

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

APRIL 2, 2023 ~ PALM SUNDAY

**PRELUDE** Intonation on "All Glory, Laud and Honor"  
- Alfred V. Fedak

**OPENING WORDS** (responsive)

Give thanks to the Lord for God is good.  
**God's love is the light of the world.**  
The Lord is with us, in God is our help.  
**God's steadfast love endures forever.**

**\*HYMN** *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* 89

The author, whose parents died early in her life, was injured in an accident that left her lame, and was left bedridden in a later illness, maintained a strong faith in God and was known for her cheerfulness. The composer is unknown, but the tune was in a hymnal for the Duke of Weurttemberg's private chapel.

**OPENING PRAYER** (unison)

God of the covenant,  
in the glory of the cross  
your Son embraced the power of death  
and broke its hold over your people.  
Deepen our faith we pray, and direct our  
lives to your service.  
In this time of repentance,  
draw all people to yourself,  
that we who confess Jesus as Lord  
may put aside the deeds of death  
and accept the life of your kingdom. Amen.

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

**FIRST LESSON** Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 p. 492

**\*HYMN** *This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made* 230

This paraphrase of Psalm 118 by Isaac Watts was first published in *The Psalms of David* (1719), where he headed it "Hosanna; The Lord's Day; or Christ's Resurrection, and Our Salvation." Watts's intention was for it to be sung on Easter Day or on Sundays.

**SECOND LESSON** Matthew 21:1-11 p. 802

**SERMON** Who Is This?

**\*HYMN** *When, His Salvation Bringing* insert

MUSIC BY BERTHOLD TOURS (1838-1897). Born in Rotterdam, Holland, the son of an organist, Tours attended conservatories in Brussels and Leipzig. He moved to London in 1861, playing violin and teaching. The next year, he became the organist at the Swiss Church in Holborn. Later, he worked for Francis Vincent Novello at Novello and Company as an editor and arranger.

**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 or hand it to an usher after the service.)

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** *Ride On!* - Douglas E. Wagner

**\*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** *Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!* 91

Henry Hart Milman wrote the text in 1827 for a collection of hymns for the church year. Milman was a priest in the Church of England, a professor and writer of early Christian history. John Bacchus Dykes wrote the tune for this text in 1862. He was assistant organist by the age of ten at St. John's Church, Hull, England, where his grandfather was vicar, and he published over 300 hymn tunes.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Sunset to Sunrise Changes Now*  
- Alfred V. Fedak

\* Stand if able

**We extend a warm welcome to our guests and visitors and we are delighted to have you worship with us. 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 and ushers, greeters and communion servers for today's service are Joyce Goeke and Wendy Schmitt.

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in the foyer after the service. Our thanks to Marsha and Dave Pilachowski for providing coffee hour this morning.

Candy for the Easter egg hunt would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be left on the glass top table in the foyer.

We continue to collect new or gently used blankets for the homeless. Gently used blankets must be clean and no electric blankets please.

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

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

4/6: Maundy Thursday service, 6:30 PM at the Barn

4/6: Tenebrae service, 8:00 PM at the Church

4/13: Deacon meeting, 4:00 PM at the Barn

4/24: Trustee meeting, 5:30 PM in the 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!

To maintain the healthiest standards for public gathering, indoor air is constantly being exchanged with fresh air with a LifeBreath circulation system operating during the service today.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

(OLD FIRST CHURCH)

