



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL

An Open and Affirming Church

April 3rd, 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.

Drive-by Palm Pick up

Saturday, April 9 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM we will be handing out palms for Palm Sunday in front of the church.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OUTREACH MEETING Monday April 4th 7:30 PM 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
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please stand either in body or spirit.*

PRELUDE #284

Gather Us In

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: We come to this place because we want to know God,

People: who helps us set aside the past, to walk the path to new life.

Leader: We come in these moments because we want to know Jesus,

People: who anoints us with the resurrection, who shares our lives with us.

Leader: We come with these people because we want to know the Spirit,

People: who shapes us for life with God, so we may praise God forever!

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 #464**

God of Grace and God of Glory

vs. 1 & 4

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Call to Reconciliation

One: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us, to be our advocate, and to bring us to eternal life.

Many: Let us confess in sincerity and faith, and firmly resolve to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

A moment of Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon:

Hear the good news, people of God! In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Let us go forward in grace and peace.

***HYMN OF PRAISE #23**

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

vs. 1 & 2

Scripture: Jonah 4

Sermon: Jonah, the ~~Porter~~ Prophet

Rev. Suzanne Wagner

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

As God has seen our need and provided for us all things for us, let us look at the world in need around us; in Jesus we have all that is needed to meet it with life, hope, and wholeness.

Musical Offering #455

You Have Called Me

Unison Prayer of Dedication

May these gifts indeed give light to those in darkness, hope to those in despair, and justice to the oppressed, as we bring them to you as an act of sharing your love with the world. Here the proud are brought low, and the poor and broken lifted up. May it be so in your entire kingdom, we pray, as we dedicate ourselves to you. Amen.

COMMUNION LITURGY

Invitation

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

***COMMUNION HYMN #429**

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

vs. 4

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 Spirit, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

***CLOSING HYMN #432**

O Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life

vs. 1–2

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE #49

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

Attributions:

Prelude

(#284) Gather Us In

Words and Music: Marty Haugen, 1981

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Opening Hymn

#464 God of Grace and God of Glory (vs. 1 & 4)

Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930

Music: John Hughes, 1907

Hymn of Praise

#23 Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven (vs. 1 & 2)

Words: Henry F. Lyte, 1834; adapt. Ecumenical Women's Center and Ruth Duck, 1974

Music: John Gross, 1869

Communion Hymn

#429 You Satisfy the Hungry Heart (vs. 4)

Words: OMer Westendorf, 1976

Music: Robert E. Kreuz, 1976

© 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia ~~Communion Hymn~~

Musical Offering

(#455) You Have Called Me

Words: David L. Edwards, 1983

Music: David L. Edwards, 1983; arr. Darrell R. Faires, Sr., 1994

© David L. Edwards, 1983; arr. © 1995 Shalom Publications

Postlude (all welcome to sing)

#49 From All That Dwell Below the Skies

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Prelude

(#284) Gather Us In

Words and Music: Marty Haugen, 1981

© 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.

Opening Hymn

#464 God of Grace and God of Glory (vs. 1 & 4)

Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930

Music: John Hughes, 1907

1 God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

4 Set our feet on lofty places;
fill our lives that we may be
strengthened with all Christ-like graces
pledges to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we fail our call from thee,
lest we fail our call from thee.

Hymn of Praise

#23 Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven (vs. 1 & 2)

Words: Henry F. Lyte, 1834; adapt. Ecumenical Women's Center and Ruth Duck, 1974

Music: John Gross, 1869

1 Praise, my soul, the God of heaven;
glad of heart your carols raise;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who, like me, should sing God's praise?
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the Maker all our days.

2 Praise to God for grace and favor
shown to all who are oppressed.
God shows steadfast love forever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless:

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glorious is God's faithfulness!

Communion Hymn

#429 You Satisfy the Hungry Heart (vs. 4)

Words: OMer Westendorf, 1976

Music: Robert E. Kreutz, 1976

© 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Refrain:

You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat;
Come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.

4 You give yourself to us, O Lord;
then selfless let us be,
to serve each other in your name
in truth and charity. *[Refrain]*

Musical Offering

(#455) You Have Called Me

Words: David L. Edwards, 1983

Music: David L. Edwards, 1983; arr. Darrell R. Faires, Sr., 1994

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Closing Hymn

#432 O Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life (vs. 1–2)

Words: James L. Merrell, 1991

Music: Alexander R. Reinagle, 1836

Words © 1995 Chalice Press

1 O Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life,
be with us now, we pray;
direct our steps as we go forth
to do your will this day.

2 O faithful Guide, renew our trust
in love that does not fail;
and give us strength to work and pray,
that peace may soon prevail.

Postlude (all welcome to sing)

#49 From All That Dwell Below the Skies

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906