

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  
NOAH LANGFORD, LAY READER  
GENE MARIE CALLAHAN, ORGANIST  
OLD FIRST CHURCH CHOIR

MAY 28, 2023 ~ MEMORIAL DAY

PRELUDE *Come, Gracious Spirit* - Dennis Janzer

OPENING WORDS (responsive)

Sing to the Lord a new song;

**Sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

Let us worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.

**May the way of peace open our hearts.**

\*HYMN *My Country, 'Tis of Thee* 561

Samuel Francis Smith (1808-95), a Baptist minister and Bostonian linguist, wrote the hymn. At the time of his death he knew 15 languages and was seeking a Russian text to learn Russian. He scribbled out the hymn in about a half-hour when he was 24 years old and a student at Andover Theological Seminary. He found the tune in a German music book given to him by Lowell Mason, prominent musician and educator, because Smith could read German. Mason then arranged the tune to be called AMERICA. The tune has origins that go back to Gregorian chants, Scottish carols, and the court of King Louis XIV. In England it was published to honor George II and given the title "National Anthem," and it was Russia's national tune until 1833.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

**O Lord, we come before you to confess that we often forget that we are yours. Sometimes we carry on our lives as if you were not there and neglect the gifts we have from you. Forgive us and give us strength. Give us clear minds and open hearts so we may witness to you in our world. Remind us who you would have us to be regardless of what we are doing or who we are with. Help us live with you and with those you have given us on earth in love and with renewed faith. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND \*GLORIA PATRI (579)

FIRST LESSON 1 Corinthians 12:3-13 p. 933

\*HYMN *Bless the Lord, My Soul and Being* 224

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 19<sup>th</sup>-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 As the Spirit Chooses

\*HYMN *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory* insert

Julia Ward Howe (May 27, 1819 – October 17, 1910) was an American poet and author, known for writing "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and the original 1870 pacifist Mother's Day Proclamation. She was also an advocate for abolitionism and a social activist, particularly for women's suffrage.

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 *I Do Not Sleep* - Davind Lantz III

\*DOXOLOGY (592) AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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

\*HYMN *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* 562

William Whiting wrote the text for a student about to set sail for America in 1860. He was master of Winchester College Choristers' School. John Dykes wrote the tune for this text. A vicar, he published over 300 hymn tunes. The tune, *Melita*, refers to Malta, where Paul was shipwrecked. The hymn is known as the Navy Hymn in this country and is also sung on English ships. It was Franklin Delano Roosevelt's favorite and was sung at his funeral in 1945.

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE *America the Beautiful* - Robert M. Thompson

**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 are Sandy Bechtel and Pat Ross. Ushers and greeters for today's service are Sandy Bechtel and Amy Tronsen.

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in the foyer after the service. Our thanks to Janet Van Derpoel Andrea, Mary Elizabeth Groupé, Susan Katz and Wendy Schmitt for providing coffee hour this morning.

Flowers for worship are provided by Kate Musso.

**Sunday School** runs every Sunday morning from 10:30 - 11:00 AM in the parlor. This informal "drop in" program is ideally geared for children under the age of 6. For more information contact our Christian Ed Advocate, Amber Langford at [aemc412@comcast.net](mailto:aemc412@comcast.net).

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

Choir practice, Sunday mornings, 9:30 AM in the choir loft  
6/4: Monumental Tag Sale kickoff luncheon, following worship  
6/10: Monumental Tag Sale at the Barn 9AM – 3 PM  
6/15: Deacons Meeting, 4 PM, Barn  
6/19: Trustee meeting, 5:30 PM, 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.

