

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
SUSAN KATZ, LAY READER
GENE MARIE CALLAHAN, ORGANIST
OLD FIRST CHURCH CHOIR

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

PRELUDE *Festive Prelude No. 5 in B Flat Major*

- James Michael Stevens

OPENING WORDS (responsive)

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

God watches over all creation.

Let us give thanks to God for all good things this day.

We praise God for our life and blessings.

***HYMN** *When Morning Gilds the Skies* **487**

The text first appeared in *Katholisches Gesangbuch* (1828), entitled "A Christian Greeting." It had fourteen stanzas but no author's name. The translator was an Anglican priest who became a Roman Catholic priest after the death of his wife during the Oxford movement in the mid-19th century. The tune was composed for this text by a chorister, organist and conductor of the Royal Choral Society.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Most holy and merciful God,

We confess to you and to one another,

that we have sinned against you

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our

whole heart and mind and strength.

We have not fully loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not always had in us the mind of Christ.

You alone know how often we have grieved you

by wasting your gifts, by wandering from your ways.

Forgive us, we pray you, most merciful God;

And free us from our sin.

Renew in us the grace and strength of your Holy Spirit,

for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son our Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND *GLORIA PATRI (579)

FIRST LESSON Psalm 145:1-8 p. 506

***HYMN** *O Lord, You Are My God and King* **252**

This metrical setting of Psalm 145:1-13 is an altered form of number 397, "The Greatness and Grace of God" in *The Psalter* (1912). Joy F. Patterson altered it in 1989 for *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (1990).

SECOND LESSON Exodus 16:2-15 p. 55

SERMON Meat in the Evening

***HYMN** *The God of Abraham Praise* **488**

The text in our hymnal is quite close to one in *The Union Hymnal* edited by the Central Conference of American Rabbis. The 1885 translation is based on a Jewish creedal statement by Moses Maimonides (1130-1205) and set to meter by Daniel ben Judah (14th century). Maimonides wrote the 13 articles of the Jewish creed known as the *Yigdal*. The tune, LEONI (a.k.a. YIGDAL) was introduced into Christian worship around 1770. Thomas Olivers, a Wesleyan minister, heard cantor Meyer Lyon sing the *Yigdal* at Great Duke's Synagogue, Alegate, London. Lyon transcribed the melody for Olivers, who named the tune LEONI.

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 *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go* - Carson P. Cooman

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

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

***HYMN** *Holy God, We Praise Your Name* **460**

The original German versification of the *Te Deum Laudamus* was by Ignaz Franz of Austria about 1774. The English translation by Clarence Walworth was first published in the *Catholic Psalmist*, 1858. Walworth was born in Plattsburgh, NY, graduated in law from Union College, went to seminary, studied for Episcopal ministry but became a Roman Catholic priest and was rector of St. Mary's Church in Albany. The tune, in German practice, got its name from the first line of this text, with which it's been associated since 1774.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Postlude on Darwall* - Healey Willan

* 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 greeters and ushers for today's service are Jeannette Lesser and Amy Tronsen.

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in the foyer after the service. Our thanks to Joyce Goeke, Mary Elizabeth Groupé, Audrey Pietrucha, and Pat Ross for providing coffee hour this morning.

Flowers for worship have been provided by Mary Lowe.

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!

