



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL

An Open and Affirming Church

January 9, 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. Suzanne Wagner 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. For those using pledge envelopes, 2022 materials are on the back table.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TRUSTEES MEETING

January 10, 2022

7:00 PM

CABINET MEETING

January 17, 2022

7:00 PM

PRAYER REQUESTS -- Please send request to the Prayer Request Email

PRAYER@firstchurchbethel.org

WATCH PREVIOUS SERMONS ON YOUTUBE

Subscribe to FCCB channel. Search First Congregational Church of Bethel, click on the Subscribe button on the FCCB Channel page. Watch archived sermons anytime.

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

Rev. Suzanne Wagner

Organist: Dana Mancuso

Deacon of the Day: Claudia Anderson

Video & Tech Support: Wade Anderson, Jim Welsh & Eric Hermansen

Church Contact Information:

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

Senior Pastor: Rev. Suzanne Wagner (swagner5@yahoo.com)

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

Secretary: Kathy MacAulay (secretary@firstchurchbethel.org)

Pastor Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Sheldon Smith

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

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

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FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
January 9, 2022

SUNDAY ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please stand either in body or spirit.*

PRELUDE

You Are Mine

David Haas

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;

P: Worship the LORD in holy splendor. *Psalms 29:2*

L: May the LORD give strength to his people!

P: May the LORD bless his people with peace! *Psalms 29:11*

Invocation and The 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 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 #365**

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters

v. 1&3

Prayer of Reconciliation

L: Ancient of Days, open our hearts to the needs of our neighbors, and how we might best serve one another and you.

All: Encourage us to see past our own daily struggles and help others in need. In the name of Christ, who lived by example, and calls us to live into the Way, we pray. Amen.

Silence will be kept

Assurance of Pardon

Be present and know God's love enfolds you. Be present with God, and know that God carries your burdens. Be present with God, and know God's forgiveness, mercy and peace are with you, now and always. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE #75** *I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry* v. 1&2,5&6,7

SCRIPTURE **Hebrew Bible: Isaiah 43:1-7**
Gospel: Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

SERMON *Water for a Lifetime* Rev. Suzanne Wagner

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor's Reflection of Our Joys and Concerns

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

We offer our gifts in recognition that we are baptized people, transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. So, we will share our lives, our hearts, our energies, as well as our efforts, in ministry to the world around us. Amen.

Musical Offering *Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)* Crocker, Houston & Lightelm

Unison Prayer of Dedication

**We lift our voices to the One who journeys with us through the waters of baptism,
and who feeds us at the Table of hope. Bless and consecrate these gifts we bring to you glory and honor. Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN #342** *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore* v.1,2 & 4

Sending Benediction

L: Baptized, we will go to share God's love with others.

P: We will welcome those the world rejects as our sisters and brothers.

L: Baptized, we will become the grace of our Lord Jesus.

P: We will share the waters of life with everyone we meet.

L: Baptized, we will become the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

P: We will be a community of justice and we will be a household of hope.

***POSTLUDE #371** *Wade in the Water* v.1,2 &4

Attributions:

Liturgy created and adapted from Rev-o-lution, Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, Lectionary Liturgies, Rev. Thom Shumann

PRELUDE

"You Are Mine" David Haas

Text and Music: David Haas, b. 1957, © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)" Crocker, Houston & Lightelm

Words and Music by Matt Crocker, Joel Houston & Salomon Lightelm

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POSTLUDE

#371 Wade in the Water

Words: African-American spiritual

Music: African-American spiritual; harm. Willa A. Townsend

Opening Hymn

#365 Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters (vs. 1&3)

Words: Ruth Duck, 1987, rev. 1993

Music: Attr. B. F. White, 1844;harm. James H. Wood, 1958

Words © 1987 GIA Publishing Co.; harm. © 1958, renewed 1986, Broadman Press, assigned to Van Ness Press

Hymn of Praise

#75 I Was There to Hear Your Borneing Cry (vs. 1&2,5&6,7)

Words and Music: John Ylvisaker, 1985

© 1985 John Ylvisaker

Closing Hymn

#342 Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore (vs.1,2 & 4)

Words: Cesareo Gabaraín, 1979; tr. Gertrude C. Suppe, George Lockwood, and Raquel Gutiérrez-Achon, 1987

Music: Cesareo Gabaraín, 1979; harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1987

© 1979, 1987, Cesareo Gabaraín; published by OCP Publications, used by permission; tr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House;

harm. used by permission of Juan Francisco Chávez

#365 Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters (vs. 1&3)

1. Wash, O God, your sons and daughters, newborn creatures of your womb.
Number them among your people, raised like Christ from death and tomb.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.

3. O how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born.
By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!

#75 I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry (vs. 1&2,5&6,7)

1. I was there to hear your borne cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

2. I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.

5. In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.

6. When the evening gently closes in, and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

7. I was there to hear your borne cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

#342 Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore (vs.1,2 & 4)

1. Lord, you have come to the lakeshore
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
you only asked me to follow humbly.

Refrain:

O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

2. You know so well my possessions;
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;
you will find there my nets and labor. {Refrain}

4. You, who have fished other oceans,
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
my loving friend, as thus you call me.
{Refrain}

#371 Wade in the Water (All welcome to sing)

[Refrain]:

Wade in the water,
wade in the water, children,
wade in the water.
God's a-going to trouble the water.

[V1]

See that host all dressed in white,
God's a-going to trouble the water.
The leader looks like the Israelite.
God's a-going to trouble the water. [Refrain]

[V2]

See that band all dressed in red,

God's a-going to trouble the water.

Looks like the band that Moses led.

God's a-going to trouble the water. [Refrain]

[V4]

If you don't believe I've been redeemed,

God's a-going to trouble the water.

Just follow me down to Jordan's stream.

God's a-going to trouble the water. [Refrain]