VT RTE. 9 AND MONUMENT AVENUE

OLD BENNINGTON, VERMONT

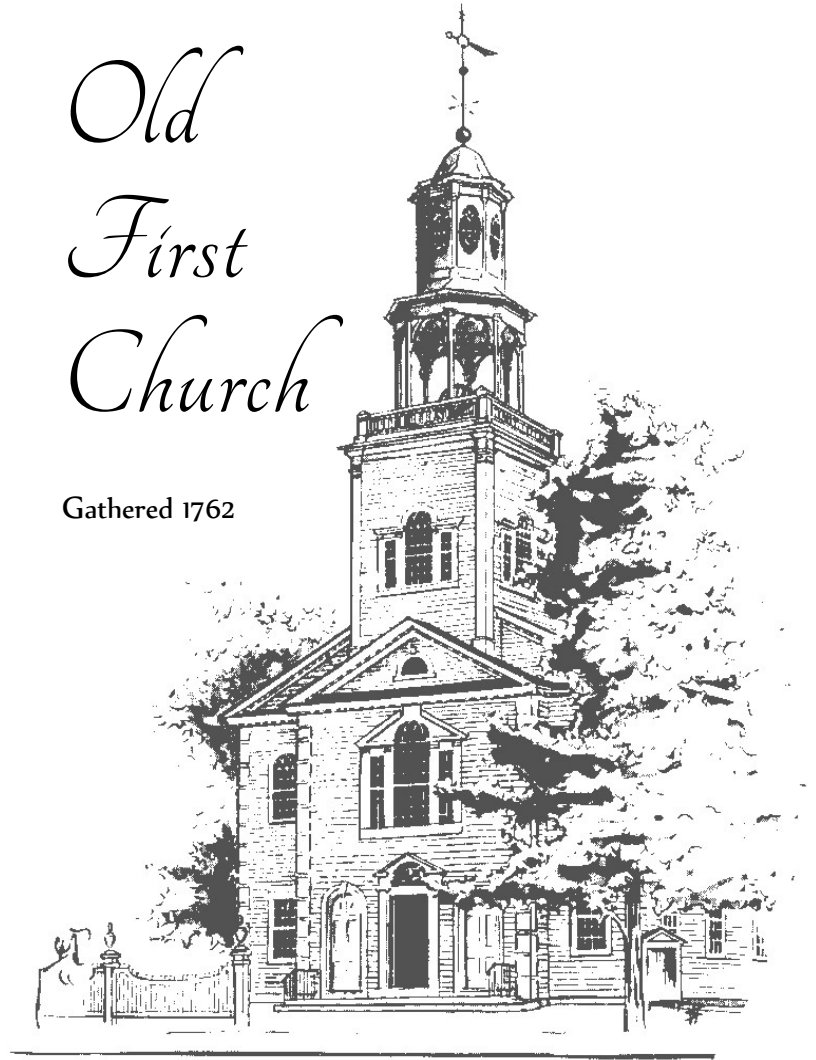
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Old  
First  
Church

Gathered 1762



### *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

Hosanna, loud hosanna  
the little children sang;  
through pillared court and temple  
the joyful anthem rang.  
To Jesus, who had blessed them,  
close folded to his breast,  
the children sang their praises,  
the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed  
mid an exultant crowd,  
the victor palm branch waving,  
and chanting clear and loud.  
The Lord of earth and heaven  
rode on in lowly state,  
nor scorned that little children  
should on his bidding wait.

"Hosanna in the highest!"  
That ancient song we sing,  
for Christ is our Redeemer,  
the Lord of heaven, our King.  
O may we ever praise Him  
with heart and life and voice,  
and in His blissful presence  
eternally rejoice.

### **FIRST LESSON**

### **Psalm 118**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.

The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

### *This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 This is the day the Lord has made;<br>He calls the hours His own;<br>let heav'n rejoice, let earth be glad,<br>and praise surround the throne. | 3 Hosanna to th' anointed King,<br>to David's holy Son.<br>help us, O LORD, descend and bring<br>salvation from Your throne.        |
| 2 Today He rose and left the dead,<br>and Satan's empire fell;<br>today the saints His triumphs spread,<br>and all His wonders tell.             | 4 Blest be the Lord, who comes to us<br>with messages of grace;<br>who comes, in God His Father's name,<br>to save our sinful race. |

### **SECOND LESSON**

### **Matthew 21:1-11**

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A

very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

### ***When, His Salvation Bringing***

When His salvation bringing,  
to Zion on Jesus came,  
the children all stood singing  
hosanna to His name:  
Nor did their zeal offend Him,  
but, as He rode along,  
He let them still attend Him,  
and smiled to hear their song.

And since the Lord retaineth  
His love for children still,  
though now as King He reigneth  
on Zion's heavenly hill,  
we'll flock around His banner  
who sits upon His throne,  
and cry aloud, "Hosanna  
to David's royal Son!"

For should we fail proclaiming  
our great Redeemer's praise,  
the stones, our silence shaming,  
would their hosannas raise.  
But shall we only render  
the tribute of our words?  
No, while our hearts are tender,  
they, too, shall be the Lord's. AMEN.

### ***Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!***

Ride on! Ride on in majesty!  
Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;  
O Savior meek, pursue Thy road  
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on! Ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die:  
O Christ, Thy triumphs now begin  
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on! Ride on in majesty!  
The winged squadrons of the sky  
look down with sad and wondering eyes  
to see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on! Ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die;  
bow Thy meek head to mortal pain,  
then take, O God, Thy power and reign.

**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.