

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 7, 2020

PRELUDE *Hymn to the Moon from St. Francis Suite* - Richard Purvis

OPENING WORDS (responsive)

Sing to the Lord a new song

Let the joy of God's creation resound.

God's spirit shows beauty and truth.

Life renews by God's grace.

HYMN *Come, Thou Almighty King* **139**

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

The author is unknown, but the hymn was first found with George Whitefield's 1757 hymn collection. Whitefield, the 18th century English evangelist important in the colonies' "Great Awakening," inspired the "Separatists," who eventually came north from Connecticut and Massachusetts to found Bennington. *Italian Hymn*, a.k.a. *Trinity* or *Moscow*, was composed by Felice de Giardini for this text, published 1769. He was a violinist known throughout Europe, chorister and composer.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Lord, we come this day to become what you meant us to be. We come as we are, broken, afraid, and full of disappointment at times. And we ask you to make us whole and set us free. We come as we are, with all our plans and our dreams, our joy and our sorrows, to be touched by your grace and held in your love. We come as we are God ready to begin anew, and we praise you, ask your forgiveness and make this prayer in Jesus' name, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND GLORIA PATRI (579)

FIRST LESSON Genesis 1:1-2:4a p. 1

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

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

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 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 p. 944

SERMON *The Sixth Day*

HYMN *O Lord of Every Shining Constellation* **297**

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

This text was written by Albert F. Bayly (1950) and appeared in his first collected volume, *Rejoice, O People* (1951). Albert Frederick Bayly (1901-0651) was born in Sussex, England. He was ordained in 1929 after studying for the ministry at Mansfield College, Oxford and served in several Congregational churches in England. Bayly was made a fellow of Westminster Choir College, Princeton, NJ and honored at Westminster Abbey in 1978. His hymns were published in several hymnals.

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 *Earth Carol from St. Francis Suite* - Richard Purvis

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

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

HYMN *O Day of God, Draw Nigh* **452**

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

This hymn was written by R.B.Y. Scott, a United Church of Canada pastor and professor of Old Testament at Vancouver, Montreal and Princeton. It was first published in 1939 and then in the 1958 *Pilgrim Hymnal*. The tune by Louis Bourgeois first appeared as a setting for Psalm 101 in the Genevan Psalter (1551). William Crotch (b. 1775), an English child prodigy musician, revived and arranged it in 1836 and named it St. Michael.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Ascription from St. Francis Suite* - Richard Purvis

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:

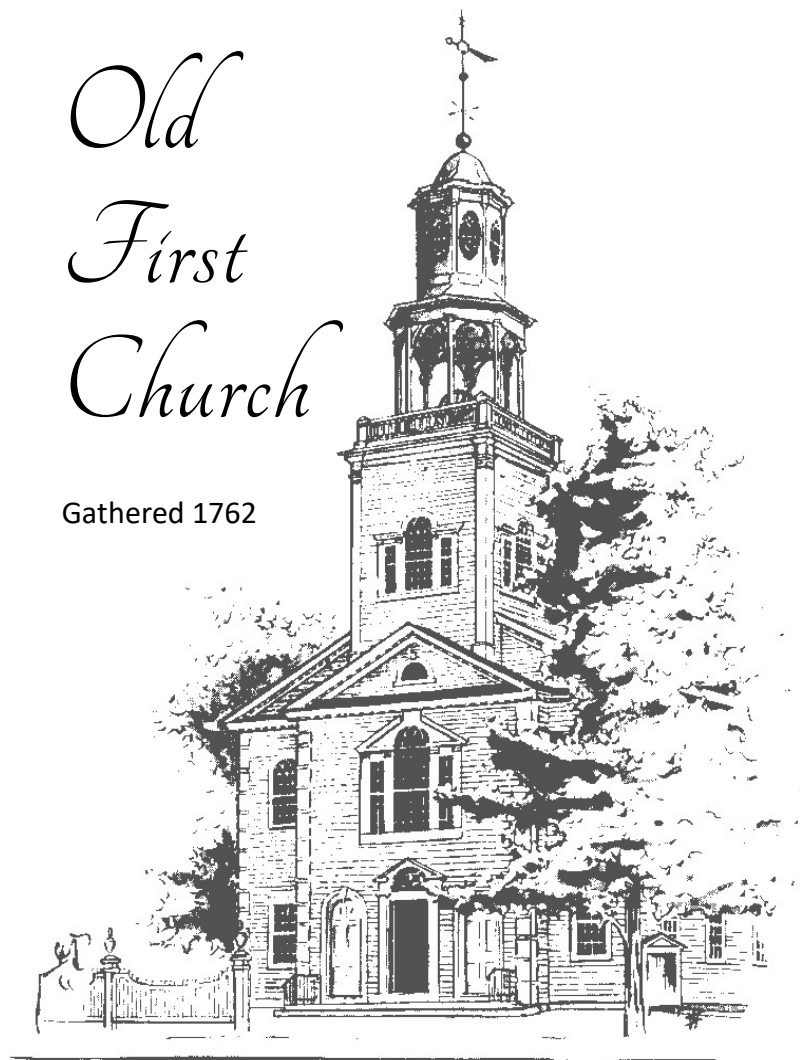
<http://oldfirstchurchbenn.org/worship/worship-here-and-now/>

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!

Old First Church

Gathered 1762



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

(OLD FIRST CHURCH)

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Come, Thou Almighty King

1. Come, Thou Almighty King,
Help us Thy name to sing,
Help us to praise:
Father, all glorious,
O'er all victorious,
Come, and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.
2. Come, Thou incarnate Word,
Gird on Thy mighty sword,
Our prayer attend:
Come, and Thy people bless,
And give Thy word success;
Spirit of holiness,
On us descend.
3. Come, holy Comforter,
Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour:
Thou who Almighty art,
Now rule in every heart,
And ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of power.
4. To Thee, great One in Three,
The highest praises be,
Hence evermore!
Thy sovereign majesty
May we in glory see,
And to eternity
Love and adore.

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?

O Lord of Every Shining Constellation

O Lord of every shining constellation
that wheels in splendor through the midnight sky,
grant us Your Spirit's true illumination
to read the secrets of Your work on high.

You, Lord, have made the atom's hidden forces,
Your laws its mighty energies fulfil;
Teach us, to whom You give such rich resources,
in all we use, to serve Your holy will.

You, Lord, have stamped Your image on Your creatures,
And though they mar that image, love them still;
lift up our eyes to Christ, that in His features
we may discern the beauty of Your will.

O Day of God, Draw Nigh

O day of God draw nigh
In beauty and in power,
Come with your timeless judgment now
To match our present hour.

Bring to our troubled minds,
Uncertain and afraid,
The quiet of a steadfast faith,
Calm of a call obeyed.

Bring justice to our land,
That all may dwell secure,
And finely build for days to come
Foundations that endure.

Bring to our world of strife
Your sovereign word of peace,
That war may haunt the earth no more,
And desolation cease.

O day of God, draw nigh,
As at creation's birth;
Let there be light again, and set
Your judgements in the earth.

GENESIS 1:1-2:4A

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful

and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”

God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,

2 CORINTHIANS 13:11-13

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.