

**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**

MARCH 28, 2021 ~ PALM SUNDAY

PRELUDE *Palm Sunday Procession* - Phil Lehenbauer

OPENING WORDS (responsive)

Give thanks to the Lord for God is good.

God's love is the light of the world.

The Lord is with us, in God is our help.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

HYMN *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* **89**

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

The author, whose parents died early in her life, was injured in an accident that left her lame, and was left bedridden in a later illness, maintained a strong faith in God and was known for her cheerfulness. The composer is unknown, but the tune was in a hymnal for the Duke of Weurtemberg's private chapel.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

God of the covenant,

in the glory of the cross

your Son embraced the power of death
and broke its hold over your people.

Deepen our faith we pray, and direct our
lives to your service.

In this time of repentance,

draw all people to yourself,

that we who confess Jesus as Lord

may put aside the deeds of death

and accept the life of your kingdom. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND GLORIA PATRI (579)

FIRST LESSON *Philippians 2:5-11* p. 954

HYMN *This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made* **230**

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

This paraphrase of Psalm 118 by Isaac Watts was first published in *The Psalms of David* (1719), where he headed it "Hosanna; The Lord's Day; or Christ's Resurrection, and Our Salvation." Watts's intention was for it to be sung on Easter Day or on Sundays.

SECOND LESSON *John 12:12-16* p. 875

SERMON *Time To Celebrate....Or Not?*

HYMN *With His Salvation Bringing*

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

MUSIC BY BERTHOLD TOURS (1838-1897). Born in Rotterdam, Holland, the son of an organist, Tours attended conservatories in Brussels and Leipzig. He moved to London in 1861, playing violin and teaching. The next year, he became the organist at the Swiss Church in Holborn. Later, he worked for Francis Vincent Novello at Novello and Company as an editor and arranger.

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 *The Royal Banners Forward Go* - Thomas Gieschen

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

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

HYMN *Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!* **91**

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

Henry Hart Milman wrote the text in 1827 for a collection of hymns for the church year. Milman was a priest in the Church of England, a professor and writer of early Christian history. John Bacchus Dykes wrote the tune for this text in 1862. He was assistant organist by the age of ten at St. John's Church, Hull, England, where his grandfather was vicar, and he published over 300 hymn tunes.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Six Variations on Pange Lingua* - Alfred V. Fedak

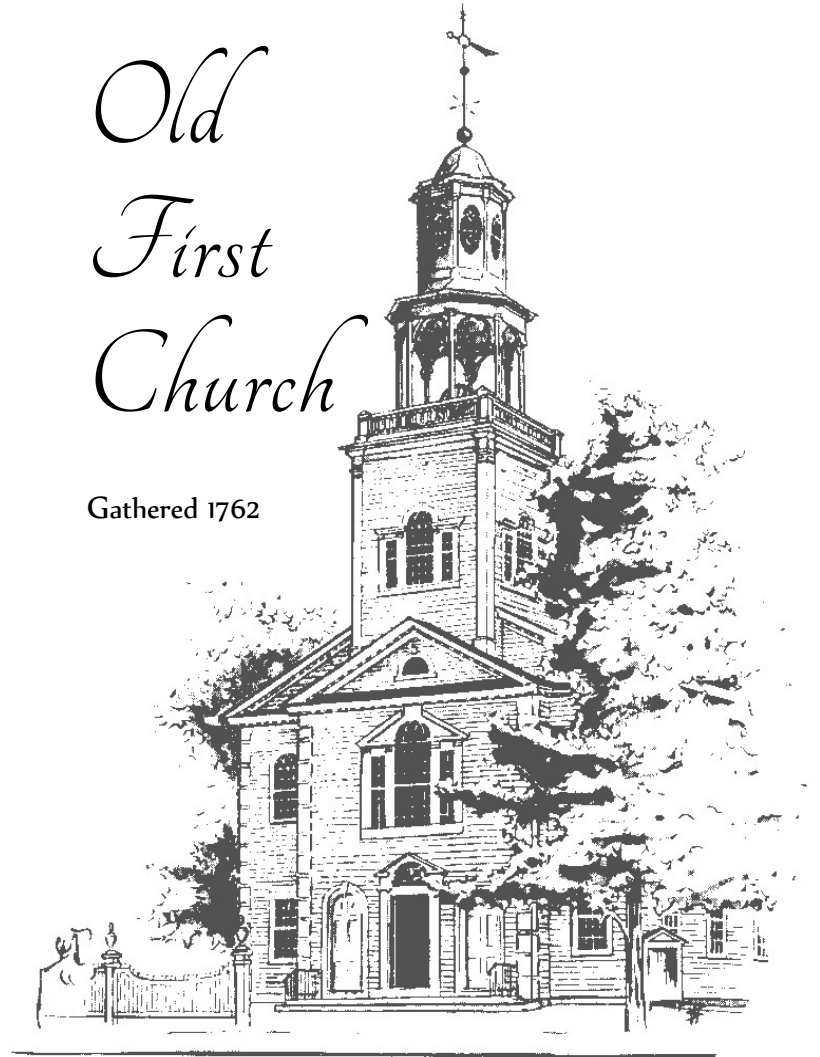
Deacons of the Month: Bill Gordon and Wendy Schmitt

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)

1 Monument Circle • Old Bennington, Vermont 05201 • (802) 447-1223

office@oldfirst.comcastbiz.net • www.oldfirstchurchbenn.org

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Hosanna, loud hosanna
the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple
the joyful anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them,
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed
mid an exultant crowd,
the victor palm branch waving,
and chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of earth and heaven
rode on in lowly state,
nor scorned that little children
should on his bidding wait.

"Hosanna in the highest!"
That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer,
the Lord of heaven, our King.
O may we ever praise Him
with heart and life and voice,
and in His blissful presence
eternally rejoice.

This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 This is the day the Lord has made;
He calls the hours His own;
let heav'n rejoice, let earth be glad,
and praise surround the throne. | 3 Hosanna to th' anointed King,
to David's holy Son.
help us, O LORD, descend and bring
salvation from Your throne. |
| 2 Today He rose and left the dead,
and Satan's empire fell;
today the saints His triumphs spread,
and all His wonders tell. | 4 Blest be the Lord, who comes to us
with messages of grace;
who comes, in God His Father's name,
to save our sinful race. |

With His Salvation Bringing

When His salvation bringing,
to Zion on Jesus came,
the children all stood singing
hosanna to His name:
Nor did their zeal offend Him,
but, as He rode along,
He let them still attend Him,
and smiled to hear their song.

And since the Lord retaineth
His love for children still,
though now as King He reigneth
on Zion's heavenly hill,
we'll flock around His banner
who sits upon His throne,
and cry aloud, "Hosanna
to David's royal Son!"

For should we fail proclaiming
our great Redeemer's praise,
the stones, our silence shaming,
would their hosannas raise.
But shall we only render
the tribute of our words?
No, while our hearts are tender,
they, too, shall be the Lord's. AMEN.

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;
O Savior meek, pursue Thy road
with palms and scattered garments strowed. | 3 Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
The winged squadrons of the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice. |
| 2 Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die:
O Christ, Thy triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin. | 4 Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow Thy meek head to mortal pain,
then take, O God, Thy power and reign. |

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

JOHN 12:12-16

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!” Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: “Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!” His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.