

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

SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

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**PRELUDE** Wareham "Jesus, Where'er Thy People Meet"  
- Henry Coleman

**OPENING WORDS** (responsive)

We delight in the word of God.

**May we hear God's voice in each day.**

May we raise our voices in praise and hope.

**God's promised love is sure and unfailing.**

**HYMN** *Morning Has Broken* 469

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

Eleanor Farjeon, the author of nursery rhymes and singing games, wrote the text for this tune. It was first published in 1931. A more recent popular recording by Cat Stevens made the song popular in this country. *Bunessan* is a Gaelic melody first published in 1888. The present arrangement was made for the Christian Reformed Church hymnal in 1985.

**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. In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND GLORIA PATRI (579)**

**FIRST LESSON** Exodus 12:1-14 p. 51

**HYMN** *Psalm 146* 254

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

This psalm is classified as a hymn and in later Jewish worship was used in daily morning prayer. Together with Psalms 145, 147-150 it is considered a Hallel psalm.

**SECOND LESSON** Matthew 18:15-20 p. 799

**SERMON** Follow These Instructions Carefully

**HYMN** *What A Friend We Have in Jesus* 403

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

The text's author, Joseph Scriven, moved from Dublin to Ontario, Canada in 1844 when he was 25. Influenced heavily by the Plymouth Brethren, he generously gave to the poor and was known as the man who "saws wood only for poor widows and sick people who cannot pay." His hymn is extremely popular in Korea. Charles Converse, a lawyer in Erie with a degree from Albany Law School, wrote a number of hymn tunes, this one in 1868.

**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** *I am the Bread of Life* - Suzanne Toolin

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

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

**HYMN** *Love Divine, All Love's Excelling* 376  
(verses 1-3)

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

This hymn was written by Charles Wesley and was first published in 1747. Wesley was the 18<sup>th</sup> child of Samuel and Susanna ("She Must Have Been a Saint") Wesley. Charles was an Anglican priest, dedicated to the Methodist movement, and he wrote between 6,000 and 6,500 hymns. Rowland Hugh Pritchard wrote the Welsh tune *Hyfrydol* in 1831 before his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was an assistant loom tender for the Welsh Flannel Manufacturing Company. An interesting point about the melody is that with one exception, it lies within the first five notes of the scale.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *St. Anne's Tune* - J. Stewart Archer

Deacons on call this month are Pat Guerrero and Marsha Pilachowski.

**FREE SUNDAY SUPPER:** Our church will be hosting the Free Sunday Supper on **September 13<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you to Janet Andrea, Jim Dilley, Bill Hartz and Susan Katz for volunteering to host and to Nancy Andrews, Claudia Dalton, Jim Dilley, Bill Hartz, Susan Katz, Marsha Pilachowski and Pat Ross for providing some of the food for the meal. **We are still in need of volunteers to provide desserts (brownies and/or cookies).** If you can help with that, please let the church office know. Food donations should be brought “ready to be packaged” (casseroles hot) to Second Congo Church at 4:00 PM September 13<sup>th</sup> and hosts should plan to arrive around 4:15 PM.

Church members should be aware that some few people have been getting together outside the church on Sunday mornings. These are informal meetings and not connected with our regular church program nor sponsored by the church. The minister is not attending these meetings but everyone should know that if they want to be there, they are welcome. You should be following all the guidelines...social distancing, masks and making sure you are not feeling unwell. You might also do the favor of letting the office know of your presence as it is good policy for us to have a record of who is present at any gathering...whether official or not.

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

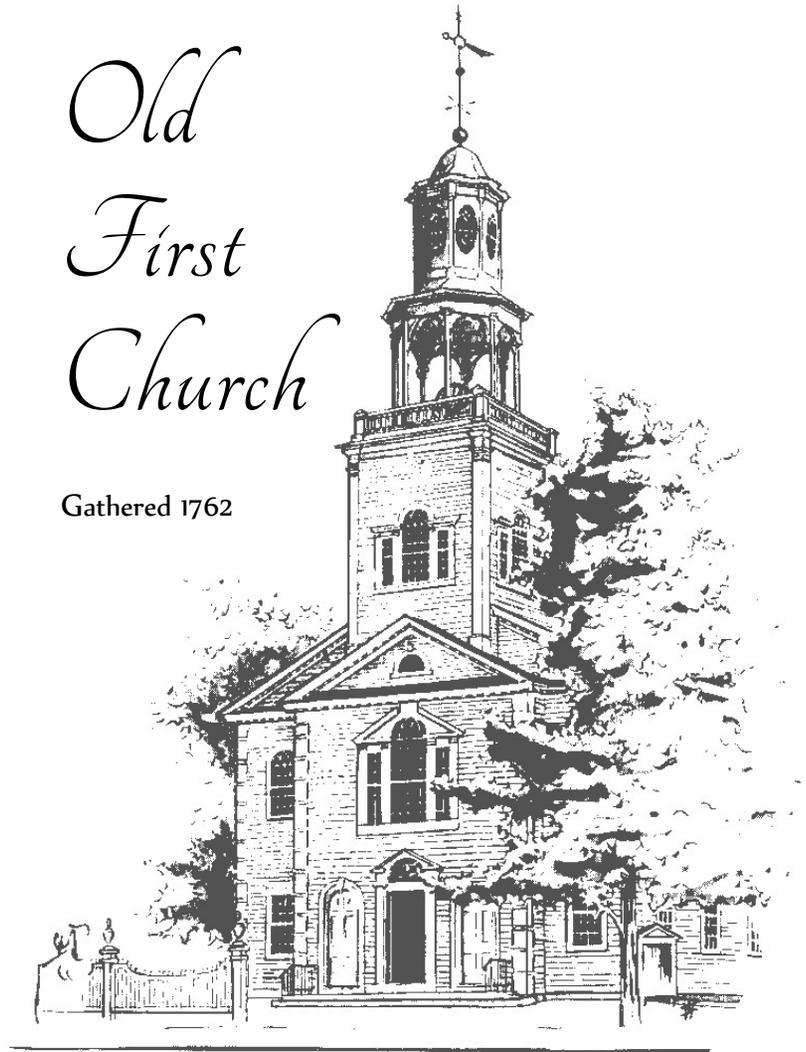
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# Old First Church

Gathered 1762



### *Morning Has Broken*

Morning has broken like the first morning,  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing!  
Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
Like the first dew fall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight!  
Mine is the morning  
Born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!

### *Psalm 146*

**Refrain:** I will praise my God all the days of my life.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God,  
who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith forever;  
who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.

### **Refrain**

The Lord sets the prisoners free;  
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.  
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the strangers,  
He upholds the widow and the orphan;  
but the way of the wicked He brings to ruin.

### **Refrain**

The Lord will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, to all generations.  
Praise the Lord!

### **Refrain**

### *What A Friend We Have in Jesus*

- 1). What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer!
- 2). Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged:  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Can we find a friend so faithful,  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!
- 3). Are we weak and heavy laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge—  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,  
Thou wilt find a solace there.

### *Love Divine, All Love's Excelling (verses 1-3)*

- 1). Love Divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
All Thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.
- 2). Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit,  
Let us find the promised rest;  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.
- 3). Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Never more Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above;  
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.

## **EXODUS 12:1-14**

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

## **MATTHEW 18:15-20**

“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”