

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
PATRICE NOLAN FOX, LAY READER

JULY 18, 2021

PRELUDE *For God Is Love* - James Southbridge

OPENING WORDS (responsive)

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

The Lord is good to all.

O Lord, open thou our lips.

And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

***HYMN** *Holy God, We Praise Your Name* 460

The original German versification of the *Te Deum Laudamus* was by Ignaz Franz of Austria about 1774. The English translation by Clarence Walworth was first published in the *Catholic Psalmist*, 1858. Walworth was born in Plattsburgh, NY, graduated in law from Union College, went to seminary, studied for Episcopal ministry but became a Roman Catholic priest and was rector of St. Mary's Church in Albany. The tune, in German practice, got its name from the first line of this text, with which it's been associated since 1774.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

God of all creation, our chief end

is to glorify you,

and enjoy you forever.

Our deep delight is in your presence,

our fondest thoughts are of you,

our strongest longing is for your house.

In this hour of worship,

help us to become who we are meant to be--

a community that breathes thankfulness,

voicing your praise in all we do.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND *GLORIA PATRI (579)

FIRST LESSON Mark 6:30-34, 53-56 p. 818

***HYMN** *Out of Deep, Unordered Water* 494

This baptismal hymn by Fred Kaan was written for the Pilgrim Church, Plymouth, England, in 1965. It was sung at the 1984 Spring Synod of the West Midland Province of the United Reformed Church during the debate on "Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry."

ACT OF BAPTISM Palmer Jane Hall
Matthew and Mikilena Hall, Parents

SECOND LESSON 2 Samuel 7:1-14a p. 245

SERMON Fine Homebuilding

***HYMN** *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* 172

Watts' collection including this hymn was first published in the U.S. by Benjamin Franklin in 1729. The tune is American folk; the harmonizer is on the faculty of Dordt College in Iowa

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 *Praise Him, Praise Him* - Wilbur Held

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

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

***HYMN** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* 263

The author of the text, Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908), was a minister in the Free Church of Scotland and was its Moderator in 1893. He published several books, his last one being *A Heretic and Other Poems*. The tune is a Welsh folk melody from the early 19th century.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Pasticcio* - Jean Langlais

* Stand if able

We welcome all visitors and hope you will return! Please fill out a visitor's card found in the pew and be sure to identify yourself so we can present you with a gift bag.

Deacons on call this month are Marsha Pilachowski and Laurel Varker. Ushers and greeters for today's service are Dave and Marsha Pilachowski.

Coffee hour is provided by Marsha and Dave Pilachowski.

Flowers for worship are provided by Betsy Ehrenfreund in memory of her brother. If you would like to provide flowers or host coffee hour some Sunday please sign up on the BLOG.

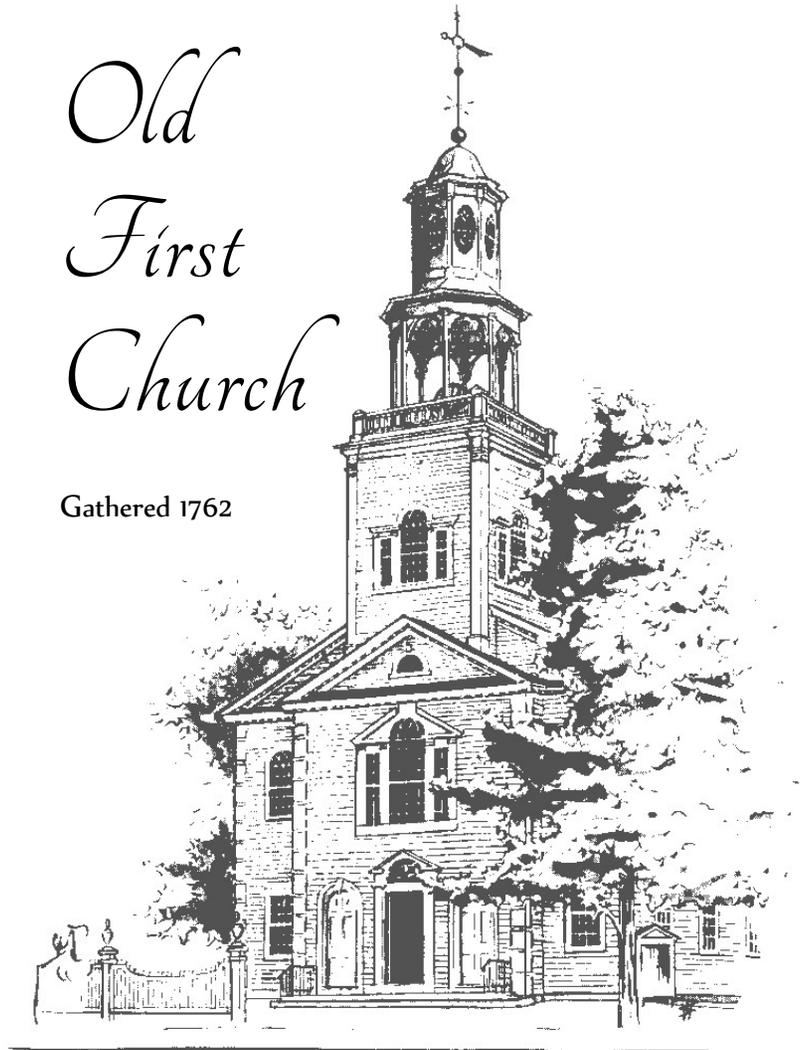
UPCOMING MEETINGS: *(All meetings are open to members of the church)*
7/20: Council meeting, 5:00 PM, church parlor and remotely

PICNICKING ON THE GREEN: Informal picnicking on the Green is an option for those who wish after church today. Participant should bring their own lunch, drink and chair to sit on.

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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Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Holy God, we praise Your name;
Lord of all, we bow before You;
All on earth Your scepter claim,
All in heaven above adore You.
Infinite Your vast domain,
Everlasting is Your reign.

Hark, the glad celestial hymn
Angel choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and seraphim,
In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heavens with sweet accord:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord.

All apostles join the strain
As Your sacred name they hallow;
Prophets swell the glad refrain,
And the blessed martyrs follow,
And from morn to set of sun,
Through the church the song goes on.

Holy Father, Holy Son,
Holy Spirit: Three we name You,
While in essence only One;
Undivided God we claim You,
And adoring bend the knee
While we own the mystery.

FIRST LESSON

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

Out of Deep, Unordered Water

Out of deep, unordered water
God created light and land,
World of bird and beast and, later,
In God's image, woman, man.

Refrain:

There is water in the river
Bringing life to tree and plant.
Let creation praise its giver:
There is water in the font.

Water on the human forehead,
Birthmark of the love of God,
Is the sign of death and rising;
Through the seas there runs a road. *[Refrain]*

Standing round the font reminds us
Of the Hebrews' climb ashore.
Life is hallowed by the knowledge:
God has been this way before. *[Refrain]*

SECOND LESSON

2 Samuel 7:1-14a

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.”

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings.

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

1. My Shepherd will supply my need;
Jehovah is His name:
In pastures fresh He makes me feed,
Beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back,
When I forsake His ways;
And leads me, for His mercy’s sake,
In paths of truth and grace.

2. When I walk through the shades of death
Your presence is my stay;
One word of Your supporting breath
Drives all my fears away.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes,
Does still my table spread;
My cup with blessings over flows,
Your oil anoints my head.

3. The sure provisions of my God
Attend me all my days;
O may Your House be my abode,
And all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest,
While others go and come;
No more a stranger, or a guest,
But like a child at home.

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.

Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
“Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!