



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL

An Open and Affirming Church

April 17th, 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.

CABINET MEETING

Monday, April 18, 2022

7:00 PM ZOOM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

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: Jackie Pflieger, Jim Welsh, and Wade Anderson

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
EASTER SUNDAY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please stand either in body or spirit.*

PRELUDE #233

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

vs. 1&2

Easter Litany

Leader: When the tomb looms large before our eyes, remind us, Lord, who we are:

People: We are children of the resurrection; the place of death will not hold us.

Leader: We are the painters of the rainbows; the shadow of death will not daunt us.

People: We are the breakers of loaves and fishes; the taste of death will not defile us.

Leader: He is risen!

People: He is risen indeed!

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 #216**

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

vs. 1,3,4

Call to Reconciliation

On this day, as on every day, we know the ways in which we have denied God's presence in our lives, with the words, the actions, the harm we offer to others. Yet on this Easter, as on the first, God heals us, God fills us with grace, God calls us by name. Let us bring all we have done, so God might forgive us.

Silence is Kept

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: On this Easter, as on the first; on this day, as on every day; God turns to us, calls us by name, and plants forgiveness and hope in our lives.

People: Alleluia! This is the good news! Christ is our peace, the peace we need, the peace which will heal the world. Alleluia! Christ is Risen. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

***HYMN OF PRAISE #228** *The Day of Resurrection!* vs. 1 & 3

SCRIPTURE: **John 20:1-18**

SERMON: **An Easter Lens** Rev. Suzanne Wagner

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor's Reflection of Our Joys and Concerns

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

Our God is generous beyond our imagination and so let us give generously back to God with joy and delight. This morning's reflection will now be offered.

Musical Offering *Sing a New Song* vs.1-3

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. Amen

***CLOSING HYMN #218** *Thine is the Glory* vs.1-3

Benediction

Leader: As Christ bursts forth from the tomb, may new life burst forth from us and show itself in acts of love and healing to a hurting world.

People: And may the same Christ, who lives forever and is the sources of our new life, keep our hearts rejoicing and grant us peace this day and always.

All: And let all the people say, 'Amen'!

***POSTLUDE #234** *Crown Him with Many Crowns* vs.1,2 &4

Attributions:

Prelude (ALL WELCOME TO SING)

#233 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (vs. 1 & 2)

Words: William C. Dix, 1866, alt.

Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830

Opening Hymn

#216 Christ the Lord is Risen Today vs.1,3,4

Words: Charles Wesley, 1979, alt

Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708; desc. Charles H. Webb

Hymn of Praise

228 The Day of Resurrection! vs. 1&3

Words: John of Damascus (8th Century); tr. John Mason Neale, 1862, alt

Musical Offering - (ALL WELCOME TO SING)

Sing a New Song (vs. 1 - 3)

Text: Based on Psalm 98; Dan Schutte, b.1947

Music: Dan Schutte, b. 1947

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Closing Hymn

218 Thine is the Glory! vs. 1 – 3

Words: Edmond L Budry, 1904; tr. R Birch Hoyl, 1923

Music: George Fredrick Handel, 1746

Postlude (ALL WELCOME TO SING)

#234 Crown Him with Many Crowns (vs. 1, 2 & 4)

Words: Matthew Bridges, 1851, and Godfrey Thring, 1874

Music: George J. Elvey, 1868

Prelude (ALL WELCOME TO SING)
#233 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (vs. 1 & 2)
Words: William C. Dix, 1866, alt.
Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830

1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus,
risen now to reign in love.
Alleluia! Praise the Savior;
with the multitudes above.
There the songs of saints and martyrs
thunder like a mighty flood,
"Jesus out of every nation
has redeemed us by his blood."

2 Alleluia! not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now.
Alleluia! Christ is near us;
faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget the promise,
"I am with you evermore"?

Opening Hymn
#216 Christ the Lord is Risen Today vs. 1,3,4

1 Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
All creation join to say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

3 Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

4 Soar we now where Christ was led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hymn of Praise#228 The Day of Resurrection! vs. 1 & 3

Words: John of Damascus (8th Century); tr. John Mason Neale, 1862, alt

1. The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free,
Our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

3. Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth its song begin!
The world resound in triumph, and all that there is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend;
For Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.

