

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  
DAVE PILACHOWSKI, LAY READER  
GENE MARIE CALLAHAN, ORGANIST  
OLD FIRST CHURCH CHOIR

JUNE 18, 2023 ~ FATHER'S DAY

**PRELUDE** *Lyric Aria: I Need Thee Every Hour*  
- Franklin D. Ashdown

**OPENING WORDS** (responsive)

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

**God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Sing praise for the beauty of the earth

**And the wonder of God's creation.**

**\*HYMN** *Morning Has Broken* 469  
Eleanor Farjeon, the author of nursery rhymes and singing games, wrote the text for this tune. It was first published in 1931. A more recent popular recording by Cat Stevens made the song popular in this country. *Bunessan* is a Gaelic melody first published in 1888. The present arrangement was made for the Christian Reformed Church hymnal in 1985.

**OPENING PRAYER** (unison)

**Almighty and most merciful God, we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is nothing good in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent; according to Your promises declared unto us in Christ Jesus our Lord. Grant that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life. Amen**

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

**FIRST LESSON** Exodus 19:2-8a p. 57

**\*HYMN** *Come, All You Servants of the Lord* 242

This paraphrase of Psalm 134 by Arlo D. Duba was written after hearing the tune DANBY which was brought to the attention of the Psalter Task Force of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) by Kenneth E. Williams. It was first published in *A Psalm Sampler* (1986).

**SECOND LESSON** Matthew 9:35-10:23 p. 790

**SERMON** Innocence and Wisdom

**\*HYMN** *We Meet You, O Christ* 311

This text by Fred Kaan was written as a result of the preparation of a script for the British Broadcasting Company television series "Seeing and Believing," in 1966. The show was to be broadcast on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the destruction of the city of Plymouth, England, in a German air raid. A photograph of the ruins of St. Andrew's Church served as the theme for the program. The photograph showed an apple tree growing out of the rubble which had once been a house of worship.

**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** *It Is Well with My Soul* - Philip Paul Bliss

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

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

**\*HYMN** *This Is My Father's World* 293

A Presbyterian minister from Syracuse, New York wrote the text in 1901. Franklin Sheppard, who was President of the Board of Publication and Sabbath-School Work for his church's denomination, wrote the tune in 1915 based on an English folk song he'd learned as a child from his mother.

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE** *Dialog* - Russell Scholz-Widmar

**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 Jeannette Lesser and Amy Tronsen. Ushers and greeters for today's service are Lucy Baldwin and Betsy Ehrenfreund.

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

Flowers for worship this morning are provided by Liz Warner.

**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  
6/19: Trustee meeting, 5:30 PM, Parlor  
6/25: Church Picnic at the Ross' house, following worship

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.

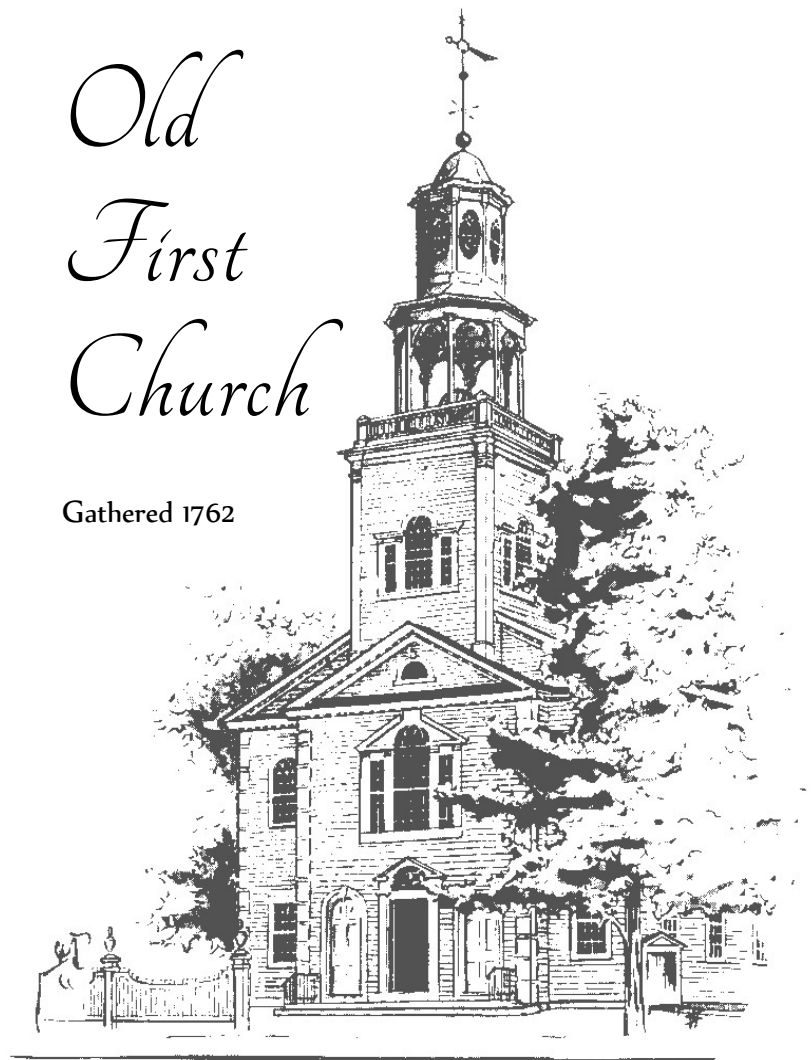
## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

MAILING ADDRESS & CONTACT INFORMATION  
1 MONUMENT CIRCLE • BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201 • (802) 447-1223  
[office@oldfirst.comcastbiz.net](mailto:office@oldfirst.comcastbiz.net) • [www.oldfirstchurchbenn.org](http://www.oldfirstchurchbenn.org)

# Old First Church

Gathered 1762



### *Morning Has Broken*

Morning has broken like the first morning,  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
Like the first dew fall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning  
Born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!

### **FIRST LESSON**

### **Exodus 19:2-8a**

They had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites." So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. The people all answered as one: "Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do." Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord.

### *Come, All You Servants of the Lord*

Come, all you servants of the Lord,  
Who work and pray by night, by day,  
Come, bless the Lord within this place;  
With lifted hands your homage pay.

The Lord now bless from heaven above  
And shine on you with radiant face;  
The Lord who heaven and earth has made  
Illumine you with peace and grace.

### **SECOND LESSON**

### **Matthew 9:35-10:23**

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

“See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

### *We Meet You, O Christ*

We meet You, O Christ, in many a guise:  
Your image we see in simple and wise.  
You live in a palace, exist in a shack.  
We see You, the gardener, a tree on Your back.

In millions alive, away and abroad;  
Involved in our life, You live down the road.  
Imprisoned in systems, You long to be free.  
We see You, Lord Jesus, still bearing Your tree.

We hear You, O Christ, in agony cry.  
For freedom You march, in riots You die.  
Your face in the papers we read and we see.  
The tree must be planted by human decree.

You choose to be made at one with the earth;  
The dark of the grave prepares for Your birth.  
Your death is Your rising, creative Your word:  
The tree springs to life and our hope is restored.

### *This Is My Father's World*

This is my Father's world,  
And to my listening ears  
All nature sings, and round me rings  
The music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world:  
I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees,  
Of skies and seas;  
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world:  
Oh, let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong  
seems oft so strong,  
God is the Ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world:  
The battle is not done;  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,  
And earth and heaven be one.