

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
ANASTASIA GAUTHIER, LAY READER
GENE MARIE CALLAHAN, ORGANIST

JUNE 12, 2022

PRELUDE *Prelude on Holy, Holy, Holy* - Robert M Thompson

OPENING WORDS (responsive)

Make a joyful noise all the earth.

Let us worship the Lord with gladness.

For the Lord is good, God's love endures forever.

God's Spirit is in all times and generations.

***HYMN** *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!* 138

The text was written for Trinity Sunday. Heber was an Anglican bishop who wrote numerous hymns before becoming a missionary to India. The tune was written for this text by a vicar who wrote over 300 hymn tunes.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Lord, let us not dwell in the past, nor worry about the future. We cannot undo what is done. We cannot foresee what will come. Let us instead dwell in your peace, love and be loved, heal and be healed. We give the past to you and rest in your forgiveness. We give the future to you and rest in your love. We live in your light, open our eyes that we may see. We live in your love, let your love flow through us, to the fulfillment of your kingdom. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND *GLORIA PATRI (579)

FIRST LESSON Romans 5:1-5 p. 917

***HYMN** *O Lord, Our God, How Excellent* 162

This is a good place to sing a Psalm, which were once the only texts that our ancestors sang. This paraphrase of Psalm 8 was the author's attempt to bridge the gap between ancient Israel's faith and modern cosmology. Fred Anderson is currently pastor of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City. The tune, *Winchester Old*, first appeared in Thomas Este's *Whole Booke of Psalmes* (1592). It was the first work in which English tunes appeared with names assigned, a practice that continues today.

SECOND LESSON Proverbs 8:1-4; 22-31 p. 515

SERMON Rejoice and Delight

***HYMN** *Come, Great God of All the Ages* 132

The text was written for the building maintenance campaign fund of National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. The author has been a junior high teacher, Director of Christian Education, and writer of devotional and educational materials. The tune was written in the village of Abbot's Leigh on a Sunday morning in 1941, where the composer, an Anglican priest, worked for the religious broadcasting department of the B.B.C.

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 *Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord* - Robert J. Powell

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

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

***HYMN** *O Day of Peace* 450

The tune was a choral song by Hubert Parry based in 1916 on William Blake's poem, *Jerusalem*. Parry was a professor of music at Oxford and was knighted in 1898. Richard Proulx, the director of music at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Chicago, wrote the harmonization in 1986. The words were written by Carl Daw, Jr. in 1982; he is vicar-chaplain at St. Mark's Episcopal Chapel at the University of Connecticut.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Holy, Holy, Holy* - Lani Smith

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 Sandy Bechtel and Mary Elizabeth Groupé. Ushers and greeters for today's service are Fischer Gauthier and Jim Pullman.

Please join us in the narthex after worship today for coffee hour provided by Janet Van Derpoel Andrea and Sue Philpott.

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

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

6/20: Deacon meeting, 4:00 PM, Barn

6/20: Trustee meeting, 5:30 PM, Parlor

6/26: Church Picnic on the Green, following worship

CHURCH DIRECTORY: Cynthia Locklin will be taking photos for our new directory on June 26th at the Church 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)

