



JONAH

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL

An Open and Affirming Church

March 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 March 7 7:30 PM on Zoom

DRIVE-BY ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER Saturday March 12th, 2022 4:30-6:30 PM \$20.00 per serving. (Payment due by March 10th, 2022) Advanced orders, please!

Save the Dates! Do You Know Jonah? Thursday eves March 10,17,31 7:00PM. (please note no study on March 24) 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: Marcia Merritt

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
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please stand either in body or spirit.*

PRELUDE

How Great Is Our God

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Put away your hesitation to come before God.

People: God is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?

Leader: Look to the heavens for inspiration and assurance; for God's presence is everywhere.

People: God is the stronghold of our lives; of whom shall we be afraid?

All: Teach us your ways, O God, and lead us on a level path.

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 #25**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

v. 1, 3 & 5

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Call to Reconciliation

One: When we offer God our confession, we join the beautiful work of reconciliation,

All: Trusting in grace, we open our hearts to the fullness of our lives, that which is good and beautiful, and that which is hurtful and harmful.

One: Forgive us, we pray and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service.

A moment of Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting,–
All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

BIBLE PRESENTATION

We rejoice in this step in your journey with God and in your ever growing faith. We pray God will guide you, your family, and us as you use this Holy Bible in your home, in your church school classes, and in our worship. We will learn together and grow in our love for God's Word. The Word of God is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path. Thanks be to God!

***HYMN OF PRAISE #70**

God of the Sparrow God of the Whale

v. 1 - 3

A Reading from the Prophet Jonah *Jonah 1*

SERMON

You Can Run but You Can't Hide

Rev. Suzanne Wagner

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

Recognizing that we all give in the ways possible for us at the time, we take this opportunity now to consecrate them to a greater purpose. Let us hear our musical offering as our gift of love.

Musical Offering #247

Wind upon the Waters

Unison Prayer of Dedication:

In the confidence that you will multiply our best efforts, we dedicate our offerings for the work of your church in the world. It is a joy to present our sacrifices, for we are as blessed in our giving as we have been in receiving abundant goodness from your hand. Amen.

COMMUNION LITURGY

Invitation

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

***COMMUNION HYMN #393**

One Bread, One Body

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 #715**

Now Thank We All Our God

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE #371

Wade in the Water(all welcome to sing)

v. 1-3

Attribution

Prelude How Great Is Our God

Text: Ed Cash, Chris Tomlin, and Jesse Reeves

Music: Ed Cash, Chris Tomlin, and Jesse Reeves

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Opening Hymn #25 Praise to the Lord the Almighty

Words: Joachin Neander, Tran Catherine Winkworth

Music: LOBE DEN HERREN

Hymn of Praise #70 *God of the Sparrow God of the Whale*

Words: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983

Music: Carl F. Schalk, 1983

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Musical Offering #247 Wind upon the Waters

Words and Music: Marty Haugen, 1986

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Communion Hymn #393 One Bread, One Body

Words: Sylvanis Dryden Phelps 1862

Music: Robert Lowry 1871

Closing Hymn #715 Now Thank We All Our God

Words: Martin Rinkart, 1636; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, a;t.

Music: Johann Cruger, 1647; harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

Postlude #371 Wade in the Water

Words: African-American spiritual

Music: African-American spiritual; harm. Willa A. Townsend

Opening Hymn

#25 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (vs. 1, 3 & 5)

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation.
O my soul, worship the wellspring of health and salvation.
All ye who hear,
now to God's temple draw near.
Join me in in glad adoration.

3 Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work, and defend thee.
Surely God's goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew
what the Almighty can do,
who with great love doth befriend thee.

5 Praise to the Lord! O let all of God's peoples and races,
all that hath life and breath, give thanks for manifold graces.
Let the Amen
sound from God's people again.
Gladly for ever sing praises.

Hymn of Praise

#70 God of the Sparrow God of the Whale (vs. 1 - 3)

Words: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983

Music: Carl F. Schalk, 1983

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1. God of the sparrow
God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise

2. God of the earthquake
God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save

3. God of the rainbow
God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks

Musical Offering

#247 Wind upon the Waters

Words and Music: Marty Haugen, 1986

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Communion Hymn

#393 One Bread, One Body

Refrain:

One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

1 Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man no more.

Refrain

Closing Hymn

#715 Now Thank We All Our God

Words: Martin Rinkart, 1636; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, a;t.

Music: Johann Cruger, 1647; harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

1 Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2 O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
to keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
of this world in the next.

3 All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now,

and shall be evermore.

POSTLUDE

#371 Wade in the Water

Words: African-American spiritual

Music: African-American spiritual; harm. Willa A. Townsend

[Refrain]:

**Wade in the water,
wade in the water, children,
wade in the water.
God's a-going to trouble the water.**

[V1]

See that host all dressed in white,
God's a-going to trouble the water.
The leader looks like the Israelite.
God's a-going to trouble the water. [Refrain]

[V2]

See that band all dressed in red,
God's a-going to trouble the water.
Looks like the band that Moses led.
God's a-going to trouble the water. [Refrain]

[V3]

If you don't believe I've been redeemed,
God's a-going to trouble the water.
Just follow me down to Jordan's stream.
God's a-going to trouble the water. [Refrain]