



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL

An Open and Affirming Church

June 5, 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 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 Recognition.

CHURCH PICNIC CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY JUNE 5TH.

Come and Celebrate! Bring a side dish or dessert for the picnic. *Show your support as we recognize the Sunday School teachers and youth leaders.

Giant Tag Sale June 18th 9:00AM-3:00PM

Save the Date Children's Summer Festival Aug. 6, 2022, 11 AM-2PM

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:

Organist: Dana Mancuso

Readers of the Day: Kurt Habeck and David Oskandy

Deacon of the Day: Marcia Merritt

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

Blest Are They

David Haas

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God of heaven and earth, we long to be truly free.

People: In this hour of worship, help us to grasp the freedom that comes from seeing you more clearly,

Leader: loving you more dearly, and following you more nearly.

All: Day by day, give us strength and courage to be your people in this time, in this place. 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 #575

Come and Find the Quiet Center

vs. 1 - 3

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Call to Reconciliation

All too often we look at the outside and forget the inside. We have made - and make - quick judgments. Forgive our shortsightedness. Open our hearts to our brothers and sisters whoever they may be. Give us new and clearer insight into ourselves and help us to open our hearts to our neighbors. And give us the presence to move and act as did our Lord Jesus when he was on earth. In the name of our living Lord we pray. Amen.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Recognition of Sunday School Teachers and Students

David Oskandy

***HYMN OF PRAISE #570**

Sweet Hour of Prayer!

vs. 1 & 3

Scripture Sermon

1 Samuel 2
How to Pray

Kurt Habeck

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

We sing our praises to the Lord, for God is good and worthy! We give our whole selves- our talents and material possessions - to the Church with the expectation that they be used to further God's dream for our world. Please commit yourself and give as you're able.

Musical Offering

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (Prayer of St. Francis)

Unison Prayer of Dedication

God of calm and content, we offer our humble gifts and the service of our lives in the hope that they will be pleasing to you. We pray that, with your blessing, they will produce a harvest of peace, healing, and love. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

***CLOSING HYMN #572**

Take Time to Be Holy

vs. 1 & 2

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE #592

Every Time I Feel the Spirit (all welcome to sing)

vs. 1-3

Attributions:

<https://network.crcna.org/disability-concerns/unison-prayer-confession>

https://ogdenpresbyterian.org/uploads/3/4/7/9/34797732/december_9_2018.pdf

Prelude

Blest Are They by David Haas

Text: David Haas, 1985

Music: David Haas, 1985; arr. David Haas and Michael Joncas, 1985

Text and Music © GIA Publications, Inc.

Opening Hymn

#575 Come and Find the Quiet Center (vs. 1 - 3)

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1989

Music: Traditional American melody; arr. Jack Schrader

Words and arr. 1992 Hope Publishing Co.

Hymn of Praise

#570 Sweet Hour of Prayer! (vs. 1 & 3)

Words: William Walford, 1845

Music: William B. Bradbury, 1861

Musical Offering

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (Prayer of St. Francis)

Text: Saint Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; Sebastian Temple, 1928-1997

Music: Sebastian Temple, 1928-1997

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Closing Hymn

#572 Take Time to Be Holy (vs. 1 & 2)

Words: W.D. Longstaff, 1882

Music: George C. Stebbins, 1890

Postlude (all welcome to sing)

#592 Every Time I Feel the Spirit (vs. 1-3)

Words: African-American Spiritual

Music: African-American Spiritual; adapt. and arr. William Farley Smith, 1986

Adapt. and arr. 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

Prelude

Blest Are They by David Haas

Text: David Haas, 1985

Music: David Haas, 1985; arr. David Haas and Michael Joncas, 1985

Text and Music © GIA Publications, Inc.

Opening Hymn

#575 Come and Find the Quiet Center (vs. 1 - 3)

1. Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead, find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed: clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see all the things that really matter, be at peace and simple be.

2. Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace, God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base, making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun, raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

3. In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain, let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain: there's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care, in the Spirit's lively scheming, there is always room to spare!

Hymn of Praise

#570 Sweet Hour of Prayer! (vs. 1 & 3)

1. Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! That calls me from a world of care, and bids me at my Father's throne make all my wants and wishes known. In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief, and oft escaped the tempter's snare by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

3. Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! Thy wings shall my petition bear to him whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless. And since he bids me seek his face, believe his word, and trust his grace, I'll cast on him my every care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Musical Offering

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (Prayer of St. Francis)

Text: Saint Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; Sebastian Temple, 1928-1997

Music: Sebastian Temple, 1928-1997

© 1976, OCP Publications

Closing Hymn

#572 Take Time to Be Holy (vs. 1 & 2)

1. Take time to be holy, speak oft with the Lord; abide in him always, and feed on his word. Make friends of God's children; help those who are weak; forgetting in nothing God's blessing to seek.
2. Take time to be holy, the world rushes on; spend much time in secret with Jesus alone. By looking at Jesus, like him that shalt be; thy friends in thy conduct his likeness shall see.

Postlude (all welcome to sing)

#592 Every Time I Feel the Spirit (vs. 1-3)

Every time I feel the Sprit moving in me heart, I will pray. Yes, every time I feel the Sprit moving in my heart, I will pray.

1. Upon the mountain, my Lord spoke, out his mouth came fire and smoke. All around me looks so fine, ask my Lord if all was mine.
2. Jordan River chilly and cold, chills the body, not the soul. Ain't but one train on this track, runs to heaven and right back
3. I have heartache, I have woe, I have trouble here below. While God leads me I'll not fear, I am sheltered by God's care.