



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL

An Open and Affirming Church

July 24th, 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.

Coming up:

Our Second FCCB Children's Summer Festival planned for Aug. 6, 2022, 11 AM - 2PM. Ice cream truck, hot dogs, children's crafts, and more!

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:

Guest Speaker: Marcia Merritt
Organist: Dana Mancuso
Guest Musicians: Greg Mable on the drums and Michelle Mancuso on bass
Guest Vocalist: Mary O'Hare
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 Medley of Gospel selections (see attributions for details) arr. D. Mancuso

CALL TO WORSHIP #277 *Christians, We Have Met to Worship* vs. 1

INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER #18 *All People that on Earth Do Dwell* vs.1

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

OPENING HYMN #90 *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* vs. 1&2

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION #677 *Let There be Peace on Earth*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON #113 *Jesus Loves Me!* vs. 1

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Marcia Merritt

HYMN OF PRAISE #8 *All Praise to God for Song God Gives* vs. 1&4

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 147:1 1 Praise the LORD. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him!

Colossians 3:16 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Ephesians 5:19 19 Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,

Psalm 104:33 33 I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Psalm 96:1-2 1 Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. 2 Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

Psalms 100:1-2 - (A Psalm of praise.) Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.

Psalms 95:1-2 - O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

SERMON "Importance of Music in a Church Service" Marcia Merritt

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE #570 *Sweet Hour of Prayer* vs. 1

Pastor's Reflection of Our Joys and Concerns

INVITATION #382 *We Give Thee but Thine Own* vs.1

MUSICAL OFFERING *Wade in the Water/Go Down, Moses* arr. D. Mancuso

PRAYER OF DEDICATION #695 *God of the Fertile Fields* vs. 2

CLOSING HYMN #7 *When in God Music Glorified* vs. 1,2 & 5

UNISON CHURCH MUSICIANS' PRAYER (not sung)

#9 God of Glory, around whose eternal throne
all the heavenly powers offer their ceaseless songs of praise:
Grant that we may overhear these songs,
and with our own lips and lives interpret them to all
in whose presence we play or sing;
That your church may behold the beauty of God,
and see with mortal eyes the land that is afar off,
where all your promises are celebrated,
and where all your love in every sight and sound
is the theme of eternal rejoicing;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
Erik Routley, 20th-century English pastor and hymnologist

BENEDICTION #439 *God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing* vs. 1

POSTLUDE (all welcome to sing) #529 *I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me* vs. 1 - 3

Attributions:

Sermon: <https://cfdiocese.org/bishopsblog/4-purposes-of-music-in-worship/>
<https://www.faithward.org/the-theology-and-place-of-music-in-worship/>
<https://robstill.cm/purpose-of-church-worship-role-of-music/>
<https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/80-428/Is-Music-Worship>
sermon contributed by Tim Smith on May 28, 2015
<https://churchchoirmusic.com/the-purpose-of-music/>
<https://seedbed.com/five-reasons-why-we-sing-in-christian-worship/>

PRELUDE

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

Words: African-American spiritual

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

Arr. © 1995 Chalice Press

CALL TO WORSHIP

#277 Christians, We Have Met to Worship vs. 1

Words: Attr. George Atkins (19th century), alt.

Music: William Moore, Columbian Harmony 1825

INVOCATION

#18 All People That on Earth Do Dwell vs. 1

Words: William Kethe, 1561, alt.

Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551

OPENING HYMN

#90 Come, Christians, Join to Sing vs. 1&2

Words: Christian Henry Bateman, 1843, alt.

Music: Traditional Spanish melody; harm. David Evans, 1927

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

#677 Let There Be Peace on Earth

Words: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, 1955

Music: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, 1955; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1987

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

#113 Jesus Love Me! vs. 1

Words: St. Anna B. Warner, 1860

Music: William B. Bradbury, 1862

HYMN OF PRAISE

#8 All Praise to God for Song God Gives vs. 1 & 4

Words: Carlton C. Buck, 1986

Music: Dale Wood, 1986

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#8 All Praise to God for Song God Gives vs. 1&4

Words: Carlton C. Buck, 1986

Music: Dale Wood, 1986

INVITATION

382 We Give Thee but Thine Own vs. 1

Words: William W. How, c. 1858

Music: Mason and Webb's *Cantica Laudis*, 1850

MUSICAL OFFERING

Wade in the Water

Words: African-American spiritual

Music: African-American spiritual; harm. Willa A. Townsend

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

#695 God of the Fertile Fields vs. 2

Words: Georgia Harkness, 1955, alt.

