



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL**

*An Open and Affirming Church*

April 10th, 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.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Children K-8th are welcomed to leave following the Children's Message.

### **TRUSTEES'S MEETING**

April 11th, 2022

7:00 PM on Zoom

**PRAYER REQUESTS** --Please send request to the Prayer Request Email:

[PRAYER@firstchurchbethel.org](mailto:PRAYER@firstchurchbethel.org)

### **Update from the Search Committee:**

- The committee, which is comprised of, Mary O'Hare, Claudia Anderson, Pam Smith, Jim Welsh, Marcia Merritt and Dave Oskandy; have faithfully been meeting each week since the end of February
- Actions taken in reviewing and updating the Church Profile line by line/page by page to ensure all data and details are current and honest in showing who we are today
- The committee met with Rev Ciba this last Tuesday/April 5<sup>th</sup> to review UCC FT pastor guidelines, compensation, church demographics, needs and wants for the present and future for our church
- Current assessment is our hope to have the profile updated by end of May/early June to then seek to post out to the UCC world

### ***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

Readers: Marcia Merritt, Lois Oskandy, Mary O'Hare, Jim Welsh

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)

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL**  
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**April 10, 2022**

**SUNDAY ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**PALM SUNDAY**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*\*Please stand either in body or spirit.*

**BLESSING OF THE PALMS** *(Unison)*

**This is your holy day, O God. We give thanks for your steadfast love and for the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Be with us now as we follow faithfully the way of the cross. We thank you for these palm branches that promise to become for us symbols of martyrdom and majesty. Bless these palms so that this day may announce in our time that Christ has come and that Christ will come again. Hosanna, Loud Hosanna!**

**\*Hymn #192**

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

vs. 1-3

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION and LORD'S PRAYER:** *(Unison)*

**Loving God, whose gift of salvation in Jesus Christ is so often ridiculed, we are ready to offer our gathered branches to prepare the way today. Free us, we pray, to enter fully into the joy and gladness of this day for you have called us to carry good news to a waiting world. In the name of Jesus who did not hide his face but stood firm before death to save the world, we pray ... Our Father (*debts*) ... Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**READING OF THE PALMS FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE**

**Luke 19:28-40**

**MEDITATION**

*Palms, Precipice, and Passion*

Rev. Suzanne Wagner

## **A TIME FOR PRAYER**

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayer

The Pastoral Prayer

## **SHARING OUR GIFTS**

**Invitation:** Our gifts are many this day and we have now the gift to give to others. Let us be generous with our time, our talents and our treasure.

### **Unison Prayer of Dedication:**

**What you have done for us is marvelous in our eyes, gracious God. Your saving grace, your healing light, your personal sacrifice are far beyond our imagining! Receive, O God, our humble offerings and service. Amen.**

## **MUSIC FOR ILLUMINATION**

*As the Deer Longs*

vs. 1, 3 & 4

## **READING OF THE PASSION FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE**

**Scripture:** Luke 22:14-34

Taize **#569** *Jesus, Remember Me (all sing)*

Marcia Merritt

**Scripture:** Luke 22:35-55

Taize repeated

Lois Oskandy

**Scripture:** Luke 22:56–23:25

Taize repeated

Mary O'Hare

**Scripture:** Luke 23:26-56

Jim Welsh

## **\*CLOSING HYMN: #108**

*Lift High the Cross*

vs. 1—4

**Go in the silence of this great and holy space to contemplate the mystery of our faith.**

## **Attributions:**

### **Hymn**

#192 All Glory, Laud, and Honor (vs. 1—3)

Words: Theodulph of Orleans c. 821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1854, alt.

Music: Melchior Teschner, 1615; harm. William Henry Monk, 1861;

desc. O. I. Cricket Harrison, 1994

Desc. © 1995 Chalice Press

### **Music for Illumination**

As the Deer Longs (vs. 1, 3 & 4)

Text: Based on Psalm 42:2, 3, 8, 4; 43:3, 4; Bob Hurd, b. 1950.

Music: Bob Hurd; keyboard acc. by Craig S. Kingsbury, b. 1952.

Text and music © 1988, Bob Hurd. Published by OCP. All rights reserved

### **Taizé (All Sing)**

#569 Jesus, Remember Me

Words: Luke 23:42

Music: Jacques Berthier and the Community of Taizé, 1981

Music © 1981 Les Presses de Taizé; used by permission of GIA Publications, Inc.

### **Closing Hymn**

#108 Lift High the Cross (vs. 1—4)

Words: George William Kitchin and Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916, alt.

Music: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1916

© 1974 Hope Publishing Co.

## **Hymn**

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Desc. © 1995 Chalice Press

1 All glory, laud and honor  
to you, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring!  
You are a child of Israel,  
Great David's greater son;  
you ride in lowly triumph,  
Messiah, blessed one!

2 The company of angels  
are praising you on high,  
and we with all creation  
in chorus make reply.  
The people of the Hebrews  
with palms before you went;  
our praise and prayer and anthems  
before you we present.

3 To you before your passion  
they sang their hymns of praise;  
to you, now high exalted,  
our melody we raise.  
As you received their praises,  
now hear us as we pray.  
Since you delight in goodness,  
rule in our hearts today.

## **Music for Illumination**

As the Deer Longs (vs. 1, 3 & 4)

Text: Based on Psalm 42:2, 3, 8, 4; 43:3, 4; Bob Hurd, b. 1950.

Music: Bob Hurd; keyboard acc. by Craig S. Kingsbury, b. 1952.

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Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

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© 1974 Hope Publishing Co.

#### *Refrain:*

Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.  
The hosts of God in unity combine. (*Refrain*)

2 Each newborn servant of the Crucified  
bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died. (*Refrain*)

3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
your death has brought us life eternally. (*Refrain*)

4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
praise to the crucified for victory. (*Refrain*)