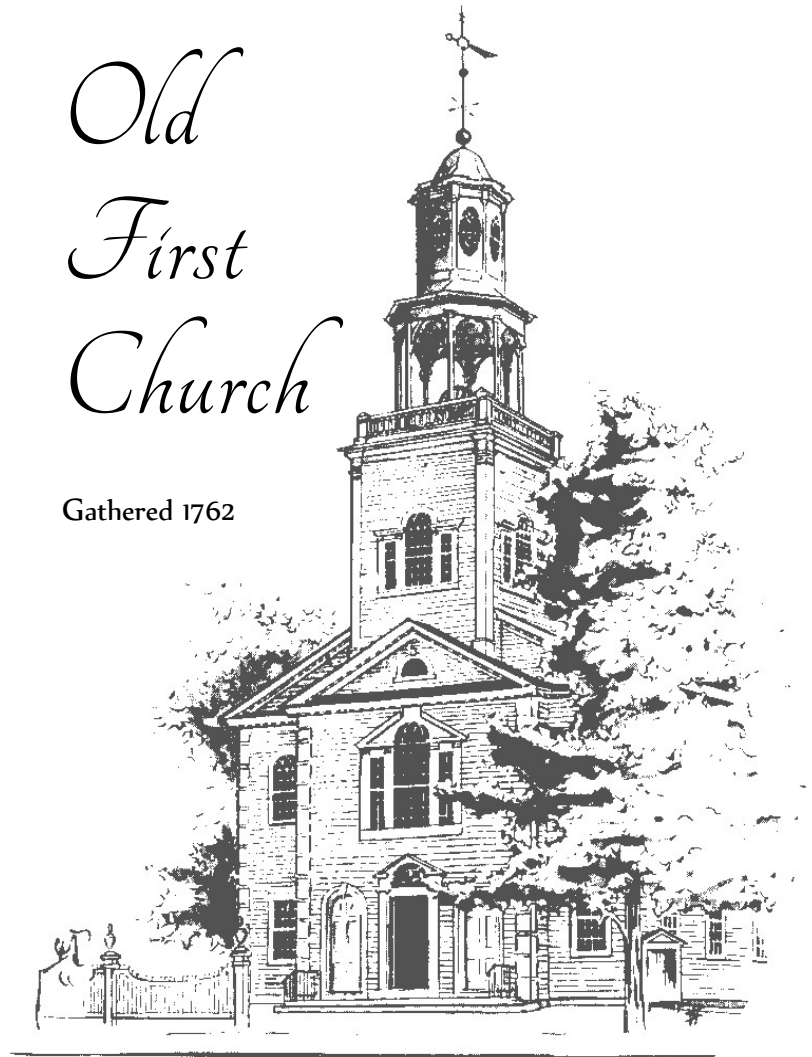
## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

(OLD FIRST CHURCH)  
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OLD BENNINGTON, VERMONT

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# Old First Church

Gathered 1762



### *My Country, 'Tis of Thee*

My country, 'tis of thee,  
Sweet land of liberty,  
Of thee I sing;  
Land where my fathers died,  
Land of the pilgrims' pride,  
From every mountainside,  
Let freedom ring.

My native country, thee,  
Land of the noble free,  
Thy name I love;  
I love thy rocks and rills,  
Thy woods and templed hills;  
My heart with rapture thrills,  
Like that above.

Let music swell the breeze,  
And ring from all the trees,  
Sweet freedom's song;  
Let mortal tongues awake;  
Let all that breathe partake;  
Let rocks their silence break,  
The sound prolong.

Our fathers' God, to Thee,  
Author of liberty,  
To Thee we sing;  
Long may our land be bright  
With freedom's holy light;  
Protect us by Thy might,  
Great God, our King.

another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

### *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.

### **FIRST LESSON**

### **1 Corinthians 12:3-13**

Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to

## 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.'

### *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory*

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;  
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;  
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword;  
His truth is marching on.

Glory, glory, hallelujah,  
Glory, glory, hallelujah,  
Glory, glory, hallelujah;  
His truth is marking on.

He has sounded forth a trumpet that shall never call retreat;  
He is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgement seat,  
O be swift, my soul, to answer him: be jubilant, my feet;  
Our God is Marching on.

Glory, glory, hallelujah,  
Glory, glory, hallelujah,  
Glory, glory, hallelujah;  
Our God is marking on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,  
With a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;  
As he died to make men holy, let us die to make men free,  
While God is marching on.

Glory, glory, hallelujah,  
Glory, glory, hallelujah,  
Glory, glory, hallelujah;  
While God is marching on.

### *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

1. Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm has bound the restless wave,  
Who bade the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep:  
O hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.
2. O Savior, whose almighty word  
The winds and waves submissive heard,  
Who walked upon the foaming deep,  
And calm amid its rage did sleep:  
O hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.
3. O Holy Spirit, who did brood  
Upon the chaos wild and rude,  
And bade its angry tumult cease,  
And gave for fierce confusion, peace:  
O hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.
4. O Trinity of love and power,  
All travelers guard in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
Protect them where-so-e'er they go;  
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee  
Glad praise from air and land and sea.