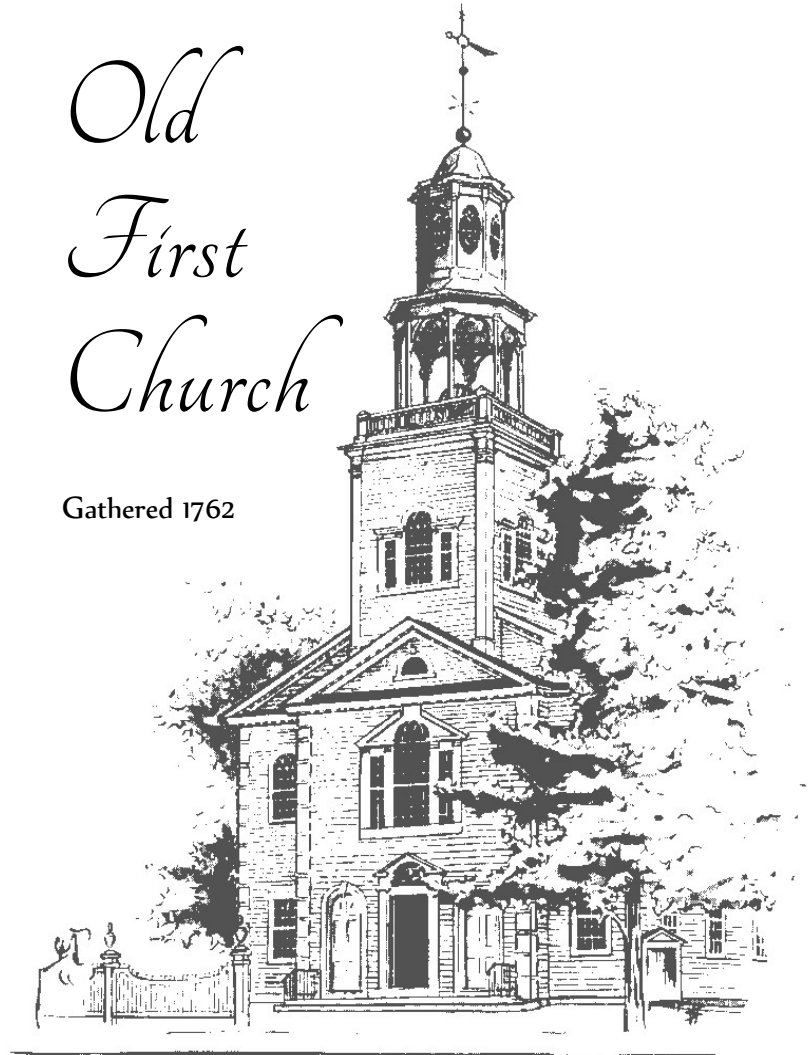
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Health note: Indoor air is constantly exchanged with fresh air with a LifeBreath circulation system operating during the service to maintain the healthiest standards for public gathering.

*Old
First
Church*

Gathered 1762



Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory may not see,
only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth, and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

O Lord, Our God, How Excellent

O Lord, our God, how excellent,
How glorious is Your name.
Your majesty surrounds the earth,
And children sing Your fame.

The heavens shout your handiwork;
We stand beneath in awe,
To think the One who made all things
Should care for us at all.

Yet You have made us less than gods,
Surpassing all but You,
With heart and mind, with made all things
Should care for us at all.

Into our hands You've placed all things:
The earth the sea; and each place
We're called to probe for secret gifts
And venture into space.

O Lord, our God, how excellent,
How glorious is Your name,
Majestic in Your holiness.
We sing and praise Your fame.

FIRST LESSON

Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Does not wisdom call,
and does not understanding raise her voice?
On the heights, beside the way,
at the crossroads she takes her stand;
beside the gates in front of the town,
at the entrance of the portals she cries out:
“To you, O people, I call,
and my cry is to all that live.

The LORD created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.
Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.
Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth—
when he had not yet made earth and fields,
or the world’s first bits of soil.
When he established the heavens, I was there,
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,
when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was
beside him, like a master worker;
and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,
rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race.

Come, Great God of All the Ages

Come, great God of all the ages,
Make Your earthly mission known;
Speak through every deed and person,
Let Your way and will be shown.
Guide the church to true commitment,
Give direction now, we ask;
Fit us for the work of building,
Dedicate us to the task.

Come, Christ Jesus, flesh and spirit,
Sure foundation, cornerstone,
Help us form the church eternal,
May Your vision be our own.
Send a message to each follower,
Lead all people to Your way;
Urge us to strong faith and action
As we build the church today.

Come, great Spirit, in and with us,
Tune our ears to hear Your call;
Through the moving of Your presence,
Let redeeming love recall
Ministry in dedication,
Love embodied in our deeds;
Challenge us to do Your bidding,
See Your purpose, fill all needs.

Come, O come, in celebration,
Household of the one true God,
In commitment and rejoicing
Let us go where Christ has trod;
As we act in faith and reverence,
Let us, Lord, the future see;
Place us in the church triumphant,
Now and for eternity.

O Day of Peace

O day of peace that dimly shines
Through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
Guide us to justice, truth, and love,
Delivered from our selfish schemes.
May swords of hate fall from our hands,
Our hearts from envy find release,
Till by God's grace our warring world
Shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,
Nor shall the fierce devour the small;
As beasts and cattle calmly graze,
A little child shall lead them all.
Then enemies shall learn to love,
All creatures find their true accord;
The hope of peace shall be fulfilled,
For all the earth shall know the Lord.