



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL

An Open and Affirming Church

May 15th, 2022

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SUNDAY ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please stand either in body or spirit*

PRELUDE #526

The Gift of Love

vs. 1-3

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Our ancestors in Bethel were hatters... making hats of every kind, shape, purpose, type that made their way around the world.

People: In Bethel, we are rooted in a historic trade that requires precision, skill, craftsmanship, and attention to detail. These are also gifts of our ministry at First Congregational Church.

Leader: We sense the history of this place. We are aware of the hats that built this church and the many hats we wear today as a congregation:

People: We still have many hats! We are lay people and ministers, deacons, treasurers, historians, ushers, Sunday School teachers, musicians, pledgers, Bethel Pride coordinators, committee members, and members of this church.

Leader: Our many hats of Bethel...

People: ...remind us of the love of God. No matter what hats we make or what hats we wear, we are called to love of God and one another. Amen.

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 #517**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

v. 1 & 3

Call to Reconciliation

One: Scripture in the Gospel of John says that God commands us to love one another as we are loved by God. This is the newest Commandment from Jesus Christ:

Many: We confess that we don't always express our love. We confess that we need forgiveness. We need reconciliation. We need healing. God, today we recommit ourselves to the greatest of all efforts—to build a more loving world in your Name. Amen.

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.

Children's Sermon: The Rev. Jake Joseph

***HYMN OF PRAISE #494 *They'll Know We Are Christians* vs. 1 & 2**

Scripture: John 13: 34-35 NRSV

Sermon: Milliners for Christ: The Church that Hats Built Rev. Jake Joseph

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 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

Unison Prayer of Dedication

May these gifts we share help us to share the good news. In this congregation, our forebearers made every kind of hat. Today, we all wear many hats in the congregation and the community. We pray that these gifts can help continue the work of our hatter ancestors in providing hope in this world and in Bethel. We pray this with joy and anticipation of your great and ongoing work, O God! Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

***CLOSING HYMN #2 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* vs. 1, 3 & 4**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE #529 *I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me (All Welcome to Sing)* vs. 1-3

Attributions

Prelude

#526 The Gift of Love

Words: Hal H. Hopson, 1972

Music: Traditional English melody; adapt. Hal H. Hopson, 1972

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Opening Hymn

#517 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (v. 1 & 3)

Words: Charles Wesley, 1743

Music: John Zundel, 1870

Hymn of Praise

#494 They'll Know We Are Christians (vs. 1 & 2)

Words and Music: Peter Scholtes, 1966

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Musical Offering

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1868

Tune: Irish Melody; harm. from *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Closing Hymn

#2 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (vs. 1, 3 & 4)

Words: Henry van Dyke, 1907, alt.

Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; arr. Edward Hodges, 1864;
desc. Susan Adams, 1995

Desc. © 1995 Chalice Hymnal

Postlude (all welcome to sing)

#529 I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me (vs. 1-3)

Words: African-American spiritual

Music: African-American spiritual; harm. Richard Smallwood

Harm. © 1977 Richwood Music

Prelude

#526 The Gift of Love

Words: Hal H. Hopson, 1972

Music: Traditional English melody; adapt. Hal H. Hopson, 1972

© 1972 Hope Publishing Co.

1 Though I may speak with bravest fire,
And have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain,
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

2 Though I may give all I possess,
And striving so my love profess,
But not be given by love within,
The profit soon turns strangely thin.

3 Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
By this we worship, and are freed.

Opening Hymn

#517 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (v. 1 & 3)

Words: Charles Wesley, 1743

Music: John Zundel, 1870

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation;
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

3 Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Hymn of Praise

#494 They'll Know We Are Christians (vs. 1 & 2)

Words and Music: Peter Scholtes, 1966

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1 We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

[Refrain]:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

2 We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. [Refrain]

Musical Offering

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1868

Tune: Irish Melody; harm. from *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Closing Hymn

#2 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (vs. 1, 3 & 4)

Words: Henry van Dyke, 1907, alt.

Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; arr. Edward Hodges, 1864;
desc. Susan Adams, 1995

Desc. © 1995 Chalice Hymnal

1 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive our fear and doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou the Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

4 Mortals, join the happy chorus;
stars of morning, take your part;
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
binding those of tender heart.
Ever singing, move we onward,
victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music lifts us sunward
in the triumph song of life.

Postlude (all welcome to sing)

#529 I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me (vs. 1-3)

Words: African-American spiritual

Music: African-American spiritual; harm. Richard Smallwood

Harm. © 1977 Richwood Music

1 I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me,
I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me,
I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.

2 Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.

3 When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.