

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
DAVID VARKER, LAY READER
GENE MARIE CALLAHAN, ORGANIST
OLD FIRST CHURCH CHOIR

JUNE 19, 2022

PRELUDE

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

- JS Bach arr. Craig Duncan
Mary Elizabeth Groupe, viola

OPENING WORDS (responsive)

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Sing praise for the beauty of the earth

And the wonder of God's creation.

***HYMN**

Morning Has Broken

469

Eleanor Farjeon, the author of nursery rhymes and singing games, wrote the text for this tune. It was first published in 1931. A more recent popular recording by Cat Stevens made the song popular in this country. *Bunessan* is a Gaelic melody first published in 1888. The present arrangement was made for the Christian Reformed Church hymnal in 1985.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

God of grace and truth,
in Jesus Christ you came among us
as light shining in darkness.

We confess that we have not always welcomed the light,
or trusted good news to be good.

We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst,
expecting little, and hoping for less.

Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope,
so that we may receive the fullness of your grace,
and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND *GLORIA PATRI (579)

FIRST LESSON

Galatians 3:23-29

p. 947

***HYMN**

Come, All You Servants of the Lord

242

This paraphrase of Psalm 134 by Arlo D. Duba was written after hearing the tune DANBY which was brought to the attention of the Psalter Task Force of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) by Kenneth E. Williams. It was first published in *A Psalm Sampler* (1986).

SECOND LESSON

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a

p. 284

SERMON

No Better Than My Ancestors

***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.

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**

This Is My Father's World

293

A Presbyterian minister from Syracuse, New York wrote the text in 1901. Franklin Sheppard, who was President of the Board of Publication and Sabbath-School Work for his church's denomination, wrote the tune in 1915 based on an English folk song he'd learned as a child from his mother.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Postlude in D

- C. Armstrong Gibbs

* Stand if able

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 Amy Tronsen and Bill Wood.

Please join us in the narthex after worship today for coffee hour provided by Fischer and Anastasia Gauthier.

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!

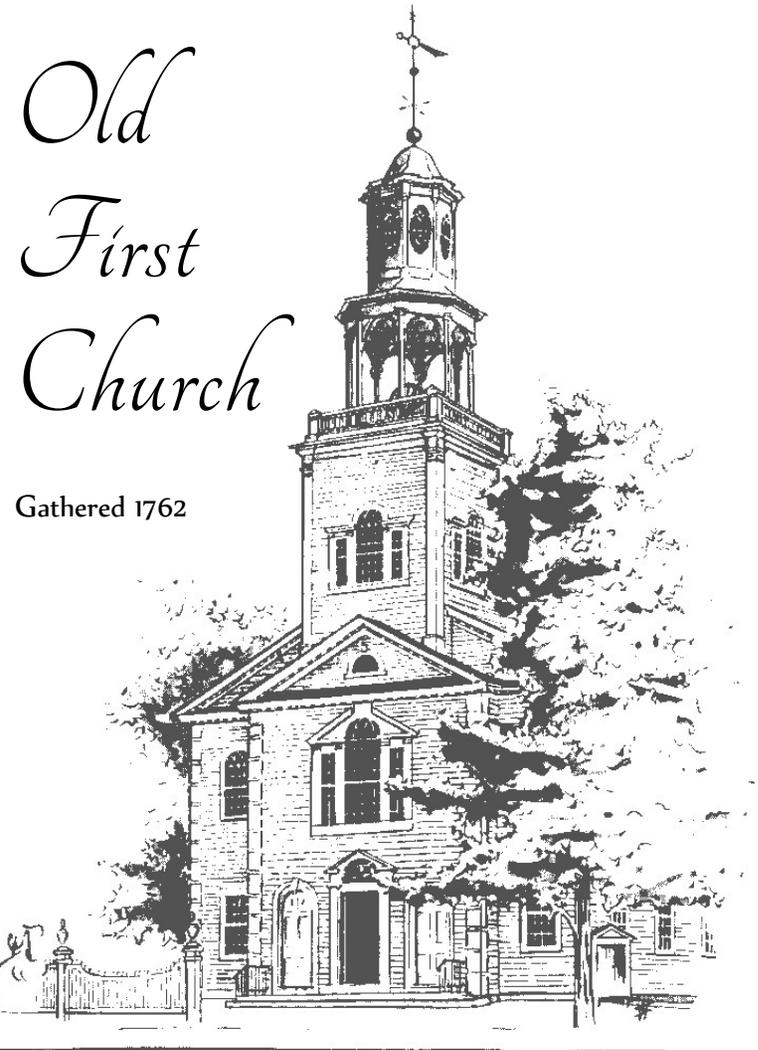
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

(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.



Morning Has Broken

Morning has broken like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dew fall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

FIRST LESSON

Galatians 3:23-29

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Come, All You Servants of the Lord

Come, all you servants of the Lord,
Who work and pray by night, by day,
Come, bless the Lord within this place;
With lifted hands your homage pay.

The Lord now bless from heaven above
And shine on you with radiant face;
The Lord who heaven and earth has made
Illumine you with peace and grace.

SECOND LESSON

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram.

Here I Am, Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them?
Whom shall I send?

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.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne My people's pain.
I have wept for love of them,
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My word to them.
Whom shall I send? *[Refrain]*

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]*

This Is My Father's World

This is my Father's world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees,
Of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world:
Oh, let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong
seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:
The battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and heaven be one.