
My thankful vows to pay.

5). Not lightly dost Thou, Lord, permit
Thy chosen saints to die;
From death Thou hast delivered me;
Thy servant, Lord, am I.

6). Within God's house, the house of prayer,
My soul shall bless the Lord,
And praises to God's holy name
Let all the saints accord.

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 gained, 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.

Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?” The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh”; for she was afraid. He said, “Oh yes, you did laugh.”

The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Now Sarah said, “God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.” And she said, “Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

Matthew 9:35-10:8; 9-23

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing

every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

“See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.