



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

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)

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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.