

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  
THE REV. RUPERT B. HARRIS, GUEST MINISTER  
JIM DILLEY, LAY READER  
GENE MARIE CALLAHAN, ORGANIST

JULY 24, 2022

**PRELUDE** *Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus* - Robert W. Thygeron

**OPENING WORDS** (responsive)

L: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**All: Who made heaven and earth.**

L: This is the day which the Lord has made,

**All: We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**\*HYMN** *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* **288**

The text by Isaac Watts, "the father of English hymnody," was first published in 1715 in the first hymnal written exclusively for children. The first form of the tune appeared in the hymnal of the private chapel of the Duke of Württemberg in 1784 and was adapted for the 1868 *Hymns Ancient and Modern*.

**OPENING PRAYER** (unison)

Almighty God,  
you created us for life together,  
but we have turned from your will.  
We have not loved as you commanded.  
We have broken the promises we have made to you  
and to one another.  
We have taken much and given little.  
Forgive our disobedience, O God,  
and strengthen us in love,  
so that we may serve you as a faithful people,  
and live together in your joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord

**SILENT PRAYER** Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND \*GLORIA PATRI (579)**

L: Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ and Christ died for us.

**All: Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.**

L: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

**All: The old life has gone; a new life has begun.**

L: Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

**FIRST LESSON** Psalm 103: 1-14 p. 482

**\*HYMN** *Though I May Speak* **335**

The text is a paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 13, by Hal Hopson. Hopson has been on music faculties at Westminster Choir College, Princeton, and Scarritt Graduate School, Nashville, and has published more than 900 works for organ, harpsichord, congregation and choirs. The tune, *O Waly Waly*, is an English folk melody and was first published by Cecil Sharp (1859-1924), the most important of English folk song collectors who gathered 4,977 tunes.

**SECOND LESSON** Mark 5: 24-34 p. 816

**SERMON** "Touched and Whole"

**\*HYMN** *There Is a Balm in Gilead* **394**

The text answers the question in Jeremiah 8:22 and reflects the hope in black spirituals. The tune is also African American.

**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** *Somebody's Knockin' at Yo' Door*  
- Spiritual arr. Moses Hogan  
Carol J. Poppe, soprano

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

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

**\*HYMN** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* **281**

The text was written by the 18<sup>th</sup> century William Williams, known as the "Sweet Singer of Wales." He was a deacon in the Church of England who identified with the Calvinist Methodist movement and traveled throughout Wales, preaching, for 50 years. He wrote more than 800 Welsh hymns. The tune was written for a Welsh singing festival at Capel Rhonda in 1905 or 1907. The composer, John Hughes, was an active member of the Salem Baptist Church in Wales who succeeded his father as deacon and precentor (singing leader).

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Clap Your Hands* - John Barr

\* Stand if able

**We welcome all visitors and hope you will return! Please fill out a visitor's card found in the pew and place it of the offering plate.**

Today we welcome the Rev. Rupert "Bo" Harris as our guest pastor. Reverend Harris lives Cambridge, New York. A graduate of Lehigh University and Princeton Seminary, he is a member of the Presbytery of Albany. Rev. Harris has served congregations in Colorado, Oregon, Scotland, New Jersey, and New York. He and his wife, Janice, have three children and three grandchildren. He enjoys birding, hiking, and singing.

Deacons on call this month are Joyce Goeke and Ellen Knapp. Ushers and greeters for today's service are Joyce Goeke and Sue Philpott.

Please join us after worship today for coffee hour provided by Noah and Amber Langford.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:** *(All meetings are open to members of the church)*  
8/21: Council meeting following worship, Parlor

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)  
60 MONUMENT AVENUE  
OLD BENNINGTON, VERMONT

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### *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

I sing the mighty power of God  
That made the mountains rise;  
That spread the flowing season abroad  
And built the lofty skies.  
I sing the wisdom that ordained  
The sun to rule the day;  
The moon shines full at God's command,  
And all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord  
That filled the earth with food;  
God formed the creatures with a word  
And then pronounced them good.  
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed,  
Were e'er I turn my eyes;  
If I survey the ground I tread,  
Or graze upon the skies!

There's not a plant or flower below  
But makes Thy glories known;  
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,  
By order from Thy throne;  
While all that borrows life from Thee  
Is ever in Thy care,  
And everywhere that we can be,  
Thou, God, art present there.

### **FIRST LESSON**

### **Psalm 103**

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—

who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.

### *Thou I May Speak*

Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
And have the gift to all inspire,  
And have not love, my words are vain;  
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,  
And striving so my love profess,  
But not be given by love within,  
The profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,  
Our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
By this we worship and are freed.

## SECOND LESSON

### Mark 5:24-34

So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

### *There Is a Balm in Gilead*

*Refrain:*

There is a balm in Gilead  
To make the wounded whole.  
There is a balm in Gilead  
To heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged,  
And think my work's in vain,  
But then the Holy Spirit  
Revives my soul again. *[Refrain]*

Don't ever feel discouraged,  
For Jesus is your friend,  
And if you lack for knowledge  
He'll not refuse to lend. *[Refrain]*

If you cannot preach like Peter,  
If you cannot pray like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus  
And say, "He died for all." *[Refrain]*

### *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,  
Pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;  
Hold me with Thy powerful hand;  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
Feed me till I want no more,  
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,  
Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through;  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
Be Thou still my strength and shield,  
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death and hell's destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side;  
Songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to Thee,  
I will ever give to Thee.