

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

MARSHA PILACHOWSKI, LAY READER

GENE MARIE CALLAHAN, ORGANIST      OLD FIRST CHURCH CHOIR

FEBRUARY 6, 2022

**PRELUDE**                                  *Elevation*                                  - Alexandre Guilmant

**OPENING WORDS** (responsive)

God is full of grace and our praise is fitting.

**Let us worship with joy in our hearts.**

God give courage and hope.

**God gives peace and understanding.**

\***HYMN**                                  *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*                                  **464**

The text was written in 1907 when Henry van Dyke was guest preacher at Williams College. He said it should be sung to this tune, from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Beethoven's original rhythm for the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> measures has been restored in our hymnal.

**OPENING PRAYER** (unison)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

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

**FIRST LESSON**                                  Luke 5:1-11                                  p. 836

\***HYMN**                                  *I Will Give Thanks with My Whole Heart*                                  **247**

This version of Psalm 138 is by Christopher L. Webber and was first published in *A New Metrical Psalter* (1986). The original texts of stanzas 3 and 5 were written in the third person. Webber revised those stanzas for *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (1990). He also changed the phrase "hostile wrath" in stanza 4 to "my foe's wrath."

**SECOND LESSON**                                  Isaiah 6:1-13                                  p. 553

**SERMON**                                  The Year That King Uzziah Died

\***HYMN**                                  *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*                                  **377**

Cesáreo Gabaráin wrote the text and tune of this hymn in 1979 after traveling to Galilee and being moved by being at the seaside where Jesus called some of the disciples to follow him. Gabaráin was a Spanish Roman Catholic priest in Madrid, and the Spanish chaplain to Pope Paul VI. Some of his hymns have been translated into over 40 languages. The harmony is by Skinner Chávez-Melo, who taught at music schools in Manhattan and edited hymnals for the Episcopal Church and the United Church of Christ. When he died he was working on a Spanish Methodist hymnal.

**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**                                  *Communion Canon*                                  - Ruth Elaine Schram

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

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

\***HYMN**                                  *Here I Am, Lord*                                  **525**

Daniel Shutte wrote the text and tune in 1981 for a diaconate ordination. He was a Roman Catholic priest in South Dakota but is now a layperson, and serves as music director of a Roman Catholic parish in Milwaukee.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**                                  *The New Commonwealth*  
- Ralph Vaughn Williams

**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 Beverly Cohen and Bill Gordon. Ushers and greeters for today's service are Joyce Goeke and Amy Tronsen.

Please join us after worship today for a hearty coffee hour provided by Sandy Bechtel, Gene Marie Callahan, Stacy Carreau, Joyce Goeke, Mary Elizabeth Groupé, Pat Guerrero, Reg Jones, Susan Katz, Jeannette Lesser, Darlene Munson, Marsha Pilachowski, Vicky Printz, Jim Pullman, Wendy Schmitt, and Amy Tronsen. Special thanks to Jeannette for setting up for the luncheon.

**The Church's Annual Meeting follows worship today. All members of the church are expected to meet in the sanctuary after coffee hour.**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:** *(All meetings are open to members of the church)*

Choir practice, Sunday mornings, 9:30 AM in the choir loft

2/15: Deacon's meeting, 4:00 PM in the church parlor and remote

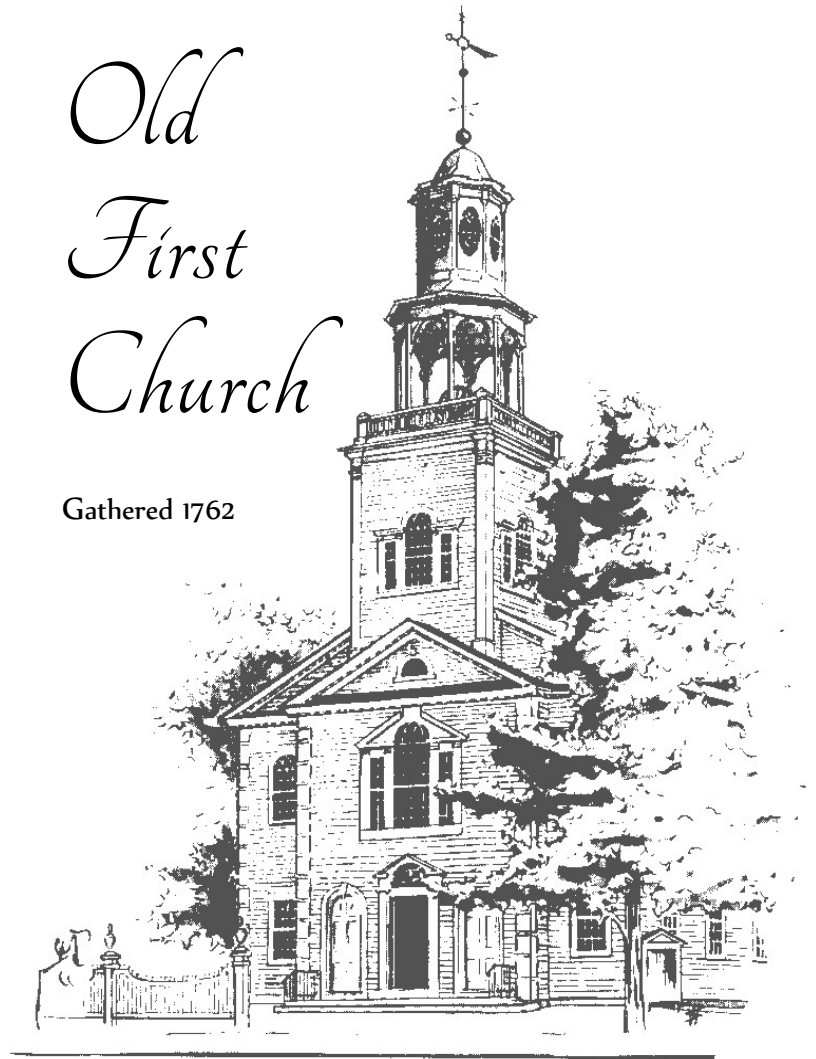
2/15: Trustee's meeting, 5:30 PM in the church parlor and remote

