

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, ORGAN

OLD FIRST CHURCH CHOIR

CATHERINE SHERIDAN, TRUMPET

APRIL 17, 2022 ∞ EASTER SUNDAY

**PRELUDE** *All Creatures of Our God and King* arr. Mark Cavaniss

**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

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** Isaiah 65:17-25 p. 607

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

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** John 20:1-8 p. 882

**SERMON** Rejoice, Build, Hear

**HYMN** *I Know that My Redeemer Lives!* insert  
(verses 1-4)

This hymn is set to the tune DUKE STREET which was composed by John Warrington Hatton (b. Warrington, England, c. 1710; d. St. Helen's, Lancaster, England, 1793). Hatton supposedly lived on Duke Street in Lancashire, from where his famous tune name comes. Very little is known about him, but he was most likely a Presbyterian, and the story goes that he was killed in a stagecoach accident.

**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** *Variations on This Joyful Eastertide*  
- arr. Raymond H. Haan

**\*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)

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** *Ceremonial March* - Raymond H. Haan

\*Standing, if able



The annual **Easter egg hunt** will take place after worship today. Children should take a bag and balloon from the windowsill right after worship and go into the narthex. After everyone has left the Sanctuary, we'll close the doors, do some "hiding," and then the children can come back in.

**Deacon of the Month** is Janet Andrea. Ushers and greeters for today's service are Marshall and Connie Barrett, Ellen Knapp and Saige and Skyla Myers.

Please join us after worship today for coffee hour graciously provided by Connie Barrett, Anastasia Gauthier, Joyce Goeke, Darlene Munson, Marsha Pilachowski and Carol Poppe. If you would like to host coffee hour or provide flowers some Sunday please sign up on the BLOG.

This Easter we are especially thankful for the skills and participation of our church choir and its director and our organist, Gene Marie Callahan. Special thanks to our guest musician Catherine Sheridan providing musical accompaniment today.

Thank you to those who provided memorial Easter lilies and flowers this year. Donors are encouraged to take flowers home after worship today.

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!

To maintain the healthiest standards for public gathering, indoor air is constantly being exchanged with fresh air with a LifeBreath circulation system operating during the service today.

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

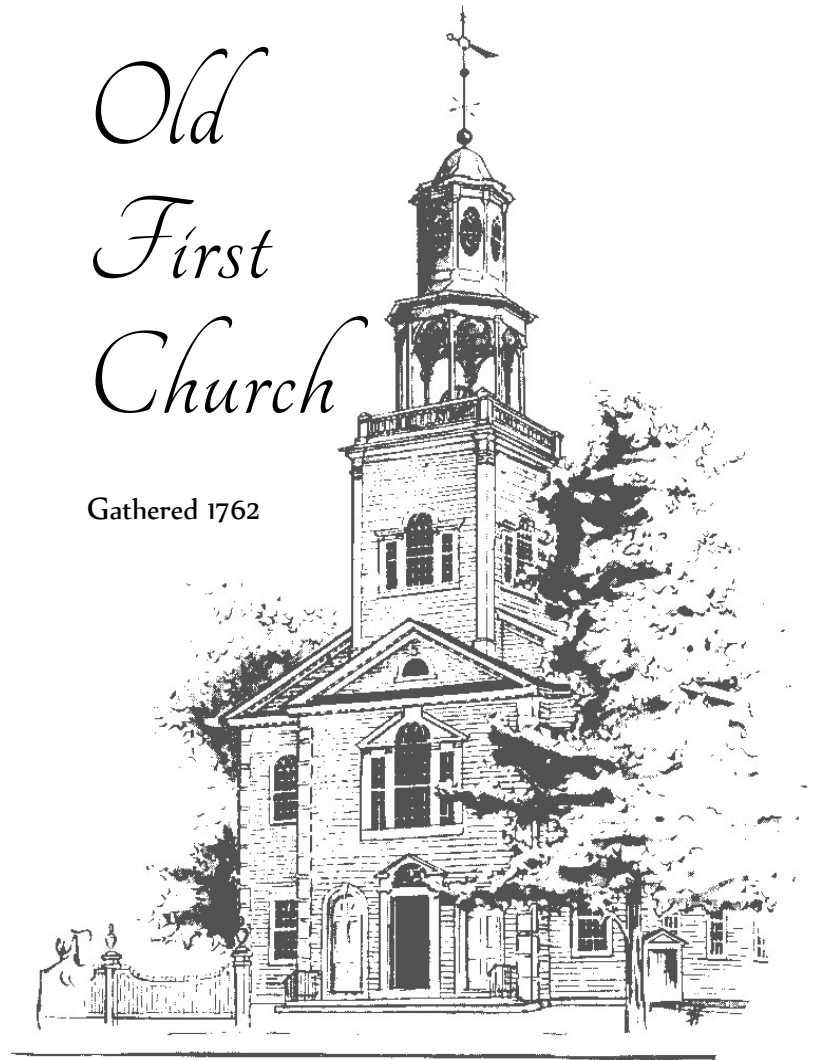
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# Old First Church

Gathered 1762



## *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:            Isaiah 65:17-25**

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

## *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:           John 20:1-8**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;

*I Know that My Redeemer Lives!*  
*(verses 1-4)*

I know that my Redeemer lives!  
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;  
He lives, my ever-living head!

He lives triumphant from the grave;  
He lives eternally to save;  
He lives exalted, throned above;  
He lives to rule his Church in love.

He lives to grant me rich supply;  
He lives to guide me with his eye;  
He lives to comfort me when faint;  
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.

He lives to silence all my fears;  
He lives to wipe away my tears;  
He lives to calm my troubled heart;  
He lives all blessings to impart.

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

All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voice and with us sing,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
thou silver moon with softer gleam,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,  
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,  
O sing ye! Alleluia!  
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
ye lights of evening, find a voice!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All creatures, your Creator bless,  
and worship God in humbleness.  
O sing ye! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three in One!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!