

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
THE REV. LOUIS N. GUARINIELLO, GUEST MINISTER
AUDREY PIETRUCHA, LAY READER
GENE MARIE CALLAHAN, ORGANIST
OLD FIRST CHURCH CHOIR

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY--NOVEMBER 5, 2023

PRELUDE *Prelude and Fugue on the Kyrie* - Gaspard Corrette

OPENING WORDS (responsive)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Praise God, all people who are called to be saints.

Sing a new song in the assembly of the faithful

We will be glad in God our Maker.

We will rejoice with music and dancing.

God takes pleasure in us and receives our worship.

God lifts up the humble and invites us to share God's glory.

We will not cease to give thanks in all things.

We look to God for revelation and wisdom.

Listen here for God's Word of truth. Share with one another
the gospel of salvation.

We are here to seek a better way of life.

We have come to learn and to do what God intends.

***HYMN** *God, You Spin the Whirling Planets* 285

Jane Parker Huber wrote the text for a 1979 national meeting of church women whose theme was, "In the Image of God." Huber was born in 1926 of Presbyterian missionary parents in China and is a prolific writer of new words to familiar hymn tunes. She chose this tune because the opening night of the conference featured a rendition of Haydn's *Creation*. Haydn wrote this tune, which is a variant of a Croatian folksong, and after hearing "God Save the King" at Westminster Abbey in 1791, so his Austrian people would have their own national anthem.

SILENT AND OPENING PRAYERS (unison)

Most High God, we confess that we have not aspired to the best that we know. We have neither set our hope on Christ nor treated others with the love and respect we crave for ourselves. We seek to avoid entering into the depths of another's pain or risking our wealth out of compassion for

all your saints. We do not want to embrace those we perceive as enemies or do good to those who hate us. We are afraid to trust the working of Christ's power among us. O God, help us to accept the demands of faith that we may experience its joy. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND *GLORIA PATRI (579)

FIRST LESSON Letter to The Ephesians 1:11-23 p. 949

***HYMN** *Give Praise to the Lord* 257

This tune, *Laudate Dominum* was composed by C. Hubert H. Parry about 1915. The text is a paraphrase of Psalm 149 from *The Psalter* (1912) number 407, it was altered by the Psalter Task Force of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in 1984.

SECOND LESSON The Gospel According to Luke 19:1-10 p. 854

SERMON We Are a Marked People

***HYMN** *Gather Friends at Table* See insert

The author of this hymn, Lavon Baylor was born on January 17, 1933 in Sandusky, Ohio. She earned a Bachelor's degree from Iowa State Teachers College in 1955, a Master in Divinity from Eden Theological Seminary (St. Louis) in 1959 and did postgraduate work at Lancaster Theological Seminary. She has pastored Church of Christ and Congregational congregations in Ohio and Illinois.

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.)

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP Amber Langford

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Remembrance - Rhosymedre*
arr. by John David Edwards; words by Andrew Pratt

***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

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let All Unite

Because the broken bread has meant our healing, because the outpouring cup has meant our life, because our common sharing has meant the communion of our souls, and because we have been graced by your presence, God, we give you thanks and pray that our lives may be renewed in the life and love of Jesus Christ. Amen

*HYMN

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

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Lesbia Scott, who wrote hymns and religious dramas, wrote the text for her children "for use on Saints' days, to impress the fact that sainthood is a living possibility today," and it was later published in *Everyday Hymns for Children* in 1929. John Henry Hopkins, an Episcopal priest, organist, and graduate of UVM, wrote the tune for this text for *The Hymnal 1940* and named it for his retirement home in Grand Isle, Vermont.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

In Thee Is Gladness

- Ralph C. Schultz

* 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, ushers for today's service and communion servers are Marsha Pilachowski and Wendy Schmitt.

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in the foyer after the service. Our thanks to Nancy Coseo, Audrey Pietrucha and Marsha Pilachowski for providing coffee hour this morning.

Flowers for worship are provided by Audrey Pietrucha.

