

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
KRISTIN ROESSNER, LAY READER
SANDRA MANGSEN, GUEST ORGANIST

AUGUST 21, 2022

PRELUDE *Pastorella* BWV 590, J. S. Bach

OPENING WORDS (responsive)

This is the day which the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice, and be glad in it.

Guide us in the way of wisdom.

Be with us in worship and prayer.

*HYMN *Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing* 356

This text was written by Robert Robinson (1735-1790) about 1758 and was included in *A Collection of Hymns Used by the Church of Christ in Angel-Alley, Bishopsgate* (1759). It was later included with the tune NETTLETON in John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second* (1813).

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Almighty and merciful God, from whom comes all that is good, we praise you for your mercies, for your goodness that has created us, your grace that has sustained us, your patience that has borne with us, and your love that has redeemed us. Forgive our misdeeds or neglects. Help us to love you, and to be thankful for all your gifts by serving you and delighting to do your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND *GLORIA PATRI (579)

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 58:9-14 p. 601

*HYMN *O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer* 223

This paraphrase of Psalm 103 first appeared in *The Book of Psalms* of the United Presbyterian Church of North America in 1871. The tune, *Stuttgart*, first appeared in Christian Friedrich Witt's *Psalmodia Sacra* (1715) and was revised for the 1861 *Hymns Ancient and Modern*.

SECOND LESSON Luke 13:10-17 p. 848

SERMON Six Days

*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 *Hyfrydol* - Pritchard, arr. Harris

*DOXOLOGY (592) AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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

*HYMN *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* 376

This hymn was written by Charles Wesley and was first published in 1747. Wesley was the 18th child of Samuel and Susanna ("She Must Have Been a Saint") Wesley. Charles was an Anglican priest, dedicated to the Methodist movement, and he wrote between 6,000 and 6,500 hymns. Rowland Hugh Pritchard wrote the Welsh tune *Hyfrydol* in 1831 before his 20th birthday. He was an assistant loom tender for the Welsh Flannel Manufacturing Company. An interesting point about the melody is that with one exception, it lies within the first five notes of the scale.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Praeludium and Fugue in G Minor* BWV 590, J. S. Bach

* 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 Bill Gordon. Ushers and greeters for today's service are Bill Gordon and Carol Wade Gordon.

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in the foyer after the service. Our thanks to Janet Van Derpoel-Andrea for providing coffee hour this morning.

Flowers for worship are provided by Patrice Nolan-Fox in honor of her mother Joan Nolan-Morneau.

The council meeting will take place following worship today in the Parlor. Council members should grab a drink and bite to eat and head downstairs so the meeting can get underway in a timely manner.

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

TODAY: Council meeting following worship, Parlor

8/22: Trustee meeting, 5:30 PM, Parlor

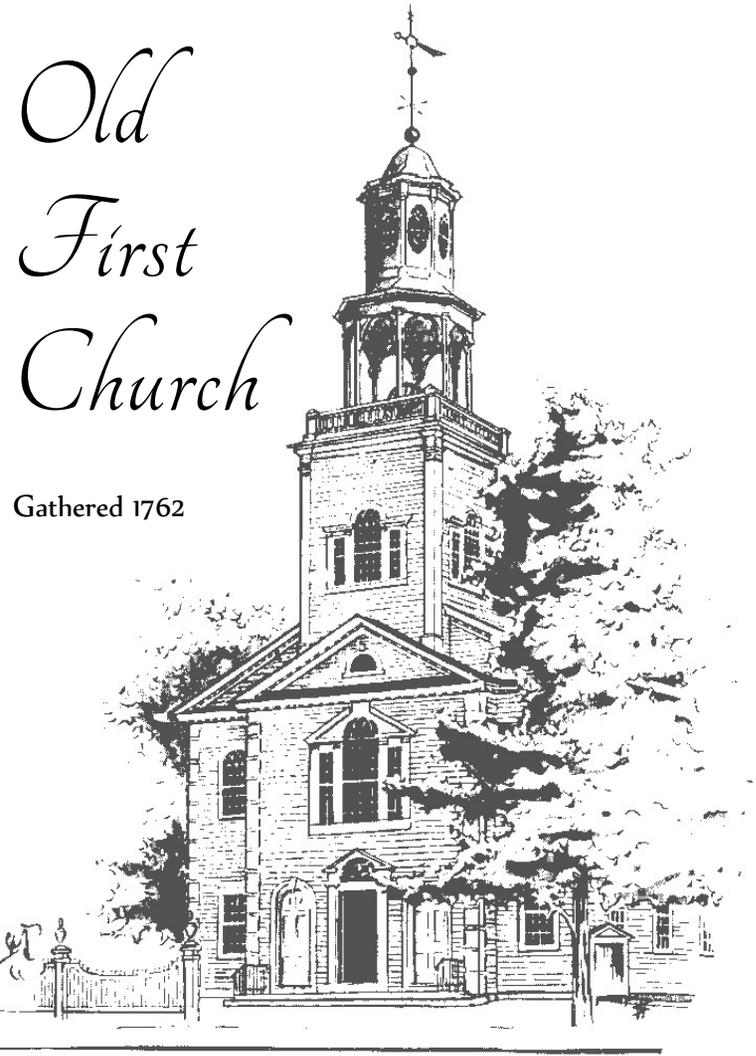
OPEN CHURCH NEEDS YOUR HELP! Old First Church is currently positioned at #4 of 15 "Things to Do in Bennington" on the Trip Advisor website. Just a few years ago, we were at the top of that list! While #4 is not a bad place to be in, it tells us that visitors are finding our doors closed and are not writing about their experience of walking into the church, meeting a welcoming guide and learning about the history. They are also not given the chance to buy something from our little gift shop, nor give a donation which helps maintain our magnificent building and programs. Open Church is a type of outreach that is much needed and we can't do it without the help of many. If you would like to be that welcoming face at the door and have a couple hours to spare on a certain day each week or fill in here and there, we encourage you to contact Betsy Ehrenfreund, Vicky Printz, Jane Radocchia or the church office.

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)
VT RTE. 9 AND MONUMENT AVENUE
OLD BENNINGTON, VERMONT

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Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1. Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!
2. Here I raise my Ebenezer,
hither by Thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.
3. O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to Thee:
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it;
seal it for Thy courts above.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 58:9-14

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

If you refrain from trampling the sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs; then you shall take delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken

O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer

1. O my soul, bless your Redeemer;
All within me bless God's name;
Bless the Savior, and forget not
All God's mercies to proclaim;
2. God forgives all your transgressions,
All diseases gently heals;
God redeems you from destruction,
And with you so kindly deals.
3. Far as east from west is distant,
God has put away our sin;
Like the pity of a father
Has the Lord's compassion been.
4. As it was without beginning,
So it lasts without an end;
To their children's children ever
Shall God's righteousness extend:
5. Unto such as keep God's covenant
And are steadfast in God's way;
Unto those who still remember
The commandments and obey.
6. Bless your Maker, all you creatures,
Ever under God's control,
All throughout God's vast dominion;
Bless the Lord of all, my soul!

SECOND LESSON

Luke 13:10-17

Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

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!

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit,
Let us find the promised rest;
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy host above;
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.