Musical Offering - (ALL WELCOME TO SING)

Sing a New Song (vs. 1 - 3)

Text: Based on Psalm 98; Dan Schutte, b.1947

Music: Dan Schutte, b. 1947

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[Refrain]:

Sing a new song unto the Lord;
let your song be sung from mountains high.
Sing a new song unto the Lord,
singing alleluia.

1 Shout with gladness, dance for joy.
O come before the Lord.
And play for Him on glad tambourines,
and let your trumpet sound. *[Refrain]*

2 Rise, O children, from your sleep;
your Saviour now has come.
He has turned your sorrow to joy,
and filled your soul with song. *[Refrain]*

3 Glad my soul for I have seen
the glory of the Lord.
The trumpet sounds; the dead shall be raised.
I know my Saviour lives. *[Refrain]*

Closing Hymn #218 *Thine is the Glory!* vs. 1 – 3
Words: Edmond L Budry, 1904; tr. R Birch Hoyl, 1923
Music: George Fredrick Handel, 1746

1 Thine is the glory risen, conquering Son,
end-less is the victory thou o'er death has won.
Angles in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where the body lay.

[Refrain:]

Thine is the glory risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death has won.

2 Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for our Lord now liveth; death has lost its sting.

3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquers, through thy death-less love.
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

Postlude (ALL WELCOME TO SING)

#234 Crown Him with Many Crowns (vs. 1, 2 & 4)
Words: Matthew Bridges, 1851, and Godfrey Thring, 1874
Music: George J. Elvey, 1868

1 Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

2 Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save;
his glories now we sing who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

4 Crown him the Lord of love behold his hands and side,
those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

In Memory of:

Richard and Loretta Warner
George Wagner
Mary Knauf Judd
Pam Smith's descendants and her husband of 51 years, Charlie.
Robert W. Ferguson Jr
Harris W. Chapman Jr
David W. Chapman
Michael Gabriel Arce
Harold & Beverly Jones
Les & Margaret Nichols
Sandra Wildman
Jack W. Kessinger
Bernice Kessinger
Kerri, Heather, Richard, Charlie, Mark, Mark
Henry & Dorothy Huneke
Henry Huneke, Jr.
Jean and Herb Reininger
Margaret and Brooks Anderson
Jim Adams
Charles Emmons, Jr
Rosemarie Hendrix
Mary Lauglin
John and Hazel Sedor

In Thanksgiving for:

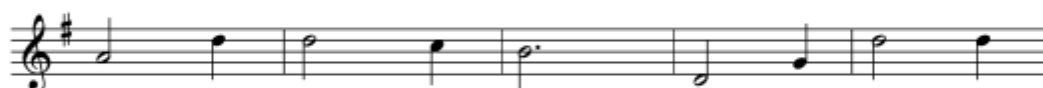
Beau, Skye, Autumn, Stevie, Stone
Casey
Jerry Esposito
Christopher and Alexander Arce
Kaylee, Jay, Pam, Shirley, Joan, Elena, Janet, Judy, Patti, Carole, Sandy, Nancy, Sheldon,
Kris, Bill, Larrie, David, Lois, Dave, Lois, Jim, Char, Claudia, Wade, Dana, Suzanne, Eric,
Lillian, Jill, Greig, Cindy, Jackie, Bruce, Jennifer, Kurt, Sharon, Mary, Joan, Al, Allan, Marilyn,
nieces, nephews, church family, First Congregational Church in Bethel

Sing a New Song

Refrain



Sing a new song un - to the Lord; let your song be



sung from moun - tains high. Sing a new song

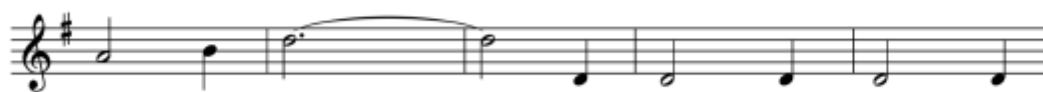


un - to the Lord, sing-ing al - le - lu - ia.

