

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

NOAH LANGFORD, LAY READER

GENE MARIE CALLAHAN, ORGANIST

OLD FIRST CHURCH CHOIR

MAY 22, 2022

PRELUDE *Festive Prelude No. 4 for Organ in D Minor*
- James Michael Stevens

OPENING WORDS (responsive)

Sing to the Lord a new song;

Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Let us worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.

May the way of peace open our hearts.

***HYMN** *Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim* 477

The text was written by Charles Wesley as part of a hymn tract series issued for the Wesleys' class meetings. A caption to the hymn stated "To be sung in a tumult." The tract containing thirty-three hymns was titled *Hymns for Times of Trouble and Persecution* (1744).

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

O Lord, we come before you to confess that we often forget that we are yours. Sometimes we carry on our lives as if you were not there and neglect the gifts we have from you. Forgive us and give us strength. Give us clear minds and open hearts so we may witness to you in our world. Remind us who you would have us to be regardless of what we are doing or who we are with. Help us live with you and with those you have given us on earth in love and with renewed faith. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND *GLORIA PATRI (579)

FIRST LESSON John 14:23-29 p. 877

***HYMN** *Give Ear, Ye Children* **insert**

This paraphrase of Psalm 78:1-6 is from Jeremy Belknap's *Sacred Poetry, Consisting of Psalms and Hymns adapted to Public Worship* (Boston 1795). The first three stanzas are altered from Tate and Brady's *New Version of the Psalms*, 1696; the rest are from Isaac Watts's *Psalms of David Imitated*, 1719. Jeremy Belknap (1744-1798) served as a Congregational minister in Dover, New Hampshire, and later in Boston. A graduate of Harvard in 1762, he was elected an Overseer in 1792. He is also remembered as a founder of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

SECOND LESSON Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5 p. 1008

SERMON The Glory of God

***HYMN** *When Will People Cease Their Fighting?* 401

Constance Cherry's text was the winning entry in the "Pens Into Plowshares Award" competition sponsored by Trinity Presbyterian Church, Harrisonburg, Virginia. She is a church organist and choir director, and a Diaconal Minister of Music in the United Methodist Church. C. H. Parry's tune was first published in 1897. He was a professor of music at Oxford at the turn of the century and was knighted in 1898.

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 *Resting in Your Arms*
- Ruth Elaine Schram and Aren Newell Williams

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

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

***HYMN** *By Gracious Powers* 342

Fred Pratt Green's text is based on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's "New Year 1945," a letter to his friends, smuggled out of prison and later published in *The Cost of Discipleship*. The 1904 tune is by C. Hubert Parry. He was a prolific English composer, professor of music, hymn text writer, biographer, and, in 1898, a knight.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Coronation* - Flor Peeters

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.

Deacon on call this month is Jeannette Lesser. Ushers and greeters for today's service are Courtney Cowan and Susan Katz.

Please join us in the narthex after worship today for coffee hour provided by Betsy Ehrenfreund and Marsha Pilachowski.

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

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

5/22: Council meeting, following worship, Church Parlor

6/5: Tag Sale Kickoff luncheon, following worship, Barn

6/6-6/10: Tag Sale Week! Set up at the Barn 9AM - 4PM

6/11: Monumental Tag Sale, 9AM - 3PM at the Barn (see the enclosed tag sale insert and let us know how you can help)

CHURCH DIRECTORY: It's time for a new church directory and our photographer, Cynthia Locklin will begin taking photos for it very soon. There will only be TWO SESSIONS with the first one taking place up at the Barn on June 5th at the Tag Sale Kick-off Luncheon. Another session is scheduled for June 26th at the Picnic on the Village Green. Photos will be taken outdoors and a form will be available for information to be printed in the directory.

For those not able to attend the photo sessions in June, we will accept your own photo by email. Please note that we cannot modify your submitted photo and they will be printed as is.

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!

