



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL

An Open and Affirming Church

April 24th, 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.

Join us May 7 for the Bethel Pride Celebration. We will gather at 12:30 at the Bethel Train Station for the parade. We will also have a table at the Municipal Center. Join us for the parade or stop by during the afternoon. We will be there from 12 to 5.

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please stand either in body or spirit.*

PRELUDE #293

Out of Need and Out of Custom

vs. 1 & 3

Call to Worship

One: Christ meets us at the tomb, and turns our tears to joy, for love and goodness is resurrected.

All: Thank you God of joy.

One: Christ comes through our locked doors, and turns our doubts fear to courage.

All: Thank you God of courage.

One: Christ is in our daily life and work, and turns our failure to new vision.

All: Thank you God of vision. Let us worship our God with thankfulness and praise.

OPENING HYMN #595

Be Thou My Vision

vs. 1 & 2

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.

Unison Prayer of Reconciliation

All: Redeeming God we know that we are not perfect. We try to live up to your ways and to walk in the paths that honor you. Forgive us, O God, and help us to love you more, and to follow your ways more faithfully. Call us back to your way of love, justice and peace. Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon:

Gentle Spirit, there is nothing that can separate us from your love. Restore us to each other and to you, and help us to follow your commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves. In the name of Christ, our Redeemer and Friend, we pray. Amen.

Gift Presentation to Suzanne

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

***HYMN OF PRAISE #534** *When Our Confidence Is Shaken* vs.1, 3, 4

SCRIPTURE: **John 20:19-31**

SERMON **Got Doubts?** Rev. Suzanne Wagner

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor's Reflection of Our Joys and Concerns

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

As it is written, "as each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace, that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ." Let us contemplate these words as we hear listen to our morning reflection.

Musical Offering *Eye Has Not Seen* Marty Haugen

Unison Prayer of Dedication

Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are, that we may praise you not with our words only, but with our whole lives. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN #543** *Blessed Assurance* vs. 1 & 3

BENEDICTION

***POSTLUDE #557** *Just A Closer Walk with Thee (All welcome to sing)*

Attributions:

Offertory adapted from **Life in Liturgy**. <https://lifeinliturgy.wordpress.com/>

Prelude

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

Words and Music: Ken Medema, 1972

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Opening Hymn

#595 Be Thou My Vision (vs. 1 & 2)

Words: Irish song (8th century); tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, alt.

Music: Traditional Irish melody; harm. Carlton R. Young, 1963

Harm. © 1964 The United Methodist Publishing House

Hymn of Praise

#534 When Our Confidence Is Shaken (1, 3, 4)

Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1971

Music: John Goss, 1869

Words © 1971 Hope Publishing Co.

Musical Offering

Eye Has Not Seen

Text: Refrain based on 1 Corinthians 2:9—10; Marty Haugen, b. 1950.

Music: Marty Haugen.

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Closing Hymn

#543 Blessed Assurance (vs. 1 & 3)

Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1873

Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873

Postlude (All welcome to sing)

#557 Just A Closer Walk with Thee

Words and Music: Anonymous

Prelude

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

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.

Opening Hymn

#595 Be Thou My Vision (vs. 1 & 2)

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my redeemer, my love thou hast won,
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Hymn of Praise

#534 When Our Confidence Is Shaken (1, 3, 4)

1 When our confidence is shaken
in beliefs we thought secure,
when the spirit in its sickness
seeks but cannot find a cure,
God is active in the tensions
of a faith not yet mature.

3 In the discipline of praying,
When it's hardest to believe;
In the drudgery of caring,
When it's not enough to grieve:
Faith maturing, learns acceptance
Of the insights we receive.

4 God is love; and He redeems us
In the Christ we crucify:
This is God's eternal answer
To the world's eternal why;
May we in this faith maturing
Be content to live and die.

Musical Offering

Eye Has Not Seen

Closing Hymn

#543 Blessed Assurance (vs. 1 & 3)

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest.
I in my Savior am happy and bless'd,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. [Refrain]

Postlude (All welcome to sing)

#557 Just A Closer Walk with Thee

Refrain:

Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

1 I am weak but Thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

2 Through this world of toil and snares,

If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.

3 When my feeble life is o'er,
Time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.