

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, ORGAN  
CATHERINE SHERIDAN, TRUMPET

APRIL 4, 2021  EASTER SUNDAY

**PRELUDE** *O Filii et Filiae* (O Sons and Daughters) - Raymond H. Haan

**EASTER PROCLAMATION** (responsive)

This is the day of resurrection! Let us rejoice and be glad.

**Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed.**

This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes.

**Let us rejoice and be glad!**

**HYMN** *Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain* 114

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

This hymn was written in the middle of the eighth century by John of Damascus. It was used on the first Sunday after Easter (St. Thomas Sunday). The ode originated in an Old Testament canticle "The Song of Moses" from Exodus 15.

**OPENING PRAYER** (unison)

We believe in God:

Who has created and is creating,

Who has come in Jesus,

The word made flesh,

To reconcile and make new,

Who works in us and others

By the spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

To celebrate God's presence,

To live with respect in creation,

To love and serve others,

To seek justice and resist evil,

To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

Our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone,

Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

**FIRST LESSON** Acts 10:34-43 p. 895

**HYMN** *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* 123  
(verses 1, 2 and 4)

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

The first three stanzas are from the 14<sup>th</sup> century, first published in the 1708 "Collection of Divine Songs and Hymns, partly newly composed, partly translated from the High German and Latin Hymns; and set to easy and pleasant tunes." The tune is the only surviving tune from this hymnal.

**SECOND LESSON** Mark 16:1-8 p. 829

**SERMON** Going to the Tomb

**HYMN** *Thine Is the Glory* 122

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

Edmond Louis Budry wrote this French hymn, "*A toi la Gloire*," in 1885. He was pastor of the Free Church, Vevey, Switzerland, for 33 years. Richard Birch Hoyle translated it; he worked in England for the YMCA and as a pastor, was a seminary professor in Pittsburgh, and translated 30 hymns from the French. George Frederick Handel (1685-1759) wrote the tune, originally in 1748 for the oratorio *Joshua*, and then for *Judas Maccabeus*. Handel started in Saxony but ended up in England where he became a citizen in 1726. He was a biblical scholar who chose the texts for his works.

**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 Strife is O'er* - arr. Nigel Williams

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

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

**HYMN** *All Creatures of Our God and King* 455  
(verses 1, 2 and 6)

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

The text is based on St. Francis' *Canticle of the Sun*, considered the first religious Italian poem, written in 1255, one year before Francis' death, when he was blind and ill. The translator and adapter, William Draper, was an Anglican priest. The composer is unknown, although the first line is the same as a 16<sup>th</sup> century tune. Ralph Vaughan Williams wrote the harmony in 1906 for the hymn, "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones".

