



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL

An Open and Affirming Church

June 26, 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.

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:

Worship Leader: Marcia Merritt with readings from Rev. Sheldon Smith's sermon
Guest Musician: Nancy Wildman
Deacon of the Day: Marcia Merritt
Lay Leader: Pam Smith
Video & Tech Support: Wade Anderson, Eric Hermansen & 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

Kumbaya (Come By Here)

Marvin Frey

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The Lord has called you here this day.

P: Lord, reveal to us your purposes for us.

L: Open your hearts to receive God's good news.

P: Lord, make us ready to serve you.

L: Come, let us worship God!

P: Let us sing our praises to the Almighty One. AMEN.

Invocation and The Lord's Prayer (Unison)

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 #612**

O Jesus I Have Promised

vs. 1&4

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Call to Reconciliation

O God of shalom, we have built up walls to protect ourselves from our enemies, but those walls also shut us off from receiving your love. Break down those walls. Help us to see that the way to your heart is through the reconciliation of our own hearts with our enemies. Bless them and us, that we may come to grow in love for each other and for you, through Jesus Christ.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

To you the light of love and ministry has been revealed. Rejoice! You have been blessed by God to be witnesses; to proclaim God's love to all. Be at peace! Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Marcia Merritt

***HYMN OF PRAISE #643**

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

vs. 1&3

SCRIPTURE 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

SERMON "Sojourner" written by Rev. Sheldon Smith read by Marcia Merritt

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

One gives freely yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. (Proverbs 11:24)

Musical Offering

I Am the Light of the World

Jim Strathdee

Unison Prayer of Dedication

Lord Jesus Christ, thank you that you have plans for me that are for my good and your glory. You said, "Give, and it will be given to you; for in the same measure as you give, it will be given to you again." We give to you today as a response to your goodness to us. We ask that you receive our offerings and continue to supply all our needs. May your peace be in our hearts, your grace be in our words, your love be in our hands and your joy be in our souls. In your mighty name, Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

***CLOSING HYMN #344**

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

vs. 1&4

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Thank the Lord and Sing His Praise

Ronald A. Nelson

Attributions:

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/2346/classic-worship-connection-february-11-2018>

<https://christwin.com/calls-to-worship-prayers/>

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/2346/classic-worship-connection-february-11-2018>

<https://connectusfund.org/10-best-prayers-for-tithes-and-offerings>

Prelude

#590 Kumbaya (Come By Here)

Words and Music: Marvin Frey, 1938

Opening Hymn

612 O Jesus I Have Promised vs. 1&4

Words: John E. Bode, 1868

Music: Arthur H. Mann, 1881

Hymn of Praise

643 Swing Low, Sweet Chariot vs. 1&3

Words: African-American spiritual

Music: African-American spiritual; arr. Bill Thomas, 1994

Musical Offering

#469 I Am the Light of the World

Words: Jim Strathdee, 1969, in response to a Christmas poem by

Howard Thurman

Music: Jim Strathdee, 1969

Closing Hymn

344 I Have Decided to Follow Jesus vs. 1&4

Words: and Music; Anonymous

Postlude (all welcome to sing)

Thank the Lord and Sing His Praise

Ronald A. Nelson

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OPENING HYMN

612 O Jesus I Have Promised vs. 1&4

1 O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me,
my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.

4 O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be;
and Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
my master and my friend.

HYMN OF PRAISE

643 Swing Low, Sweet Chariot vs. 1&3

1 I looked over Jordan, and what did I see,
coming for to carry me home?
A band of angels coming after me,
coming for to carry me home. [Refrain]

[Refrain:]

Swing low, sweet chariot,
coming for to carry me home;
swing low, sweet chariot,
coming for to carry me home.

3 I'm sometimes up, I'm sometimes down,
coming for to carry me home;
but still my soul feels heavenly bound,
coming for to carry me home. [Refrain]

[Refrain:]

Swing low, sweet chariot,
coming for to carry me home;

swing low, sweet chariot,
coming for to carry me home.

CLOSING HYMN

344 I Have Decided to Follow Jesus vs. 1&4

1 I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus--
no turning back, no turning back.

4 Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
No turning back, no turning back.