



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL

An Open and Affirming Church

February 27th, 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

February 28th, 2022

7:15 PM on Zoom

Ashes to Go! Along with St. Thomas, we will be offering Ashes to Go on Ash Wednesday, March 2 from 7-9 and 11:30-1:00. If you are so moved please stop by to receive your ashes. We will be in front of Molten Java on Greenwood Avenue.

Concert! March 12 at 2:30 pm

Featuring Dana Mancuso and Jason Norton

Dana will offer contemporary folk and praise.

Jason will feature works of Beethoven and Debussy

All are invited to attend this collaborative effort between First Congregational Bethel and Danbury.

Free! Seating in the large sanctuary, masks required.

Save the Dates! Do You Know Jonah? Thursday eves March 3,10,17,31 7:00PM (please note no study on March 24) Using the Viva Series we will think more deeply on themes that appear in the Book: Trouble, Time Out, Trabajo, Temper Tantrum. We hope you'll join us. The weekly study will last for one hour and be offered via Zoom. All you need is a Bible! **Please register and you will be sent the Zoom link.** Registration is open throughout the study, but you only have to one time. As a follow up Rev. Suzanne will be preaching on Jonah for four Sundays in Lent. Click to register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtcOCqgToqHNZYsNsDC4qi4-k1DZDU47Gb>

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
Transfiguration Sunday

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please stand either in body or spirit.*

PRELUDE *This Little Light of Mine*(all welcome to join) African-American spiritual

Call to Worship

L: We who have come to follow Jesus hear his voice, calling us to be apart for a little while.

P: We will listen and follow, and open ourselves to new visions.

L: The one who leads us will reveal to us who he is.

P: May our hearts be open to God's bright glory, shining in the face of Christ the Son!

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 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 #293**

Out of Need and Out of Custom

v. 1 & 3

LITANY FOR COMMISSIONING A PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Unison Prayer of Reconciliation

Most gracious God, please persist with your mission of saving us all. By your grace, banish our darkness and enlighten us today. Do not allow us to linger in the gloom of guilt or self pity. Make us bold to move out to where the shadows are fewer. Please give us more of the light of Christ that our lives may declare your praise. In Christ's name we pray. Amen!

Silence is Kept

Assurance of Pardon

My friends, permit God's mercy to transfigure your lives. Be no longer ruled by doubt and worry but by light and love. Walk as children of the light whose ultimate glory is assured. Amen!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

***HYMN OF PRAISE #182**

Transform Us

v. 1-3

**SCRIPTURE
SERMON**

Luke 9: 28-36
Transformations

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.

Musical Offering

How Great Thou Art

Swedish folk melody

Unison Prayer of Dedication

In these gifts, O God, we acclaim you as our Lord. May they be useful to you in bringing your kingdom into full flower through the ministries of your church, we pray in Christ's name.

***CLOSING HYMN #517**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Charles Wesley

Benediction

***POSTLUDE #442** *We Are Walking*(all welcome to sing) South Africa (20th century)

Attributions:

Shalom Mennonite Church, Newton, Kansas
Life in Liturgy.wordpress.com
re: Worship.blogspot.com

Prelude (all welcome to join)

This Little Light of Mine
Tune and Text: African-American spiritual
Public Domain

Opening Hymn (print out)

(#293) Out of Need and Out of Custom (vs. 1 & 3)
Words: Ken Medema, 1972
Tune: Nettleton (adapted)
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Hymn of Hymn of Praise

#182 Transform Us (vs. 1-3)
Words: Sylvia Dunstan, 1989
Music: Traditional French melody (17th century); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906
Words © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.

Musical Offering

How Great Thou Art
Words and Music: Stuart K. Hine, 1953, based on a Swedish folk melody
and a poem by Carl Gustav Boberg, 1885
© 1953, renewed 1981 Manna Music, Inc.

Closing Hymn

#517 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Words: Charles Wesley, 1743
Music: John Zundel, 1870

Postlude (all welcome to sing)

#442 We Are Walking
Words and Music: South Africa (20th century)
© 1984 Utryck; used by permission of Walton Music Corp.

Prelude (all welcome to join)

This Little Light of Mine

Tune and Text: African-American spiritual

Public Domain

This little light of mine*, I'm gonna let it shine!

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Additional stanzas:

2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine!...

3 All in my house, I'm gonna let it shine!...

4 Not gonna cover it up, I'm gonna let it shine!...

Opening Hymn

(#293) Out of Need and Out of Custom (vs. 1 & 3)

Words: Ken Medema, 1972

Tune: Nettleton (adapted)

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1 Out of need and out of custom, we have gathered here again;
to the gathering we are bringing love and laughter, grief and pain.
Some believing, some rejoicing, some afraid, and some in doubt,
come we now our questions voicing, we would search these matters out.

3 We have heard the glowing stories of the things that God has done,
of the power and the glory, of God's love in Christ the Son.
God of human transformation, for your presence now we pray,
lead us ever on the journey as we gather here today.

Hymn of Praise

#182 Transform Us (vs. 1-3)

Words: Sylvia Dunstan, 1989

Music: Traditional French melody (17th century); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Words © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.

1 Transform us as you, transfigured,
Stood apart on Tabor's height.
Lead us up our sacred mountains,
Search us with revealing light.
Lift us from where we have fallen,
Full of questions, filled with fright.

2 Transform us as you, transfigured,
Once spoke with those holy ones.
We, surrounded by the witness
Of those saints whose work is done,
Live in this world as your Body,
Live in this world as your Body,
Chosen daughters, chosen sons.

3 Transform us as you, transfigured,
Would not stay within a shrine.
Keep us from our great temptation
Time and truth we quickly bind.
Lead us down those daily pathways
Where our love is not confined.

Musical Offering

How Great Thou Art

Words and Music: Stuart K. Hine, 1953, based on a Swedish folk melody
and a poem by Carl Gustav Boberg, 1885

© 1953, renewed 1981 Manna Music, Inc.

Closing Hymn

#517 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Words: Charles Wesley, 1743

Music: John Zundel, 1870

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation;
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

4 Finish, then, thy new creation;
true and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,

till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

Postlude (all welcome to sing)

#442 We Are Walking

Words and Music: South Africa (20th century)

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We are *walking** in the light of God
we are *walking* in the light of God
We are *walking* in the light of God
we are *walking* in the light of God
We are *walking, walking,*
we are *walking* Ooo
we are *walking* in the light of God
We are *walking, walking,*
we are *walking* Ooo
we are *walking* in the light of God

*marching/singing/dancing/praying