**BENEDICTION**

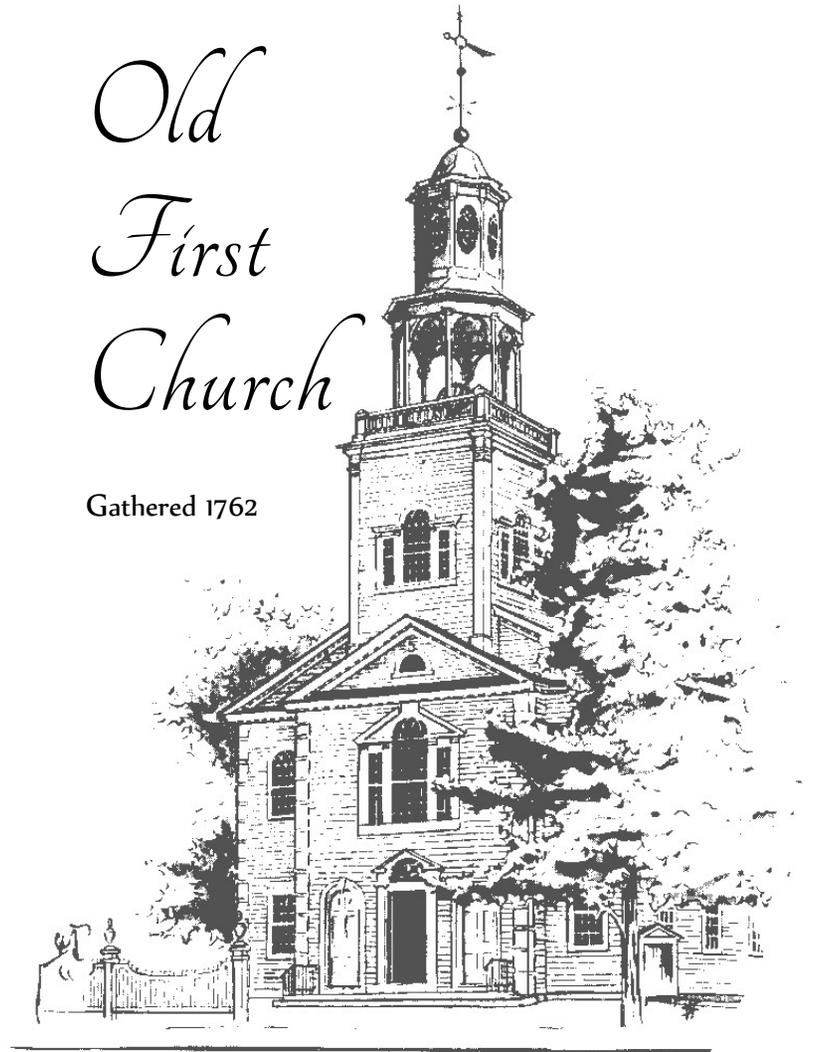
**POSTLUDE** *Trumpet Finale* - Francesco Manfredini

Deacons of the Month: Bill Gordon and Wendy Schmitt

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](mailto:office@oldfirst.comcastbiz.net) • [www.oldfirstchurchbenn.org](http://www.oldfirstchurchbenn.org)

### *Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain*

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain  
of triumphant gladness;  
God hath brought forth Israel  
into joy from sadness;  
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke  
Jacob's sons and daughters;  
led them, with unmoistened foot,  
through the Red Sea waters.

'Tis the spring of souls today;  
Christ hath burst His prison,  
and from three days' sleep in death  
as a sun hath risen.  
Now rejoice, Jerusalem,  
and with true affection  
welcome in unwearied strains  
Jesus' resurrection!

### **FIRST LESSON: Acts 10:34-43**

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

### *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* (verses 1, 2 and 4)

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!  
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!  
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
Praise eternal as God's love; Alleluia!  
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

### **SECOND LESSON: Mark 16:1-8**

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

### *Thine Is the Glory*

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;  
endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes where Thy body lay.

#### **Refrain:**

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;  
endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom.  
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.

#### **[Refrain]**

No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of life!  
Life is naught without Thee; aid us in our strife.  
Make us more than conquerors through Thy deathless love;  
bring us safe through Jordan to Thy home above.

#### **[Refrain]**

### *All Creatures of Our God and King* (verses 1, 2 and 6)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. All creatures of our God and King,<br>lift up your voice and with us sing,<br>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br>Thou burning sun with golden beam,<br>thou silver moon with softer gleam,<br>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br>Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!     | 2. Thou rushing wind that art so strong,<br>ye clouds that sail in heaven along,<br>O sing ye! Alleluia!<br>Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,<br>ye lights of evening, find a voice!<br>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br>Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! |
| 6. All creatures, your Creator bless,<br>and worship God in humbleness.<br>O sing ye! Alleluia!<br>Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,<br>and praise the Spirit, Three in One!<br>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br>Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! |   |

# Easter Sunday Hymns & Readings

Parishioners attending worship in the meetinghouse are asked to refrain from singing the hymns. Our thanks to Gene Marie Callahan for playing the organ and singing and to Catherine Sheridan on trumpet.