



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL

An Open and Affirming Church

July 3rd, 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. Bekah Anderson 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:

Rev. Bekah Anderson
Organist: Dana Mancuso
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 #518

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

vs. 1,3 & 4

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: People of God, how simple is love?

All: As simple as breathing, yet as vast and mysterious as the ocean.

One: Sometimes love is simple: an embrace for a loved one, or an offer of help to a neighbor in need ...

All: And the next moment love is complex: our expressions of love are misinterpreted, or we struggle to show love while in conflict.

One: Friends, how simple is love?

All: As simple and as complex as the Origin of Love, our God.

One: Let us worship our God and grow in understanding of 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 #568**

'Tis the Gift to Be Simple

v.1

Call to Reconciliation

All-Knowing God, you have not called us into an easy life. And yet, not everything is as hard as it seems. We confess that we fall short of your hopes for us—not because we can't meet them, but because we are daunted by the task. When called upon to speak out against injustice, we sometimes cry, "It's too hard!" When called upon to show love and hospitality to a stranger, we sometimes say, "I can do that later." Remind us, Loving God, that difficult things become easy with practice, and now is always a good time to show kindness.

A moment of Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon:

Leader: Friends, nothing is impossible with God. Relying on God, we can face that which challenges us. With God, we can pause from our busy lives to reach out to one another. And with God, we can know that we are loved and forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE #609

Take My Life

vs. 1&6

Scripture:

2 Kings 5:1-14

Sermon Title:

"If the Prophet had Asked for Something Difficult ..."

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

All good gifts around us come from you, O God. You have given us life, and new life in Christ. As you have given us gifts, so we offer our gifts that we may be gifts to one another, even as Jesus so taught and lived. Amen.

Musical Offering

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Unison Prayer of Dedication

We dedicate these gifts to your work in the world, O God. Through these financial offerings, and through our offerings of time, talent, and prayer, may your love and justice spread from us to all corners of the Earth. In your name we pray, Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

***CLOSING HYMN #432**

O Christ, the Way, the Truth the Life

vs. 1 & 2

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE #490

Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant

vs. 2, 3 & 5

Attributions:

Invocation and the Lord's Prayer
(by Arnold Kenseth, from the New Century Hymnal #826)

Invitation
(From New Century Hymnal #844)

Prelude

#518 This Is a Day of New Beginnings (vs. 1,3 & 4)

Words: Brian Wren, 1978, rev. 1987

Music: Carlton R. Young, 1984

© 1983, 1987 Hope Publishing Co.

OPENING HYMN

Words: Shaker song (18th century)

Music: Shaker melody; arr. Margaret W. Mealy, 1984

HYMN OF PRAISE

609 **Take My Life** vs. 1&6

Words: Frances R. Havergal, 1874

Music: H. A. Cesar Malan, 1827

Musical Offering

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Words: African-American spiritual

Music: African-American spiritual; arr. Harold Moyer

Arr. © Faith and Life Press

CLOSING HYMN

#432 **O Christ, the Way the Truth, the Life**

Words: James L. Merrell, 1872

Music: Alexander R. Reinagle, 1836 Words © 1995 Chalice Press

Postlude

Expect Your Miracle

Artist: The Clark Sisters

Songwriter: Elbertina Clark

Album: Is My Living In Vain

Release date: 1980

Label: Sound of Gospel Records

Prelude

1 This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.

3 Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,
seeking new paths, and sure to find.

4 In faith we gather round the table
to taste and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new.

OPENING HYMN

568 'Tis the Gift to Be Simple

'Tis the gift to be simple,
'tis the gift to be free,
'tis the gift to come down
where we ought to be,
and when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'twill be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gained
to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
to turn, turn, will be our delight
till by turning, turning we come round right.

HYMN OF PRAISE

609 Take My Life vs. 1&6

1 Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

CLOSING HYMN

#432 O Christ, the Way the Truth, the Life

1.O Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life, be with us now, we pray;
Direct our steps as we go forth to do your will this day.

2.O faithful Guide, renew our trust in love that does not fail;
And give us strength to work and pray, that peace may soon prevail.