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

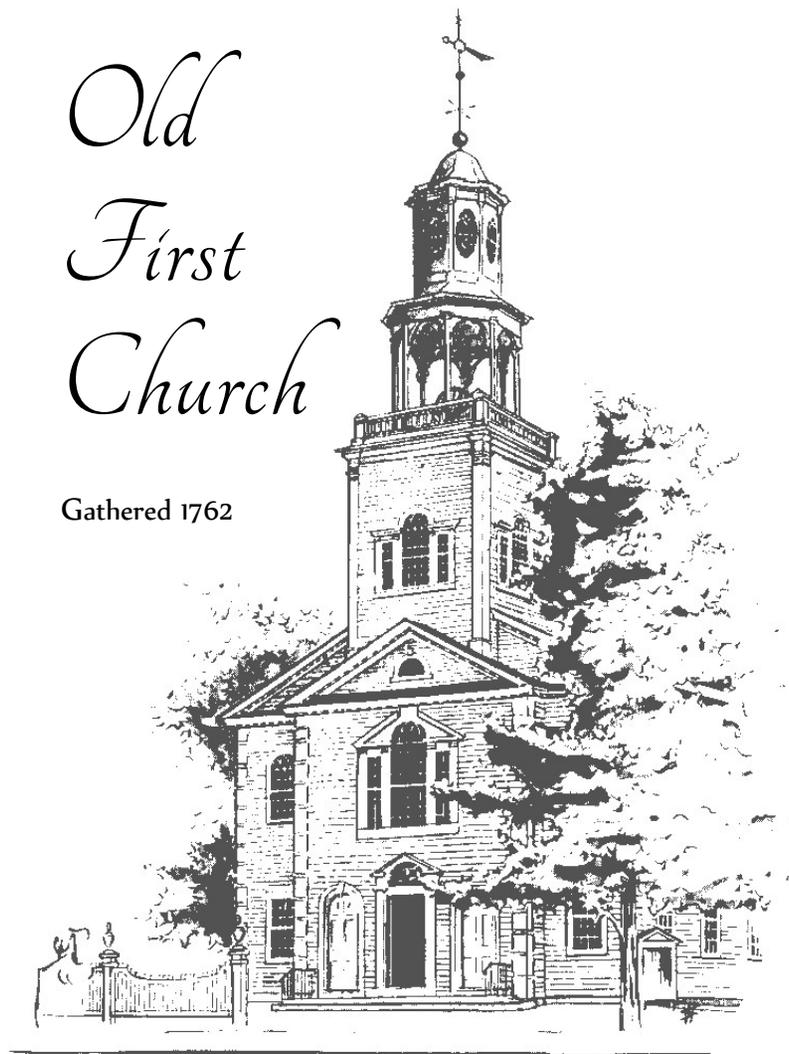
(OLD FIRST CHURCH)

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Health note: Indoor air is constantly exchanged with fresh air with a LifeBreath circulation system operating during the service to maintain the healthiest standards for public gathering.

*Old
First
Church*

Gathered 1762



Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad His wonderful name;
the name all-victorious of Jesus extol;
his kingdom is glorious, He rules over all.

God ruleth in the height, almighty to save;
and still He is nigh – His presence we have;
the great congregation His triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

"Salvation to God, who sits on the throne,"
let all cry aloud, and honor the Son;
the praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore, and give Him His right,
all glory and power, all wisdom and might,
all honor and blessing, with angels above,
and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love.

FIRST LESSON

John 14:23-29

Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

Give Ear, Ye Children

1. Give ear, ye children, to my law
Devout attention lend,
Let the instructions of my mouth
Deep in your hearts descend.
2. My tongue, by inspiration taught,
Shall parables unfold:
Dark oracles, but understood,
And owned for truths of old,
3. Which we from sacred registers
Of ancient times have known,
And our forefathers' pious care
To us has handed down.
4. Let children hear the mighty deeds,
Which God performed of old,
Which in our younger years we saw,
And which our fathers told.
5. Our lips shall tell them to our sons,
And they again to theirs, --
That generations yet unborn,
May teach them to their heirs.

SECOND LESSON

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

When Will People Cease Their Fighting

When will people cease their fighting?
When will armies wage no war,
Nations conquer not their neighbor,
Weapons idle, used no more?
When will guns and bombs be silent?
When will captives be set free?
All creation groans in longing
For the world's true liberty.

Floods and earthquakes, drought and famine
Plague the world with awesome ill,
But far greater is war's horror
Caused by human, stubborn will.
Blest are those who, working, praying,
Purpose in their hearts to be
Instruments of peace, committed
To the nations' harmony.

As we strive for peace with vigor,
Hoping to be shown the way,
We are strengthened in the knowledge
Of a future, perfect day;
For we know that deeper, richer
Peace is ours when Christ shall reign:
Then will all our swords be plow-shares
And God's children free from pain.

By Gracious Powers

By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered,
and confidently waiting, come what may,
we know that God is with us night and morning
and never fails to greet us each new day.

Yet is this heart by its old foe tormented,
still evil days bring burdens hard to bear;
O give our frightened souls the sure salvation
for which, O Lord, You taught us to prepare.

And when the cup You give is filled to brimming
with bitter suffering, hard to understand,
we take it thankfully and without trembling,
out of so good and so beloved a hand.

Yet when again in this same world You give us
the joy we had, the brightness of your sun,
we shall remember all the days we lived through,
and our whole life shall then be Yours alone.