**19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET:** Submissions for our *Meditations for Lent* booklet, by and for members and friends of Old First Church, are being accepted. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2. The deadline for submissions is February 16<sup>th</sup>. Email is the best way to get it to the church office. The devotionals are printed on a half-sheet of 8 ½ x 11" paper so please keep your selections brief.

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)

### *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,  
Opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the gloom of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,  
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee,  
Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus  
Which the morning stars began;  
Lord divine is reigning o'er us,  
Joining all in heaven's plan.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
Victors in the midst of strife,  
Joyful music leads us sunward  
In the triumph song of life.

### **FIRST LESSON**

### **Luke 5:1-11**

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled

their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

### *I Will give Thanks with My Whole Heart*

I will give thanks with my whole heart,  
Before the gods my praise express;  
I will bow down before Your throne  
And praise Your love and faithfulness.

Above all things, O Lord, my God,  
You glorified Your name and Word;  
I called and then You answered me  
And gave me increased strength, O Lord.

All kings on earth who hear Your words,  
O Lord, will give You thanks and praise  
And tell how great Your glory is,  
And they will sing of all Your ways.

The Lord is high, yet scorns the proud,  
Protects the lowly on their path;  
Although I walk in trouble, Lord,  
You keep me safe from my foe's wrath.

Lord, Your right hand shall save my life  
And make Your purpose for me sure;  
Do not forsake what You have made;  
Your love forever will endure.

## SECOND LESSON

### Isaiah 6:1-13

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke.

And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

And he said, "Go and say to this people: 'Keep listening, but do not comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand.' Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and comprehend with their minds, and turn and be healed." Then I said, "How long, O Lord?" And he said: "Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is utterly desolate; until the Lord sends everyone far away, and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land. Even if a tenth part remain in it, it will be burned again, like a terebinth or an oak whose stump remains standing when it is felled." The holy seed is its stump.

## *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*

You have come up to the lakeshore,  
Looking neither for wise nor for wealthy.  
You only wanted that I should follow.

### *Refrain:*

O Lord, with Your eyes You have searched me,  
And, while smiling, have called out my name.  
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me,  
Now with You I will seek other seas.

You know that I own so little  
In my boat there's no money nor weapons,  
You'll only find there my nets and labor. *[Refrain]*

You need the caring of my hands.  
Through my tiredness, may others find resting.  
You need a love that just goes on loving. *[Refrain]*

You, who have fished other oceans,  
Ever longed for by souls that are waiting,  
My dear and good friend, as thus You call me. *[Refrain]*

## *Here I Am, Lord*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1). I, the Lord of sea and sky,<br>I have heard my people cry.<br>All who dwell in deepest sin<br>My hand will save.<br>I who made the stars of night,<br>I will make their darkness bright.<br>Who will bear My light to them?<br>Whom shall I send? | 2). I, the Lord of snow and rain,<br>I have borne My people's pain.<br>I have wept for love of them,<br>They turn away.<br>I will break their hearts of stone,<br>Give them hearts for love alone.<br>I will speak My word to them.<br>Whom shall I send? <i>[Refrain]</i> |
|---|--|

### *Refrain:*

Here I am, Lord  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night  
I will go, Lord,  
If You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.

- 3). I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them,  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give My life to them.  
Whom shall I send? *[Refrain]*