

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

MAY 29, 2022 ~ MEMORIAL DAY

PRELUDE *America* - Flor Peeters

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** *My Country, 'Tis of Thee* **561**

Samuel Francis Smith (1808-95), a Baptist minister and Bostonian linguist, wrote the hymn. At the time of his death he knew 15 languages and was seeking a Russian text to learn Russian. He scribbled out the hymn in about a half-hour when he was 24 years old and a student at Andover Theological Seminary. He found the tune in a German music book given to him by Lowell Mason, prominent musician and educator, because Smith could read German. Mason then arranged the tune to be called AMERICA. The tune has origins that go back to Gregorian chants, Scottish carols, and the court of King Louis XIV. In England it was published to honor George II and given the title "National Anthem," and it was Russia's national tune until 1833.

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 17:20-26 p. 880

***HYMN** *Within Your Shelter, Loving God* **212**

The tune *Abbey* is one of the twelve common tunes from the Scottish Psalter, *CL Psalms of David* (1615). This collection was the work of Andro Hart (d. 1621), a Scottish bookseller and printer. It was the first psalter to name tunes.

SECOND LESSON Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21 p. 1008

SERMON Bright Morning Star

***HYMN** *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory* **insert**

Julia Ward Howe (May 27, 1819 – October 17, 1910) was an American poet and author, known for writing "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and the original 1870 pacifist Mother's Day Proclamation. She was also an advocate for abolitionism and a social activist, particularly for women's suffrage.

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.)

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER (see insert) Daniel Ferrara

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *I Do Not Sleep* - David Lantz III

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

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

***HYMN** *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* **562**

William Whiting wrote the text for a student about to set sail for America in 1860. He was master of Winchester College Choristers' School. John Dykes wrote the tune for this text. A vicar, he published over 300 hymn tunes. The tune, *Melita*, refers to Malta, where Paul was shipwrecked. The hymn is known as the Navy Hymn in this country and is also sung on English ships. It was Franklin Delano Roosevelt's favorite and was sung at his funeral in 1945.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* - Charles Callahan

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 Jeannette Lesser and Amy Tronsen.

Please join us in the narthex after worship today for coffee hour provided by Susan Katz, Jeannette Lesser, Audrey Pietrucha and Amy Tronsen.

Flowers for worship are provided by the Langfords.

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

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

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: Cynthia Locklin will begin taking photos for our new church directory. There will only be TWO SESSIONS with the first one at the Barn on June 5th at the Tag Sale Kick-off Luncheon. The second session will be on June 26th at the Picnic on the Village Green. Photos will be taken outdoors weather permitting. 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.

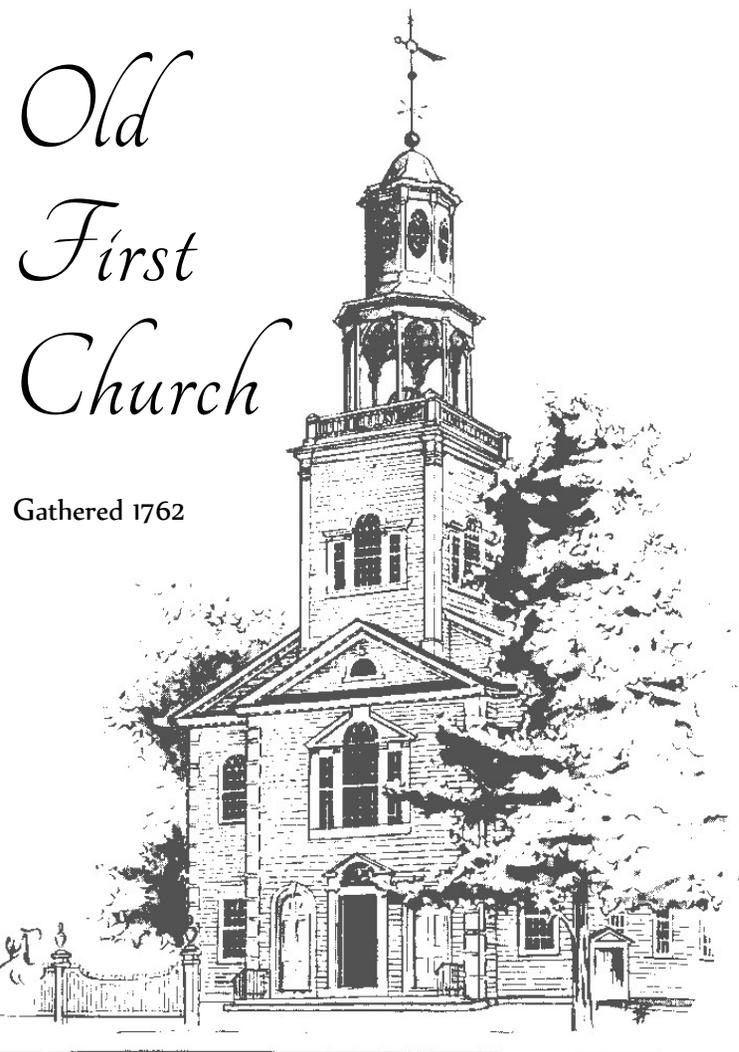
If you are interested in discussing matters of faith and want to inquire about Christian membership in the church, please contact Rev. Clarke. We welcome the chance to have you join us in our historic, but active-in-the-world, community of faith!

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

(OLD FIRST CHURCH)

1 Monument Circle • Old Bennington, Vermont 05201 • (802) 447-1223
office@oldfirst.comcastbiz.net • www.oldfirstchurchbenn.org

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.



My Country, 'Tis of Thee

My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From every mountainside,
Let freedom ring.

My native country, thee,
Land of the noble free,
Thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills,
Like that above.

Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees,
Sweet freedom's song;
Let mortal tongues awake;
Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break, The sound prolong.

Our fathers' God, to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King.

FIRST LESSON

John 17:20-26

"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. "Righteous Father, the world does not

know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Within Your Shelter, Loving God

1. Within Your shelter, loving God,
My refuge and my tower,
I safely walk by day and night
Beneath Your guiding power.
2. Because I trust in You alone,
No evil shall come near.
The strong defender of my home,
With You I have no fear.
3. Your holy angels bear me up
And keep my feet secure.
Though fierce and angry foes assail,
I You my way is sure.
4. As often as I call to You,
You kindly hear my prayer.
In times of trouble and distress
I rest in Your own care.
5. All those who know Your name on earth
Shall life abundant know.
On all abiding in Your love
Your saving grace bestow.

SECOND LESSON

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

'See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.'

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

'It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.'

The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.'

And let everyone who hears say, 'Come.'

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

The one who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.'

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on.

Glory, glory, hallelujah,
Glory, glory, hallelujah,
Glory, glory, hallelujah;
His truth is marking on.

He has sounded forth a trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgement seat,
O be swift, my soul, to answer him: be jubilant, my feet;
Our God is Marching on.

Glory, glory, hallelujah,
Glory, glory, hallelujah,
Glory, glory, hallelujah;
Our God is marking on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;
As he died to make men holy, let us die to make men free,
While God is marching on.

Glory, glory, hallelujah,
Glory, glory, hallelujah,
Glory, glory, hallelujah;
While God is marching on.

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm has bound the restless wave,
Who bade the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Savior, whose almighty word
The winds and waves submissive heard,
Who walked upon the foaming deep,
And calm amid its rage did sleep:
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Holy Spirit, who did brood
Upon the chaos wild and rude,
And bade its angry tumult cease,
And gave for fierce confusion, peace:
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power,
All travelers guard in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them where-so-e'er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee
Glad praise from air and land and sea.