



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL

An Open and Affirming Church

February 13th, 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 February 14th, 2022 7:15 PM on Zoom
CABINET DISCUSSION February 13st, 2022 after morning service and on Zoom

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 & 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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SUNDAY ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please stand either in body or spirit.*

PRELUDE #623 *Woke Up This Morning* (all are welcome to sing) v. 1–3

Call to Worship

L: O God, you are righteous

P: Transform us by your Word!

L: Your judgments are upright

P: Transform us by your Word!

L: Your precepts are unforgettable

P: Transform us by your Word!

L: Give us understanding and we will live

All: Re-form us, reconcile us, transform us by your Word!

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 #280** *God Is Here!* v. 1 & 2

Unison Prayer of Reconciliation

You asked for my hands, that you might use them for your purpose.

You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice.

You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty.

You asked for my life, that you might work through me.

Forgive us, renew us, and send us out as usable instruments in this world.

Amen

Silence is Kept

Assurance of Pardon

Our hands, our mouths, our eyes, our lives have been healed. Be at peace, you are forgiven and free!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

***HYMN OF PRAISE #527** *More Love to Thee, O Christ* v. 1 & 4

SCRIPTURE *Hebrew Bible - Psalm 119:33-40*

GOSPEL READING *Matthew 5:38-48*

SERMON *Have You the Strength to Love*?* Rev. Suzanne Wagner

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor's Reflection of Our Joys and Concerns

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

All good things come from God, the giver of life. We are called as stewards of God's gifts to share in fulfillment of God's purposes for creation. As stewards of the kingdom of God, let us give from our abundance with thanksgiving.

Musical Offering *Teach Me, O Lord (Psalm 119: 33-40)* Dana Mancuso

Unison Prayer of Dedication

You have given to us and now we give back to you loving God. Accept from our hearts, the gifts that we have to offer. Bless and consecrate them for good. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN #494** *They'll Know We Are Christians* v. 1-4

Benediction

***POSTLUDE** *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* Omer Westendorf

Attributions:

*sermon title based on the book by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's 'Strength to Love'

Life in Liturgy.wordpress.com

Worship Resource Blog.wordpress.com

re:Worship.blogspot.com

Prelude (all welcome to sing)

#623 Woke Up This Morning (vs. 1-3)

Words and Music: African-American spiritual

Opening Hymn

#280 God Is Here! (vs. 1 & 2)

Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1978

Music: Cyril V. Taylor, 1941

Words © 1979 Hope Publishing Co.; music © 1942, renewed 1970, Hope Publishing Co.

Hymn of Praise

#527 More Love to Thee, O Christ (vs. 1 & 4)

Words: Elizabeth P. Prentiss, 1869

Music: William H. Doane, 1870

Musical Offering

Teach Me, O Lord (Psalm 119: 33-40)

Words and Music: Dana Mancuso

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Closing Hymn

#494 They'll Know We Are Christians (vs. 1-4)

Words and Music: Peter Scholtes, 1966

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Postlude

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1964

Music: ASH GROVE; trad. Welsh melody; keyboard acc. by Randall DeBruyn

© 1964 World Library Publications, Inc.

Prelude (all welcome to sing)

#623 Woke Up This Morning (vs. 1–3)

1 Oh, I woke up this morning
with my mind (and it was) stayed on Jesus.
Woke up this morning
with my mind (and it was) stayed on Jesus,
woke up this morning
with my mind (and it was) stayed on Jesus
Hallelu (Hallelu)
Hallelu (Hallelu)
Hallelujah.

2 Can't hate your neighbor
in your mind (if you keep it) stayed on Jesus.
Can't hate your neighbor
in your mind (if you keep it) stayed on Jesus,
can't hate your neighbor
in your mind (if you keep it) stayed on Jesus,
Hallelu (Hallelu)
Hallelu (Hallelu)
Hallelujah.

3 Makes you love ev'rybody
with your mind (when you keep it) stayed on Jesus.
Makes you love ev'rybody
with your mind (when you keep it) stayed on Jesus,
makes you love ev'rybody
with your mind (when you keep it) stayed on Jesus,
Hallelu (Hallelu)
Hallelu (Hallelu)
Hallelujah.

Opening Hymn

#280 God Is Here! (vs. 1 & 2)

1 God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

2 Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, fount, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

Hymn of Praise

#527 More Love to Thee, O Christ (vs. 1 & 4)

1 More love to thee, O Christ,
more love to thee!
Hear thou the prayer I make
on bended knee;
this is my earnest plea,
more love, O Christ, to thee,
more love to thee,
more love to thee.

4 Then shall my latest breath
whisper thy praise;
this be the parting cry
my heart shall raise;
this still its pray'r shall be,
more love, O Christ, to thee;
more love to thee,
more love to thee.

Closing Hymn

#494 They'll Know We Are Christians (vs. 1–4)

1 We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

[Refrain]:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

2 We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;

And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. [Refrain]

3 We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride. [Refrain]

4 All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son;
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one.