



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL

An Open and Affirming Church

May 8th, 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. Jake Joseph 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 MEETING Monday May 9, 2022 7:00 PM on Zoom

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. Jake Joseph
Organist: Dana Mancuso
Deacon of the Day: Claudia Anderson
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)

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SUNDAY ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please stand either in body or spirit*

PRELUDE

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: We come to this place to celebrate relationship with God:

People: Parent and Creator of the universe.

Leader: We come to renew and restore our hope...

People: ...our love, our commitment, our family of faith.

Leader: We come on this Mother's Day to celebrate our Mother God,

People: to ask for forgiveness and to find wholeness in that Love.

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 #133**

like a child

vs. 1 & 3

Call to Reconciliation

One: God loves us like a parent loves a child. God loves us like children love parents. God loves us like a grandchild loves a grandparent.

Many: We confess that we don't always express our love. We confess that we need forgiveness. We need reconciliation. We need healing. God, may today to be the start of that lifelong process of seeking relationship with you and others.

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.

***HYMN OF PRAISE #79** *God Is My Shepherd*

vs. 1 & 5

Scripture: **Psalm 23**

Sermon: **Beth-El: Living in the House of God-** 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

Be Not Afraid

Bob Dufford

Unison Prayer of Dedication

May these gifts indeed give light to those in darkness, hope to those in despair, and justice to the oppressed, as we bring them to you as an act of sharing your love with the world. Here the proud are brought low, and the poor and broken lifted up. May it be so in your entire kingdom, we pray, as we dedicate ourselves to you. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 #77**

On Eagle's Wings

vs 1—3

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Hail, Holy Queen Enthroned Above

Attributions

Prelude

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1868

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

Opening Hymn

#133 like a child (vs. 1 & 3)

Words and Music: Dan Damon, 1992

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Hymn of Praise

#79 God Is My Shepherd (vs. 1 & 5)

Words: *Scottish Psalter*, 1650; adapt. Lavon Bayler, 1992

Music: J.L. Macbeth Bain, 1915; harm. Gordon Jacob, 1934,
adapt. Walter W. Felton, 1955

Musical Offering

Be Not Afraid

Writer: Bob Dufford

© 1975, 1978, Robert J. Dufford, SJ, and OCP Publications

Closing Hymn

#77 On Eagle's Wings (vs 1—3)

Words and Music: Michael Joncas, 1979

© 1979, 1991, New Dawn Music

Postlude

Hail, Holy Queen Enthroned Above

Writer: Contractus Hermannus

Latin, c. 1080; Tr. Roman Hymnal, 1884 Public Domain

Prelude

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Opening Hymn

#133 like a child (vs. 1 & 3)

1 like a child love would send
to reveal and to mend,
like a child and a friend,
Jesus comes
like a child we may find
claiming heart soul and mind,
like a child strong and kind,
Jesus comes

3 like a child born to pray
and to show us the way,
like a child here to stay,
Jesus comes
like a child we receive
all that love can conceive,
like a child we believe
Jesus comes

Hymn of Praise

#79 God Is My Shepherd (vs. 1 & 5)

1 God is my shepherd, I'll not want,
I feed in pastures green.
God grants me rest and bids me drink
from waters calm and clean.
Through daily tasks, I'm blessed and led
by one I have not one seen.

5 Goodness and mercy all my days
will surely follow me;
and where God reigns in heaven and earth,
my dwelling place will be.
My shepherd blesses, cares, and leads
through all eternity.

Musical Offering

Be Not Afraid

Closing Hymn

#77 On Eagle's Wings (vs 1—3)

1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in this shadow for life,
say to the Lord: "My refuge,
my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain:

"And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of my hand."

2 The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear:
under God's wings your refuge,
God's faithfulness your shield. [Refrain]

3 You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come. [Refrain]

Postlude

Hail, Holy Queen Enthroned Above