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

11/9: Deacon's meeting, 4:00 PM, Barn

11/12: Council meeting, following worship, Parlor

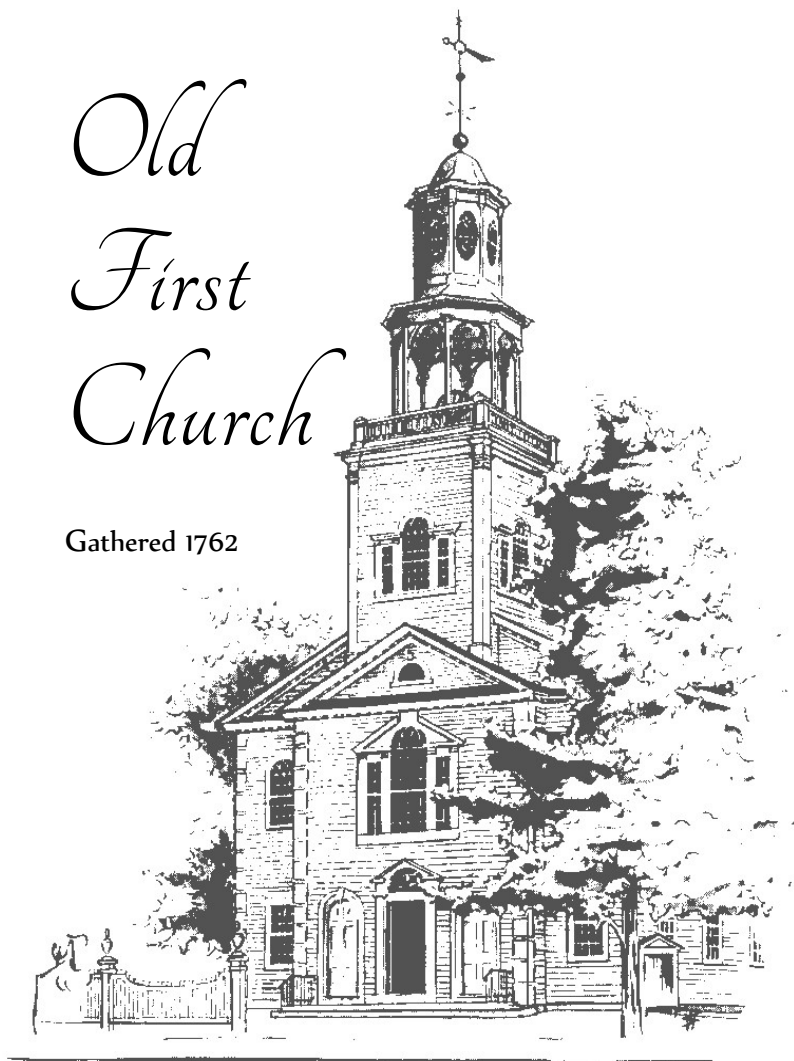
11/18: Capital Campaign Kickoff Reception, 4:00 – 7:00 PM at the Church

11/20: Trustee Meeting, 5:30 PM, Parlor

11/21: Monumental Music concert at the Barn, 7:00 PM

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.



God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

1). God, You spin the whirling planets,
Fill the seas and spread the plain,
Mold the mountains, fashion blossoms,
Call forth sunshine, wind, and rain.
We, created in Your image,
would a true reflection be
Of Your justice, grace, and mercy,
And the truth that makes us free.

2). You have called us to be faithful
In our life and ministry.
We respond in grateful worship
Joined in one community.
When we blur Your gracious image,
Focus us and make us whole.
Healed and strengthened as Your people,
We move onward toward Your goal.

3). God, Your word is still creating,
Calling us to life made new.
Now reveal to us fresh vistas
Where there's work to dare to do.
Keep us clear of all distortion.
Polish us with loving care.
Thus, new creatures in Your image,
We'll proclaim Christ everywhere.

First Lesson

Ephesians 1:11-23

In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Give Praise to the Lord

Give praise to the Lord, and sing a new song,
amid all the saints God's praises prolong;
a song to your maker and ruler now raise,
all children of Zion, rejoice and give praise.

With timbrel and harp and joyful acclaim,
with gladness and mirth, we praise Your great name;
for now in Your people good pleasure You seek,
with robes of salvation You cover the meek.

In glory exult, all saints of the Lord;
with song in the night high praises accord;
go forth in God's service and strong in God's might
to conquer all evil and stand for the right.

For this is God's word: the saints shall not fail,
but over the earth their power shall prevail;
all kingdoms and nations shall yield to their sway.
To God give the glory; sing praises for aye.

Second Lesson

Luke 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

Gather Friends at Table

Gather friends at table, welcoming as guest
Jesus Christ our Savior, by whom we are blest.
Sinners are invited to a common meal;
Lost and wandering people, come that Christ may heal.
Gather friends at table, welcoming as guest
Jesus Christ our Savior, by whom we are blest.

Let no pretense blind us to God's full intent
To include all seekers in love's covenant.
No one is excluded, no one is denied.
Faithfulness is never cause for foolish pride.
Gather friends at table, welcoming as guest
Jesus Christ our Savior, by whom we are blest.

May our prayers and worship give us strength to face
Emptiness within us, idols we embrace.
Loyalties have focused on the things we own,
Wasting precious moments meant for God alone.
Gather friends at table, welcoming as guest
Jesus Christ our Savior, by whom we are blest.

Listen as God teaches ways that we should go.
Sins that once were scarlet, God makes clean as snow.
Hear the call to justice; heed the call to share.
Where we battle evil, God is with us there.
Gather friends at table, welcoming as guest
Jesus Christ our Savior, by whom we are blest.

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

I sing a song of the saints of God,
patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died
for the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
and one was a shepherdess on the green:
they were all of them saints of God, and I mean,
God helping, to be one too.

They loved their Lord so dear, so dear,
and God's love made them strong;
and they followed the right, for Jesus' sake,
the whole of their good lives long.
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest,
and one was slain by a fierce wild beast:
and there's not any reason, no, not the least,
why I shouldn't be one too.

They lived not only in ages past;
there are hundreds of thousands still;
the world is bright with the joyous saints
who love to do Jesus' will.
You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,
in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea;
for the saints of God are just folk like me,
and I mean to be one too.

**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.