



# **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL**

*An Open and Affirming Church*

**January 2, 2022**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Welcome! We welcome you to our worship this morning and are grateful for your presence. No matter who you are, or who you love, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. Please introduce yourself to an usher or Rev. Sheldon to learn more about our ministries.*

## SHARING OF OUR GIFTS

Those attending worship in the sanctuary please leave your offerings in the giving baskets located in the rear of the sanctuary. If you would like to gift electronically visit our website where you can find a donation link.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children K-8th are welcome to leave following the Children's Message.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please send request to the Prayer Request Email:

[PRAYER@firstchurchbethel.org](mailto:PRAYER@firstchurchbethel.org)

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OUTREACH MEETING    Monday January 3<sup>rd</sup>    7:30 PM**

***We thank our worship leaders for their participation in this morning's service:***

Rev. Suzanne Wagner

Organist: Dana Mancuso

Deacon of the Day: Marcia Merritt

Video & Tech Support: Wade Anderson, Jim Welsh

*Church Contact Information:*

Telephone: (203) 743-1877. Address: 46 Main Street, Bethel, CT 06801.

Supply Pastor: Reverend Suzanne Wagner ([swagner5@yahoo.com](mailto:swagner5@yahoo.com))

Director of Music: Dana Mancuso ([dmancuso.live@gmail.com](mailto:dmancuso.live@gmail.com))

Secretary: Kathy MacAulay ([secretary@firstchurchbethel.org](mailto:secretary@firstchurchbethel.org))

Pastor Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Sheldon Smith

Senior Deacon: Marcia Merritt ([pesinger37@aol.com](mailto:pesinger37@aol.com))

Head Trustee: Jim Welsh ([jim.welsh.jr@gmail.com](mailto:jim.welsh.jr@gmail.com))

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**SUNDAY ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*\*Please stand either in body or spirit.*

**PRELUDE #53**

*Morning Has Broken*

v.1,2&3

**Call to Worship**

L: We gather to worship God, whose creative imagination never fails:

**P: For the sake of God, we will search for the outcasts.**

L: We gather to praise our God, whose steadfast love never weakens:

**P: For the sake of Jesus, we will lift up all who have fallen.**

L: We gather to offer our best to God, who walks with us through eternity:

**P: For the sake of the Holy Spirit, we will walk with the weary.**

**All: We gather now to honor to Christ, the king.**

**INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

**\*OPENING HYMN # 16**

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

v 1&2

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE**

**Call to Reconciliation**

Christ knows that we will only find the end of our journey in God, and so he invites us to that peaceful place known as God's heart. May we let go of our burdens of anger, hurt and sin so we can find our rest.

Silence is kept for a moment of reflection

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God invites us to receive the gifts which make it possible to have lives of faithfulness. This is the good news: God forgives us and takes our burdens from us. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**A CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**THE GOSPEL**

*Ephesians 1:3-14*

**SERMON**

*Blessed. Yes!*

Rev. Suzanne Smith

**SHARING OUR GIFTS**

**Invitation**

How shall we present right offerings to God? What does God expect of those who are blessed and forgiven? May our gifts confirm our partnership in the gospel and our gratitude for God's abundant mercy.

**Musical Offering**

*Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)*

**Unison Prayer of Dedication**

Receive the gifts of our hands as an outpouring of thanksgiving, O God, for you have begun a good work in us and we are grateful. Help us to continue to do our part as we seek to offer ourselves, and our witness to your service, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**COMMUNION LITURGY**

**Invitation**

**Unison Prayer of Dedication**

With grateful hearts, O God, we come to Christ's table; remembering that you spoke creation into existence and pronounced it good; remembering that you called servants to make your word known and declared your reign; remembering that you effected salvation through Jesus Christ and reconciled us to you.

Be known to us now, through the gift of your Spirit, in the breaking of the bread and the drinking of the cup. Renew your image within us, restore our trust in your love, and refresh our spirits for caring service. Join us with all your people everywhere in joyous praise for your everlasting love. Amen.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**\*COMMUNION HYMN # 408**

**Come, Share the Lord**

v. 1&2

**Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving**

We give you thanks, Almighty God that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the holy Spirits, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**  
**Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

**\*CLOSING HYMN # 422**

*Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE #615**

*I Shall Not Be Moved*

v. 1,2&3

# Attributions

Prelude: (all welcome to sing)

#53 *Morning Has Broken*

Words: Eleanor Farjeon, 1931

Music: Gaelic melody; arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985

Words © 1957 Eleanor Farjeon, used by permission of Harold Ober Associates;

arr. © 1987 CRC Publications

Musical Offering:

*Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)*

Songwriters: Joel Houston and Jonas Myrin

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CapitolCMG Publishing)

Postlude: (all welcome to sing)

#615 *I Shall Not Be Moved*

Words and Music: African-American spiritual

Opening Hymn

# 16 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing v 1&2

Words Robert Robinson 1758, ALT.

Music: Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, Part Scotland, 1813

Public Domain, Chalice Hymnal

Hymn of Praise

# 543 Blessed Assurance v 1&3

Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1873

Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873

Public Domain, Chalice Hymnal

Communion Hymn

# 408 Come, Share the Lord v. 1&2

Words: Liturgy of St. James; Gerald Moultrie, 1864

Music: French Carol; harm. The English Hymn, 1906

Public Domain, Chalice Hymnal

Closing Hymn

# 422 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Words: Fred Kaan, 1975

Music: Jamaican folk melody, adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975

Public Domain, Chalice Hymnal

#53 Morning Has Broken

V1

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!

V2

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

V3

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!

#615 I Shall Not Be Moved

Refrain:

I shall not be, I shall not be moved.  
I shall not be, I shall not be moved;  
like a tree planted by the water,  
I shall not be moved.

V1

When my cross is heavy, I shall not be moved,  
When my cross is heavy, I shall not be moved;  
like a tree planted by the water,  
I shall not be moved.

V2

When my burden's heavy, I shall not be moved,  
When my burden's heavy, I shall not be moved;  
like a tree planted by the water,  
I shall not be moved.

V3

If my friends forsake me, I shall not be moved,  
If my friends forsake me, I shall not be moved;  
like a tree planted by the water,  
I shall not be moved.

Refrain:

I shall not be, I shall not be moved.  
I shall not be, I shall not be moved;  
like a tree planted by the water,  
I shall not be moved.