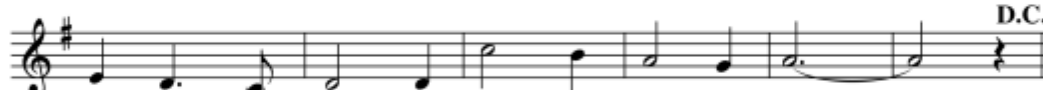
Verses



1. Shout with glad - ness! Dance for joy! O come be -
2. Rise, O chil - dren, from your sleep; your Sav - ior
3. Glad my soul for I have seen the glo - ry



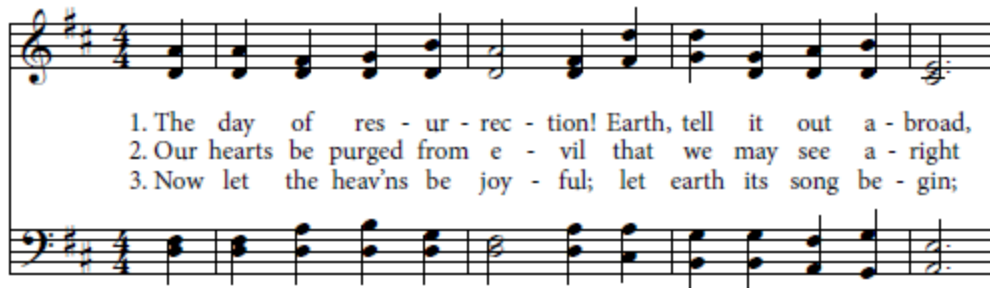
fore the Lord. And play for God on
now has come. † He has turned your
of the Lord. The trum - pet sounds; the



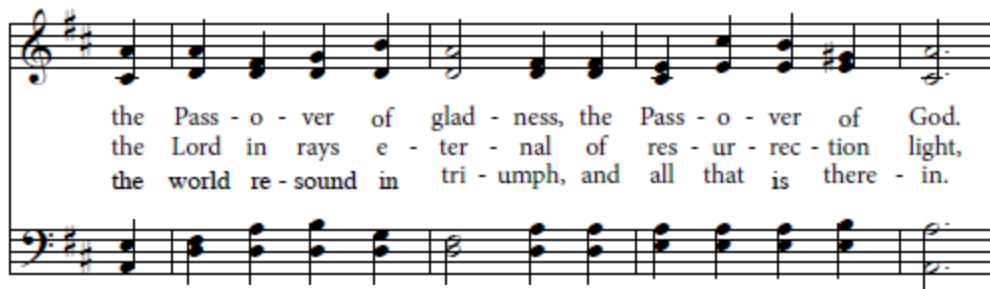
glad tam - bou - rines, and let your trum - pet sound.
sor - row to joy, and filled your soul with song.
dead shall be raised. I know my Sav - ior lives.

The Day of Resurrection!

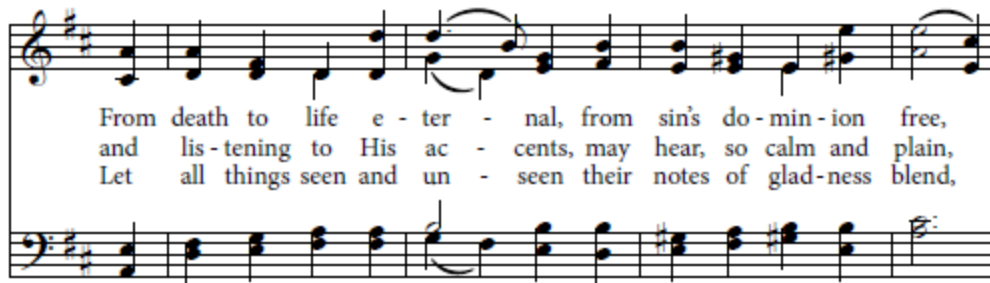
*Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up
through His power. 1 Corinthians 6:14*



1. The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
2. Our hearts be purged from e - vil that we may see a - right
3. Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful; let earth its song be - gin;



the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
the world re - sound in tri - umph, and all that is there - in.



From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
and lis - tening to His ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend,



our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
His own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.
for Christ the Lord is ris - en, our joy that has no end.