Music: Felice de Giardini, 1769

CLOSING HYMN

#7 When in God Music Glorified vs. 1,2 &5

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Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1971

Music: Charles V. Stanford, 1904

CHURCH MUSICIANS' PRAYER (not sung)

#9 God of Glory, around whose eternal throne

Erik Routley, 20th-century English pastor and hymnologist

1982 Hope Publishing Co.

BENEDICTION

439 God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

Words: Attr. John Fawcett, 1773, alt.

Music *The European Magazine and Review*, 1792; harm. *The Methodist Hymn and Tune Book*, 1889, alt.

POSTLUDE

#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

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me arr. By Dana Mancuso

CALL TO WORSHIP

#277 Christians, We Have Met to Worship vs. 1

1 Christians, we have met to worship
and adore the living God;
will you pray with all your power,
while we try to preach the word?
All is vain unless the Spirit
of the Holy One comes down;
Christians, pray, and holy manna
will be showered all around.

INVOCATION

#18 *All People That on Earth Do Dwell* vs. 1

1 All people that on earth do dwell,
sing out your faith with cheerful voice;
delight in God whose praise you tell,
whose presence calls you to rejoice.

OPENING HYMN

#90 *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* vs. 1&2

1 Come, Christians, join to sing:
Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ we bring:
Alleluia! Amen!
Let all with heart and voice,
before his throne rejoice;
praise we with gracious choice:
Alleluia! Amen!

2 Come, lift your hearts on high,
Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky:
Alleluia! Amen!
Christ is our Guide and Friend
on whom we can depend;
his love shall never end:
Alleluia! Amen!

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

#677 *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

#113 Jesus Love Me! vs. 1

1 Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain:

Yes! Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

HYMN OF PRAISE

#8 All Praise to God for Song God Gives vs. 1 & 4

1 All praise to God for song God gives, for music
And a hope that lives; God's sacred word is
So profound, we sing and let the truth resound.
God gave us music, gave us voice, sing
alleluia and rejoice! We lift in faith secure and strong
the sacred word through sacred song.
4 All praise to God, whose sacred word has brought good
News to all who heard. We worship God and sing with joy,
And instruments of praise employ.
God gave us music, gave us voice, sing
alleluia and rejoice! We lift in faith secure and strong
the sacred word through sacred song.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#8 All Praise to God for Song God Gives vs. 1&4

1. All praise to God for song God gives, for music
And a hope that lives; God's sacred word is
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News to all who heard. We worship God and sing with joy,
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God gave us music, gave us voice, sing
alleluia and rejoice! We lift in faith secure and strong
the sacred word through sacred song.

INVITATION

382 We Give Thee but Thine Own vs. 1

1 We give Thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Wade in the Water arr. by Dana Mancuso

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

#695 God of the Fertile Fields vs. 2

2 We would be stewards true,
holding in trust from you
all that you give;
help us in love to share,
teach us like you to care,
for people everywhere, that all may live.

CLOSING HYMN

#7 When in Our Music God is Glorified vs. 1-5

When, in our music, God is glorified,
and adoration leaves no room for pride,

it is as though the whole creation cried,
"Alleluia!"

How often, making music, we have found
a new dimension in the world of sound,
as worship moved us to a more profound
"Alleluia!"

So has the church, in liturgy and song,
in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
borne witness to the truth in every tongue:
"Alleluia!"

And did not Jesus sing a Psalm that night
when utmost evil strove against the Light?
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:
"Alleluia!"

Let every instrument be tuned for praise!
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always:
"Alleluia!"

CHURCH MUSICIANS' PRAYER (not sung)

#9 God of Glory, around whose eternal throne
all the heavenly powers offer their ceaseless songs of praise:
Grant that we may overhear these songs,
and with our own lips and lives interpret them to all
in whose presence we play or sing;
That your church may behold the beauty of God,
and see with mortal eyes the land that is afar off,
where all your promises are celebrated,
and where all your love in every sight and sound
is the theme of eternal rejoicing;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

#677 Let There be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:

To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

#113 Jesus Loves Me!

vs. 1 & 3

1 Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain:

Yes! Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

The Bible tells me so.

3 Jesus loves me! still today,
walking with me on the way,
wanting as a friend to give
light and love to all who live. (Refrain)

Refrain:

Yes! Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

CLOSING HYMN

#7 When in God Music Glorified

vs. 1,2 &5

1 When, in our music, God is glorified,
and adoration leaves no room for pride,
it is as though the whole creation cried,
"Alleluia!"

2 How often, making music, we have found
a new dimension in the world of sound,
as worship moved us to a more profound
"Alleluia!"

5 Let every instrument be tuned for praise!
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always:
"Alleluia!"

BENEDICTION

439 God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

1 God, dismiss us with your blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace;
O refresh us, O refresh us
traveling through this wilderness.

POSTLUDE (all welcome to sing)

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

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.