



## **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL**

*An Open and Affirming Church*

May 1st, 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. Sheldon Smith 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.

**Christian Education Meets Monday Evening 7:30 PM on Zoom**

**Bethel Pride parade is Saturday May 7**

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

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

***We thank our worship leaders for their participation in this morning's service:***

Rev. Sheldon Smith

Organist: Dana Mancuso

Deacon of the Day: Eric Hermansen

Video & Tech Support: Wade Anderson, Jim Welsh & Jackie Pflieger

### *Church Contact Information:*

Telephone: (203) 743-1877. Address: 46 Main Street, Bethel, CT 06801.

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

*An Open and Affirming Church*

**May 1, 2022**

## **SUNDAY ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*\*Please stand either in body or spirit*

### **PRELUDE #4**

*Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Sing praises to God. Give thanks to God's holy name.

**People: Praise God for the joyous gift of a new day; for healing and ever-present help.**

Leader: God has turned mourning into dancing.

**People: We are fortified with gladness and will thank 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 #6** *Sing Praise To God Who Reigns Above vs. 1&4*

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE**

#### **Call to Reconciliation**

One: God says, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves, and turn from their wicked ways,

**Many: I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and heal their land.**

Silence is kept

#### **Assurance of Pardon:**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE #558** *Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

vs. 1&3

**Scripture:**

**John 21:1-19**

**Sermon:**

**Fishing Like Jesus**

Rev. Sheldon Smith

## **SHARING OUR GIFTS**

### **Invitation**

God has chosen us as instruments of mission. We carry good news, in word and deed, of a God who loves all people. Our gifts are a response of thanks and a symbol of commitment for God's generosity.

**Musical Offering #342**

*Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*

vs. 1,2 & 4

### **Unison Prayer of Dedication**

**Holy God, thank you for making Jesus the Author of life, whom you raised from the dead. You still do marvelous miracles of forgiveness, bringing healing and new life in our midst. We know that these gifts don't come from our power or piety, but by your goodness. Let our offering contribute to the ongoing work of your servant Jesus, here and now. Amen.**

## **COMMUNION LITURGY**

### **Invitation**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**\*COMMUNION HYMN #420**

*I Come With Joy*

vs. 1&5

### **Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that the universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #337**

*Jesus Calls Us, O'er The Tumult*

vs. 1&5

## **\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE #620**

*The Lord Will Make a Way Somehow*

## Attributions:

**Prelude: #4** Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

Words: Reginald Heber, 1826, alt.

Music: John B. Dykes, 1861; desc. O. I. Cricket Harrison, 1994

Desc. © 1995 Chalice Press

**OPENING HYMN #6** *Sing Praise To God Who Reigns Above*

Words: Johann J Schultz 1675 Tr: Frances E Cox 1864

Music: Bohemian Bretheren's Kirchengange, 1566 Harm: Maurice F Bell 1906

**HYMN OF PRAISE #558** *Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

Words: Dorothy A. Thrupp (1836)

Music: William B Bradbury 1859

**Musical Offering #342** Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore (vs.1,2 & 4)

Words: Cesareo Gabaraín, 1979; tr. Gertrude C. Suppe, George Lockwood, and Raquel Gutiérrez-Achon, 1987

Music: Cesareo Gabaraín, 1979; harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1987

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**COMMUNION HYMN #420** *I Come With Joy*

Words: Brian Wren 1969, rev 1982, 1995

Music: Southern Harmony, 1835 Harm: Charles H Webb 1987

**CLOSING HYMN #337** *Jesus Calls Us, O'er The Tumult*

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1852)

Music: William H Jude 1874

**Postlude #620** The Lord Will Make a Way Somehow

Words and Music: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1943

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**OPENING HYMN #6** *Sing Praise To God Who Reigns Above vs. 1&4*

1 Sing praise to God who reigns above,  
the God of all creation,  
the God of power, the God of love,  
the God of our salvation.

With healing balm my soul is filled  
and every faithless murmur stilled:  
To God all praise and glory.

4 Let all who name Christ's holy name  
give God all praise and glory;  
let all who own his power proclaim  
aloud the wondrous story!

Cast each false idol from its throne,  
for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone:  
To God all praise and glory.

**HYMN OF PRAISE #558** *Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us vs. 1&3*

1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us,  
Much we need Thy tender care;  
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,  
For our use Thy folds prepare:  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

3 Early let us seek Thy favor,  
Early let us do Thy will;  
Blessed Lord and only Savior,  
With Thy love our bosoms fill:  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
Thou hast loved us, love us still;  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

**Musical Offering #342** Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore (vs.1,2 & 4)  
Words: Cesareo Gabaraín, 1979; tr. Gertrude C. Suppe, George Lockwood, and Raquel Gutiérrez-Achon, 1987

Music: Cesareo Gabaraín, 1979; harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1987

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1. Lord, you have come to the lakeshore  
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;  
you only asked me to follow humbly.

Refrain:

O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,  
and while smiling have spoken my name;  
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;  
by your side I will seek other seas.

2. You know so well my possessions;  
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;  
you will find there my nets and labor. {Refrain}

4. You, who have fished other oceans,  
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,  
my loving friend, as thus you call me. {Refrain}

**COMMUNION HYMN #420** *I Come With Joy* vs. 1&5

1 I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall,  
in love laid down for me.

5 Together met, together bound  
by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world  
the love that makes us one.

**CLOSING HYMN #337** *Jesus Calls Us, O'er The Tumult* vs. 1&5

1 Jesus calls us o'er the tumult  
of our life's wild, restless sea;  
day by day his voice invites me,  
saying "Christian, follow me!"

5 Jesus calls us! In your mercy,  
Savior, help us hear your call;  
give our hearts to your obedience,  
serve and love you best of all!

**Postlude #620** *The Lord Will Make a Way Somehow*  
Words and Music: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1943  
© 1943 Unichappell Music Inc.

1 Like a ship that's toss'd and driven, battered by an angry sea  
When the storms of life are raging, and their fury falls on me  
I wonder what I have done, that makes this race so hard to run  
Then I say to my soul, "Take courage, the Lord will make a way somehow."

[Refrain]:

The Lord will make a way somehow when beneath the cross I bow  
He will take away each sorrow; let Him have your burdens now  
When the load bears down so heavy the weight is shown upon my brow  
There's a sweet relief in knowing , oh, the Lord will make a way somehow.

2 Try to do my best in service, try to live the best I can  
When I choose to do the right thing evil's present on every hand  
I look up and wonder why that good fortune pass me by  
Then I say to my soul, "Be patient, the Lord will make a way somehow." [Refrain]

3 Often there's misunderstanding out of all the good I do  
Go to friends for consolation, and I find them complaining, too  
So many nights I toss in pain, wondering what the day will bring  
But I say to my heart, "Don't worry, the Lord will make a way somehow." [Refrain]