



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL

An Open and Affirming Church

July 31, 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 Rev. Frank Basler or 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 Children's Summer Festival 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:

Worship Leader: Reverend Frank Basler

Organist: Dana Mancuso

Deacon of the Day: Eric Hermansen

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

"City of God"

by Dan Schutte

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Who may worship in your sanctuary, oh God?

People: All who love and praise you are worshipping you.

Leader: How do we love you, oh God?

People: We love you when we love our neighbors as ourselves.

Leader: How do we praise you, oh God?

People: We praise you when we are being the church in the world. Let us gather our hearts to praise and worship God.

Invocation and The Lord's Prayer (Unison)

All: Watch over us, holy God, as we take time to pray and to consider the continuing impact of Easter on our lives. Jesus the Christ has become for us the measure of life. He represents to us your gift of love and eternal life. We are a resurrection people no longer bound by fear of death but freed to become witnesses to the light. Be known to us in this hour. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #16

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

vs. 1 & 3

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Call to Reconciliation

Loving God, open our hearts so we can admit to you the fulness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful. Amen.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Beloved of God, hear the good news:

People: God's love never fails us.

Leader: Even in our division and despair,

People: God is present.

Leader: We are forgiven.

People: We are loved. We are one. Amen

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Frank Basler

***HYMN OF PRAISE #135**

Blessed Be the God of Israel

vs. 1 & 3

SCRIPTURE

Luke 19:1-10

SERMON

God's Extravagant Love

Frank Basler

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

Musical Offering

"Lift My Life Up" (Unspoken)

Unison Prayer of Dedication

Jesus, Good Shepherd, we thank you for the ways in which you have enfolded us in your love and called us by name to follow you. May these gifts and our lives offered in your name, be used to enfold others in your love. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

***CLOSING HYMN #453**

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

vs. 1 & 2

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Blessed Quietness

Attributions:

Prelude

"City of God" Dan Schutte

© 1981, Daniel L. Schutte

Opening Hymn

#16 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (vs. 1 & 3)

Words: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.

Music: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

Hymn of Praise

#135 Blessed Be the God of Israel (vs. 1 & 3)

Words: Michael Perry, 1973

Music: Hal H. Hopson, 1983

Words © 1973, music © 1983 Hope Publishing Co.

Musical Offering

"Lift My Life Up" Unspoken

Songwriters: Chad Mattson / Jason Ingram / Jon Lowry / Seth Mosley

Lift My Life Up lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC

Closing Hymn

#453 Called as Partners in Christ's Service (vs. 1 & 2)

Words: Jane Parker Huber, 1981

Music: John Zundel, 1870

Words © 1981 Jane Parker Huber

Postlude

Blessed Quietness

Words: Manie P. Ferguson, c. 1897

Music: W.S. Marshall, c. 1897; arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland and Verolga Nix, 1981, alt.

Prelude

"City of God" Dan Schutte

© 1981, Daniel L. Schutte

Opening Hymn

#16 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (vs. 1 & 3)

Words: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.

Music: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

1 Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it
mount of God's redeeming love.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee:
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Hymn of Praise

#135 Blessed Be the God of Israel (vs. 1 & 3)

Words: Michael Perry, 1973

Music: Hal H. Hopson, 1983

Words © 1973, music © 1983 Hope Publishing Co.

1 Blessed the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.

3 On all by death imprisoned the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

Musical Offering

“Lift My Life Up” Unspoken

Songwriters: Chad Mattson / Jason Ingram / Jon Lowry / Seth Mosley

Lift My Life Up lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC

Closing Hymn

#453 Called as Partners in Christ's Service (vs. 1 & 2)

Words: Jane Parker Huber, 1981

Music: John Zundel, 1870

Words © 1981 Jane Parker Huber

1. Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

2 Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills .together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Postlude

Blessed Quietness

Words: Manie P. Ferguson, c. 1897

Music: W.S. Marshall, c. 1897; arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland and Verolga Nix, 1981, alt.