



## **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL**

*An Open and Affirming Church*

January 23, 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.

**DEACON'S MEETING**      Monday, January 24th, 2022      7:15PM on Zoom

**SAVE THE DATE**      *A Celebration of Love*      February 5, 2022 1-3:30PM  
Free events will include children's music, storytelling, card-making crafts, and games. Refreshments and cookies will be provided.

**PRAYER REQUESTS** --Please send request to the Prayer Request Email  
[PRAYER@firstchurchbethel.org](mailto:PRAYER@firstchurchbethel.org)

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

Rev. Suzanne Wagner  
Organist: Dana Mancuso  
Deacon of the Day: Eric Hermansen  
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)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL  
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THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
January 23, 2022

SUNDAY ORDER OF WORSHIP

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**PRELUDE #452**

*Here I Am, Lord*

v.1, 2 & 3

**Call to Worship**

L: Come, let us worship the Lord our God,

**P: That we might discern the will of our Maker.**

L: Come, let us worship the Lord our God,

**P: That we might recall the bondage from which God has delivered us.**

L: Come, let us worship the Lord our God,

**P: That we might become the people God is calling us to be.**

**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 #461**

*Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*

v. 1 & 3

**Unison Prayer of Reconciliation**

Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful. Forgive us and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.

*Silence is Kept*

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting, and we are reminded of this surpassing grace – in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
Alleluia! Amen.

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE #683**

*O for a World*

v. 1, 3 & 5

**SCRIPTURE**

Luke 4:14-21

**SERMON**

One Message, Many Voices

Rev. Suzanne Wagner

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **Pastor's Reflection of Our Joys and Concerns**

## **SHARING OUR GIFTS**

### **Invitation**

The wonderful works of God surround us. How will we show our gratitude? The generosity of God exceeds all our limits. How will our manner of life reflect the abundance of God's mercy? Surely our offerings are one measure of our response. Let us prepare now the fruits of our lives and our labors.

**Musical Offering**

*Lift Every Voice and Sing*

James Weldon Johnson

### **Unison Prayer of Dedication**

Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are, that we may praise you not with our words only, but with our whole lives. Amen.

**\*CLOSING HYMN #453**

*Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

v. 1 & 4

## **Benediction**

**\*POSTLUDE #677** *Let There Be Peace on Earth* (All welcome to sing twice through)

## **Attributions:**

### **Prelude**

#452 Here I Am, Lord

Words: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981

Music: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981; harm. James Snyder, 1994

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### **Musical Offering**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Words: James Weldon Johnson, 1921

Music: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921

© 1921 Edward B. Marks Music Co., renewed

### **Opening Hymn**

#461 Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service (vs. 1 & 3)

Words: Albert F. Bayly, 1961, alt.

Music: Attr. B. F. White, 1844; harm. Ronald A. Nelson, 1978

Words © 1961 Oxford University Press, Inc.; harm. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress

### **Hymn of Praise**

#683 O for a World (vs. 1, 3, 5)

Words: Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

Music: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

Words © 1990 Medical Mission Sisters

### **Closing Hymn**

#453 Called as Partners in Christ's Service (vs. 1 & 4)

Words: Jane Parker Huber, 1981

Music: John Zundel, 1870

Words © 1981 Jane Parker Huber

### **Postlude** (All welcome to sing twice through)

#677 Let There Be Peace on Earth

Words: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, 1955

Music: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, 1955; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1987

© 1955, renewed 1983, Jan-Lee Music

**Prelude** (All welcome to sing)

#452 Here I Am, Lord

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky  
I have heard my people cry  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
My hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night  
I will make their darkness bright  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

[Refrain]

Here I am, Lord  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night  
I will go, Lord  
If You lead me  
I will hold Your people in my heart

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain  
I have borne my people's pain  
I have wept for love of them  
they turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone  
give them hearts for love alone  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send? [Refrain]

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame  
I will tend the poor and lame  
I will set a feast for them  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied  
I will give my life to them  
Whom shall I send? [Refrain]

## **Opening Hymn**

### **#461 Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service (vs. 1 & 3)**

1 Lord, whose love in humble service  
bore the weight of human need,  
who upon the cross, forsaken,  
worked your mercy's perfect deed:  
we, your servants, bring the worship  
not of voice alone, but heart;  
consecrating to your purpose  
ev'ry gift which you impart.

3 As we worship, grant us vision,  
till your love's revealing light  
in its height and depth and greatness  
dawns upon our quickened sight,  
making known the needs and burdens  
your compassion bids us bear,  
stirring us to ardent service,  
your abundant life to share.

## **Hymn of Praise**

### **#683 O for a World (vs. 1, 3, 5)**

1. O for a world where everyone respects  
each other's ways, where love is lived and  
all is done with justice and with praise.

3. We welcome one world family and  
struggle with each choice that opens us to  
unity and gives our vision voice.

5. O for a world preparing for God's glorious  
reign of peace, where time and tears will  
be no more, and all but love will cease.

## **Closing Hymn**

### **#453 Called as Partners in Christ's Service (vs. 1 & 4)**

Words: Jane Parker Huber, 1981

Music: John Zundel, 1870

Words © 1981 Jane Parker Huber

1. Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,  
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,  
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

4. So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life  
that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.  
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,  
messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

**Postlude** (All welcome to sing twice through)

### **#677 Let There Be Peace on Earth**

Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me  
Let There Be Peace on Earth  
The peace that was meant to be  
With God as our Father  
Brothers all are we  
Let me walk with my brother  
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me  
Let this be the moment now.  
With ev'ry step I take  
Let this be my solemn vow  
To take each moment and live  
Each moment in peace eternally  
Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me.