

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
REG JONES, LAY READER
GENE MARIE CALLAHAN, ORGANIST
OLD FIRST CHURCH CHOIR

JUNE 5, 2022

PRELUDE *Veni Creator* - Russell Schulz-Widmar

OPENING WORDS (responsive)

This is the day which the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Let love and faithfulness never leave us.

Let your spirit be close to our heart always.

***HYMN** *On Pentecost They Gathered* 128

The hymn contains several references to Acts 2, our text for today. The author, Jane Parker Huber, has written over 100 fresh texts for traditional hymn tunes. The tune is an old German chorale first published in 1693 and later adapted by Felix Mendelssohn for "Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord" in his *Elijah* oratorio.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
These things we ask in Christ's name, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND *GLORIA PATRI (579)

FIRST LESSON Genesis 11:1-9 p. 8

***HYMN** *Bless the Lord, My Soul and Being* 224
(verses 1-4)

Fred Anderson wrote this metrical setting for Psalm 104 in 1986. He is pastor of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York City and has been metering Psalms for 21 years. C. Hubert Parry was a prolific composer in latter 19th-century England. The tune, *Rustington*, was named for the town where he lived in Sussex, England towards the end of his life.

SECOND LESSON Acts 2:1-21 p. 885

SERMON Amazed and Astonished

***HYMN** *Come, O Spirit* 127

The author, a Presbyterian minister, wrote this hymn when the worship committee of Wabash Valley Presbytery wanted to highlight Pentecost within the presbytery's churches. The tune is from an 1837 book which compiled many unwritten tunes in general use in the Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian traditions.

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 *Rain Down* - Jaime Cortez arr. John Carter

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

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (insert)

The congregation is invited to participate in the service as found in the insert included in this order of service. *(Please note that grape juice is on the outer circle only and wine inside. We partake together after all have been served.)*

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY

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

***HYMN** *Come Down, O Love Divine* 313

Bianco da Siena wrote the words in the 15th century. He lived in Venice and was a member of an unordained order that followed the rule of St. Augustine. The translation was made by Richard Littledale, an Irish priest, for his 1867 *People's Hymnal*. Ralph Vaughan Williams wrote the tune for this text for the 1906 *The English Hymnal*, which he edited. Vaughan Williams was the most important English composer of his generation.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Spirit of God* - Franklin Ritter

* 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.

Deacons on call this month are Sandy Bechtel and Mary Elizabeth Groupé. Ushers and communion servers for today's service are Sandy Bechtel, Joyce Goeke and Sue Philpott.

Flowers for worship are provided by Janet Van Derpoel-Andrea in memory of Karen Huber-Rowley.

Please join us after worship today at the Barn for our annual Monumental Tag Sale Kickoff Luncheon.

Spread the word...The Old First Monumental Tag Sale is **NEXT** Saturday, June 11, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. at the Barn. Posters are on the marble table in the narthex if you wish to post somewhere OR display on your car window!!! We will need your help with set up during the week as well as on the day of the sale. Contact Susan Katz or Pat Ross if you have any questions.

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

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

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)

6/20 (tentatively scheduled): Deacon meeting, 4:00 PM, Barn

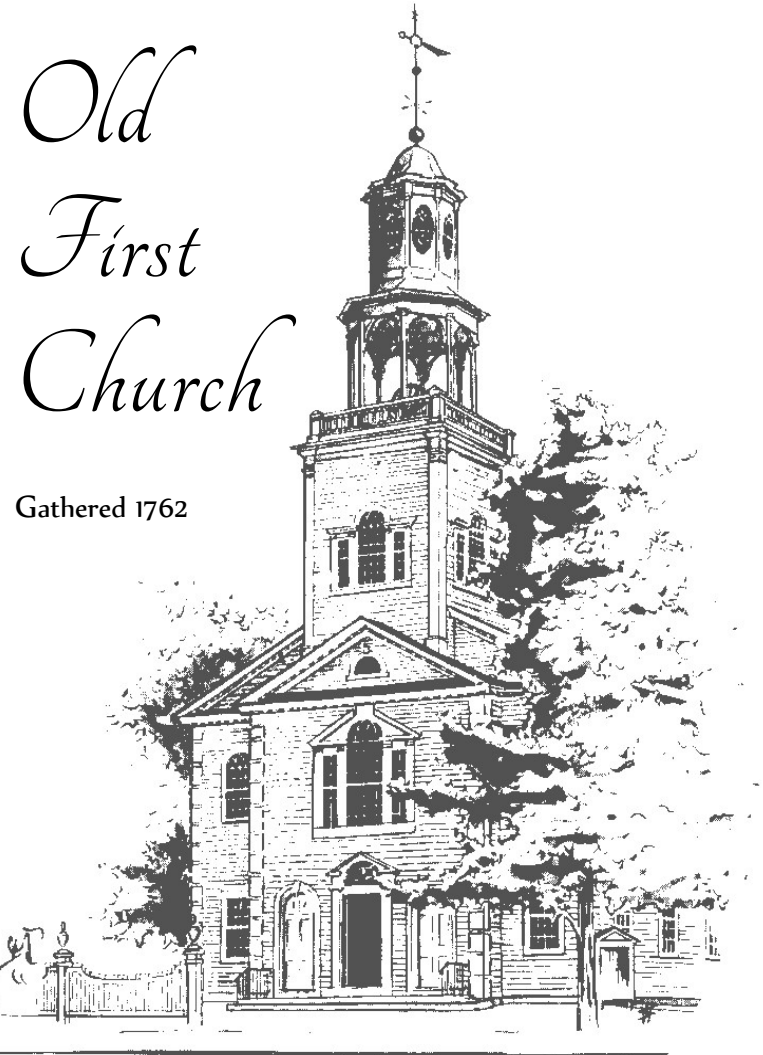
6/20: (tentatively scheduled): Trustee meeting, 5:30 PM, Parlor

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

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 TODAY 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!

