



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL

An Open and Affirming Church

July 10, 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. Frank Basler 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.

July 24, 2022 is the Sunday to come to church to hear music! The service will involve LOTS of music with instruments, singers and guests. The order of worship will involve more singing than reading and you might even get to play an instrument! Dana Mancuso, the organist, and Marcia Merritt, senior Deacon, will be putting the service together to show the importance of music in worship, so come and ENJOY!

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. Frank Basler

Organist: Dana Mancuso

Deacon of the Day: Marcia Merritt

Video & Tech Support: Wade Anderson, Jim Welsh

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 #641

I See the Morning Breakin'

Appalachian folk hymn

Call to Worship

One: We gather to worship together,

All: Different people, different lives, different histories,

One: Yet all children of the same Parent,

All: Created lovingly by the Source of all life!

One: We gather to reconnect with one another,

All: Different people, different lives, different histories,

One: Yet all disciples of one Teacher.

All: Jesus, the Word made flesh, dwelling among us.

One: We gather with different joys and sorrows, different hopes and fears....

All: Different people, different lives, different histories,

One: Yet one people with one God, one faith, one baptism.

All: Let us open ourselves to the presence of God at work in us, among us, and through us.

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 #586

Open My Eyes, That I may See

vs1&2

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Unison Prayer of Reconciliation

Heavenly Father, what a joy to know that I am in Christ and that because I am identified with Him in His death, I am also identified with Him in newness of life. Thank You for my life, my abundant life, my eternal life in Christ. In His name I pray, Amen.

Silence is observed

Assurance of Pardon

If we confess our sins, he [God] is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

A CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

***HYMN OF PRAISE #517**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

vs. 1&4

THE GOSPEL

1 John 5:9-13

SERMON How Bold and Free We Become When We Trust Eternal Life Frank Basler

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

God tells us over and over in the Bible not to be afraid. Our gifts this morning are one way that we trust God even in a world that keeps telling us to be afraid. We let go of thinking that we are on our own and live each day in graceful dependence on God. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

Musical Offering

You Are Mine

Unison Prayer of Dedication

God of power and might, as we offer our gifts to you this morning, we remember how dependent we are on your love and mercy for every good and helpful thing in our lives. We affirm in our giving that all the money and possessions in the world cannot rescue us from the demons that torment and tug at us every day. When we've tried to fix things on our own, we have failed; when we put our trust in your loving power made known to us in Christ, we have found our lifeline. Dedicate these gifts and our lives, that we might not only find our way but lead others toward Jesus, our rock, and our redeemer. Amen. (Luke 8:26-39)

COMMUNION LITURGY

Unison Prayer of Dedication

God who alone is holy, we offer our gifts, our lives, our compassion, our service to others, and to your creation. Bless all that we offer, so that we might be blessings of hope, peace, and grace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

***COMMUNION HYMN #425**

Let Us Break Bread Together

vs. 1-3

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

God is always with us. He has promised to never leave us. Rather than being anxious, we should pray, and we should pray with a thankful attitude. We should thank God not only for what He is going to do, but we should thank Him for what He already is doing. He has saved us. He provides for all our needs. He strengthens us when we are weak. He has promised not to give us anything that we cannot bear.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

***CLOSING HYMN #214**

Rock of Ages

vs. 1&4

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)

Attributions

Call to Worship:

https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/justice_immigration_worship_call-to-worship/

Call to Reconciliation:

Source: <https://prayer.knowing-jesus.com/1-John/5/13>

Invitation:

https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/unitedchurchofchrist/legacy_url/3825/offering-invitations-for-ordinary-time.pdf?1418427555

PRELUDE

I See the Morning Breakin'

Words: Appalachian folk hymn

Music: Appalachian folk hymn; arr. Darrell R. Faires, Sr., 1989

OPENING HYMN

586 Open My Eyes, That I May See vs. 1&2

Words: and Music: Clara H. Scott , 1895

HYMN OF PRAISE

#517 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling vs. 1&4

Words: Charles Wesley, 1743

Music: John Zundel, 1970

MUSICAL OFFERING

You Are Mine

Text and Music: David Haas, b. 1957, © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc.

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COMMUNION HYMN

#425 Let Us Break Bread Together vs. 1-3

Words: African American spiritual

Music: African American spiritual; arr. Carlton R. Young, 1964, alt.

CLOSING HYMN

#214 Rock of Ages vs. 1&4

Words: Augustus M. Toplady, 1776

Music: Thomas Hastings, 1830

POSTLUDE

Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)

Hillsong

CCLI Song # 7019974

CCLI License #3021984

OPENING HYMN

586 Open My Eyes, That I May See vs. 1&2

1 Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

2 Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

HYMN OF PRAISE

#517 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling vs. 1&4

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, 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 every trembling heart.

4 Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

COMMUNION HYMN

#425 Let Us Break Bread Together vs. 1-3

1 Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees) [Refrain:]
When I fall on my knees,

with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees) [Refrain]

When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

3 Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us praise God together on our knees. (on our knees) [Refrain]

When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

CLOSING HYMN

#214 Rock of Ages vs. 1&4

1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure,
save from wrath and make me pure.

4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.