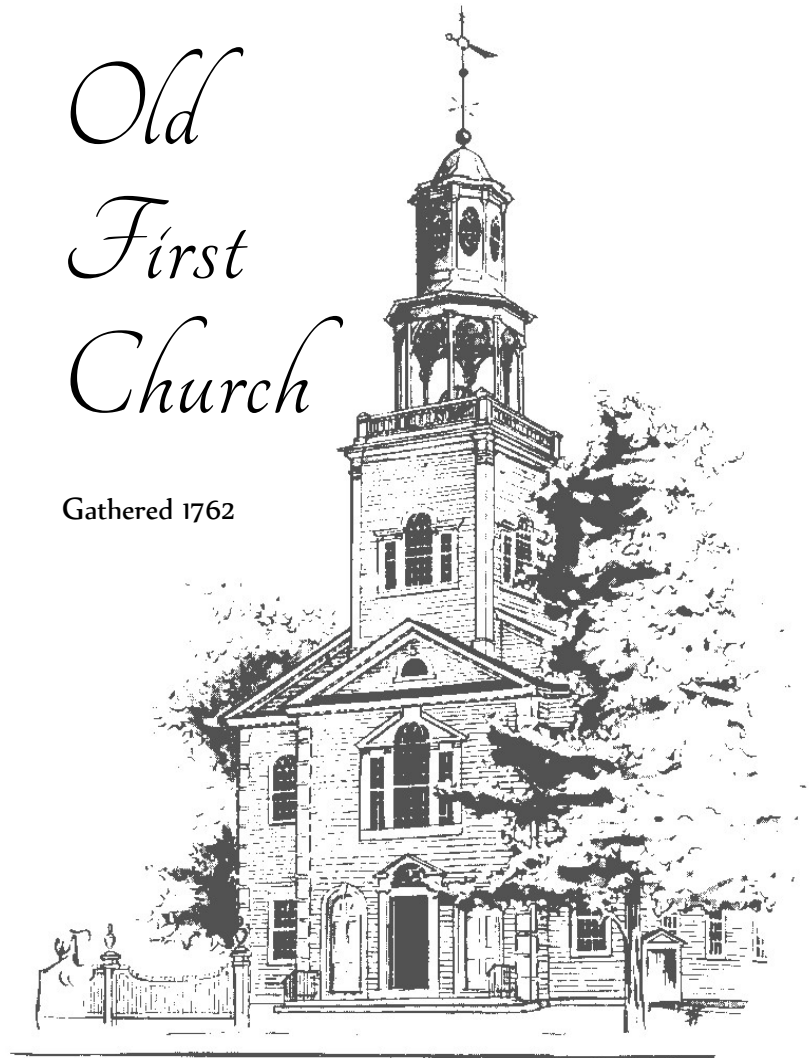
To maintain the healthiest standards for public gathering, indoor air is constantly being exchanged with fresh air with a LifeBreath circulation system operating during the service today.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
(OLD FIRST CHURCH)
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OLD BENNINGTON, VERMONT

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Old First Church

Gathered 1762



When Morning Gilds the Skies

When morning gilds the skies,
My heart awaking cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer
To Jesus I repair:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind?
A solace here I find:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Or fades my earthly bliss?
My comfort still is this:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round
In joyful notes resound:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Let air and sea and sky
From depth to height reply:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine,
My canticle divine:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the eternal song
Through all the ages long:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 145

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness.

They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

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

O Lord, You Are My God and King

O Lord, You are my God and King,
And I will ever bless Your name;
I will extol You every day,
And evermore Your praise proclaim.
You, Lord, are greatly to be praised,
Your greatness is beyond our thoughts;
All generations shall tell forth
The mighty wonders You have wrought.

How rich in grace are You, O Lord,
Full of compassion merciful,
Your anger always slow to rise;
Your steadfast love You show to all
For You are good in all Your ways,
Your creatures know Your constant care.
To all Your works Your love extends,
All Souls Your tender mercies share.

Your works will give You thanks, O Lord,
Your saints Your mighty acts will show,
Till all the peoples of the earth
Your kingdom, power, glory know.
Eternal is Your kingdom, Lord,
Forever strong, forever sure;
While generations rise and die,
Your high dominion will endure.

SECOND LESSON

Exodus 16:2-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against

him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.” Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

The God of Abraham Praise

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above;
The ancient of eternal days, the God of love!
The Lord, the great I Am, by earth and heaven confessed,
We bow before Your holy name, forever blest.

Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will;
In prophet’s word You spoke of old and You speak still.
Established is Your law, and changeless it shall stand,
Deep writ upon the human heart, on sea, or land.

You have eternal life implanted in the soul;
Your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
We praise You, living God! We praise Your holy name;
The first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

1. Holy God, we praise Your name;
Lord of all, we bow before You;
All on earth Your scepter claim,
All in heaven above adore You.
Infinite Your vast domain,
Everlasting is Your reign.
2. Hark, the glad celestial hymn
Angel choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and seraphim,
In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heavens with sweet accord:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord.
3. All apostles join the strain
As Your sacred name they hallow;
Prophets swell the glad refrain,
And the blessed martyrs follow,
And from morn to set of sun,
Through the church the song goes on.
4. Holy Father, Holy Son,
Holy Spirit: Three we name You,
While in essence only One;
Undivided God we claim You,
And adoring bend the knee
While we own the mystery.