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.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

(OLD FIRST CHURCH)

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On Pentecost They Gathered

1. On Pentecost they gathered
Quite early in the day,
A band of Christ's disciples,
To worship, sing, and pray.
A mighty wind came blowing,
Filled all the swirling air,
And tongues of fire a glowing
Inspired each person there.
2. The people all around them
Were startled and amazed
To understand their language,
As Christ the Lord they praised.
What universal message,
What great good news was here?
That Christ, once dead, is risen
To vanquish all our fear.
3. God pours the Holy Spirit
On all who would believe,
On women, men, and children
Who would God's grace receive.
That Spirit knows no limit,
Bestowing life and power.
The church, formed and reforming,
Responds in every hour.
4. O Spirit, sent from heaven
On that day long ago,
Rekindled faith among us
In all life's ebb and flow.
O give us ears to listen
And tongues aflame with praise,
So folk of every nation
Glad songs of joy shall raise.

FIRST LESSON

GENESIS 11:1-9

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. And as they migrated from the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth."

The LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. And the LORD said, "Look, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another's speech." So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore it was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

Bless the Lord, My Soul and Being

Bless the Lord, my soul and being!
Lord my God, You have such might,
Cloaked with honor, grand and glorious,
You are clothed with purest light.
Stretching out the heavens like tent cloth,
You are chambered on the deep.
Riding on the wings of wind-storm,
Flame and fire Your bidding keep.

Lord, You laid the earth's foundation
That it would be always sound.
By the word of Your commanding,
You set forth each ocean's bound.
Springs gush forth at Your own bidding,
Giving drink to every field.
Bird and beast and all Your creatures
In that coolness find thirst healed.

Grass You cause to grow for cattle
Plants for us to cultivate.
Food You bring forth from our labor,
Wine for joy and bread for plate.
Trees you give the birds for shelter,
Mountain rock and cave for beast.
Sun and moon both mark the seasons,
In their light we work and feast.

Lord, how great are all Your workings,
Wisdom marks them through and through.
All the earth is Your possession,
Great and small belong to You.
Food You give in each due season,
At Your hand come all good things.
By Your Spirit You create us;
Lord, Your breath renewal brings.

SECOND LESSON

Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

Come, O Spirit

Come, O Spirit, with Your sound like a wind, quick rushing;
Come from heaven and stir our hearts, each disciple touching!
Mold our actions to Your will, You our service giving;
Move within our fellowship, transform now our living!

Come, O Spirit, with Your flame, leaping tongues of fire;
Come, and with Your glorious light all our thoughts inspire!
Rest upon each servant’s head till each one is speaking
Of our Christ, the Holy One all the earth is seeking!

Come, O Spirit, fill Your church, making strong our mission;
Fill Your daughters and Your sons with a mighty vision,
Till the great and glorious day when the whole creation
Sings Your praise as Lord and King, giver of salvation!

Come Down, O Love Divine

Come down, O Love divine, Seek out this soul of mine
And visit it with Your own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
And kindle it, Your holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let Your glorious light shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
Shall far out-pass the power of human telling;
For none can guess God’s grace, till love creates a place
Where in the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

**Order of Service for
The Lord's Supper or Communion
At the First Congregational Church
Bennington, Vermont**

Scripture Sentences

Opening Words and Invocation

Prayer of Confession (read by the Minister and People in Unison)

We come not into thy presence, most holy Lord God, trusting in our own righteousness but in thy manifold and abiding mercies. Remembering this day the great heart and passion of a son of man of long ago, we are conscious of our shortcomings. We would here be turned to the way of his brave and tender spirit, and find that wholeness of life which shall be at once a divine blessing for us and a divine ministry from us. Forgive our failures and shortcomings, and by thy grace strengthen our desire for goodness, that we may henceforth serve thee without fear and without shame, all the days of our lives. Amen.

Responsive Reading

Let us hear the words of Jesus which speak of the way of blessedness.

Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

BLESSED ARE THEY THAT MOURN; FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED.

Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth.

BLESSED ARE THEY WHICH DO HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS; FOR THEY SHALL BE FILLED.

Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy.

BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART; FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD.

Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God.

BLESSED ARE THEY WHICH ARE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE; FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

THIS IS THE FIRST AND GREAT COMMANDMENT.

And the second is like unto it, namely this: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

ON THESE TWO COMMANDMENTS HANG ALL THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS.

Offertory and Communion Prayer

The Lord be with you.

AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Lift up your hearts

WE LIFT THEM TO THE LORD.

It is right to give our thanks and praise

LET US GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD OUR GOD

Words of Institution

The Lord Jesus, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said: This is my body which is broken for you. This do in remembrance of me.

After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood. This do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

Take and eat this in remembrance of Christ.

Take and drink this in remembrance of Christ.

Silent Prayer

The service continues and concludes as found in today's order of service.