



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL

An Open and Affirming Church

February 6, 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 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.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OUTREACH MEETING Monday February 7 7:30 PM

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE February 28th, 2022 1:00PM-6:00PM FCCB
Sign up online at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>

Save the Dates! Do You Know Jonah? Thursday eves March 3,10,17,31 7:00PM.
(please note no study on March 24) How in the world can you make a full study out of the Book of Jonah??? Watch us! Please join Rev. Suzanne for a four week Bible study on the Book of Jonah on Zoom

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: Claudia Anderson

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)

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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SUNDAY ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please stand either in body or spirit.*

PRELUDE

Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)

Crocker, Houston & Lightelm

Call to Worship

L: It is by grace that we are who we are:

P: people who are called by Jesus, yet fearful to follow.

L: It is by God's grace that we can become followers:

P: people who are fearful, yet gifted with courage beyond wonder.

L: It is with God's grace that we become who we might be:

P: people who step out in faith, sharing the good news generously.

All: Let us all worship together now with Grace!

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 #561

It Is Well with My Soul

v. 1, 2 & 4

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Unison Prayer of Reconciliation

God of wonder and joy, you call us to different lives, so we might make a difference for all who hurt. You invite us into your kingdom, so we might show the others the way. You challenge us to take a risk by following Jesus Christ, so we might become your children once again. Help us, hear us, and heal us.

Silence is observed

Assurance of Pardon

L: The One who alone is Holy became wholly human so we might see the face of grace. This is our good news: we are forgiven!

P: **By God's grace, we are who we are meant to be: forgiven, restored, called people. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

A CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

**THE GOSPEL
SERMON**

Luke 5:1-11
Going Deep

Rev. Suzanne Wagner

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

God calls us from complacency and into a life of discipleship. God reminds us that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Let us now open our hearts and give back to God the first fruits of our labor for the ministries at hand.

Musical Offering #620 *The Lord Will Make a Way Somehow* v. 1-3

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

God who alone is holy, we offer our gifts, our lives, our compassion, our service to others, and to your creation. Bless all that we offer, so that we might be blessings of hope, peace, and grace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

***COMMUNION HYMN #425** *Let Us Break Bread Together* v.1-3

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 #543**

Blessed Assurance

v. 1-3

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE #628

Precious Lord, Take My Hand (all welcome to sing)

v. 1-3

Attributions

Liturgy adapted from Lectionary Liturgies, Thom Schuman.

Prelude

"Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)" Crocker, Houston & Lightelm
Words and Music by Matt Crocker, Joel Houston & Salomon Lightelm
©2012 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia
Hillsong Music Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Opening Hymn

#561 It Is Well with My Soul (vs. 1, 2 & 4)
Words: Horatio G. Spafford, 1873
Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1876

Hymn of Praise

#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

Musical Offering (all welcome to sing)

#620 The Lord Will Make a Way Somehow
Words and Music: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1943
© 1943 Unichappell Music Inc.

Communion Hymn

#425 Let Us Break Bread Together
Words: African-American spiritual
Music: African-American spiritual; arr. Carlton R. Young, 1964, alt.
Arr. © 1965 The United Methodist Publishing House

Closing Hymn

#543 Blessed Assurance
Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1873
Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873

Postlude (all welcome to sing)

#628 Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Words and Music: Thomas A Dorsey, 1932
© 1938 Unichappell Music Inc.

Opening Hymn

#561 It Is Well with My Soul (vs. 1, 2 & 4)

1 When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

[Refrain]:

It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul);
it is well, it is well with my soul.

2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control:
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul. [Refrain]

4 O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;
even so, it is well with my soul. [Refrain]

Hymn of Praise

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

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}

Musical Offering (all welcome to sing)

#620 The Lord Will Make a Way Somehow

1 Like a ship that's toss'd and driven, battered by an angry sea
When the storms of life are raging, and their fury falls on me
I wonder what I have done, that makes this race so hard to run
Then I say to my soul, "Take courage, the Lord will make a way somehow."

[Refrain]:

The Lord will make a way somehow when beneath the cross I bow
He will take away each sorrow; let Him have your burdens now
When the load bears down so heavy the weight is shown upon my brow
There's a sweet relief in knowing , oh, the Lord will make a way somehow.

2 Try to do my best in service, try to live the best I can
When I choose to do the right thing evil's present on every hand
I look up and wonder why that good fortune pass me by
Then I say to my soul, "Be patient, the Lord will make a way somehow." [Refrain]

3 Often there's misunderstanding out of all the good I do
Go to friends for consolation, and I find them complaining, too
So many nights I toss in pain, wondering what the day will bring
But I say to my heart, "Don't worry, the Lord will make a way somehow." [Refrain]

Communion Hymn

#425 Let Us Break Bread Together

1 Let us break bread together on our knees.
Let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees)

[Refrain]:

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me. (on me)

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees.
Let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees) [Refrain]

3 Let us praise God together on our knees.
Let us praise God together on our knees. (on our knees) [Refrain]

Closing Hymn

#543 Blessed Assurance

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

[Refrain]:

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect communion, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight.
Angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [Refrain]

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest.
I in my Savior am happy and bless'd,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. [Refrain]

Postlude (all welcome to sing)

#628 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

1 Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

2 When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

3 When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.